



Home Office

The Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP
MINISTER OF STATE

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Dear Colleague,

I am writing to provide you with some material relevant to the provisions in Part 1 of the Violent Crime Reduction Bill, ahead of the Standing Committee's first sitting on Thursday 13 October. I hope that this will inform a fuller consideration in Committee of the provisions on alcohol-related crime and disorder.

You will find enclosed:

- a document setting out recent developments of our policy on Alcohol Disorder Zones;
- a document setting out the work which we are doing on expedited licence reviews;
- a brief summary of the new powers introduced by the Licensing Act 2003;
- a copy of the Home Office's January 2005 *Drinking Responsibly* consultation paper, by way of background; and
- extracts of the primary legislation amended by this Bill, as amended.

We are not able to provide Committee members with draft regulations on the provisions relating to Alcohol Disorder Zones (ADZs) and expedited licence reviews at this stage. However, the document on ADZs sets out the considerable progress which we have made on those aspects of the process

which the Bill provides to be set out in regulations. We are continuing to work closely with local government, the police, representatives of the drinks industry and others in working up these regulations. Similarly, the document on expedited licence reviews outlines the work which we are undertaking in producing these regulations.

I shall write to Committee members with material relevant to the subsequent Parts of the Bill shortly.

Yours,

HAZEL BLEARS