

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: Alcohol Consultation
Subject: [REDACTED]

I attach the submission which I have received from my constituent, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

[REDACTED]
Subject: Consultation on fixing a lower limit for the price of alcohol
[REDACTED]

Recently the Prime Minister said that he proposes to consult widely on the suggestion that there should be a minimum price alcohol of 45p per unit.

Wishing to engage in the consultation I have looked on the Parliament web site but can find nothing. I hope that, as my MP, you will be able to add my views to the consultation.

I often enjoy a glass of cider (about a pint) with my evening meal at home but that is well within the Department of Health recommended range for a man of 14 to 21 units per week. Like many people I suppose on a very few occasions whilst in my 20s (over 40 years ago) I had rather more to drink that was wise, but I was never a nuisance to the police or general public, and it is many years since I had more to drink than was wise.

I buy my cider from a local source at £1 per litre (20 per unit). So the suggested minimum price of 45p would mean a 150% increase in it's price.

I object to the proposed legislation on 3 grounds.

1) There seem to be a lot of nonsense being talked about the additional cost to a "moderate drinker". It has been suggested several times on TV recently that the extra cost to "a moderate drinker" would be about £10 per year. I suspect that the origin of this might be the ill informed, or deliberately misleading, comments made by Nick Smith MP (see Hansard February 2nd 2011). If the suggested range for a man is 14 to 21 units per week, surely a "moderate drinker" would be someone who drank perhaps 10 units (2 pints of beer or 4 small glasses of wine) per week. For the increase in cost to him to be £10 per year, (20p per week) the increase in cost to a minimum of 45p would have to be only 10p per pint, that is 2p per unit of alcohol. The suggested increase to a minimum of 45p per unit would be much higher than that.

2) An increase in minimum price might well mean that my local source can no longer compete with "the Big Boys" so a local producer might go to the wall.

3) [REDACTED] I consider myself as one of the well behaved majority. The extra price of cider would not bankrupt me but I object in principle to the suggestion that the well behaved majority should be penalised because (A) a minority misbehave and (B) the Police / Parliament / Society fail to force them to behave themselves.

I know that the above sounds very negative and I would support any reasonable initiative to reduce the effects on society of excessive drinking, but the right way must be for more effective control by the Police, by Parliament and the Courts and by those involved in the selling of drink, whether a supermarket or a pub.

I do hope that you can add my views to Mr. Cameron's consultation.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

02/08/2013

I should be most grateful if the views of my constituent could be taken into account as part of the consultation process.

I have enjoyed a glass of wine (about a pint) with my evening meal at home but that is well within the Department of Health recommended range for a glass of 10 to 21 units per week. The more people I support on a very few occasions when I have not had my evening meal at home, the more I like that wine, but I was never a member of the public and it is very possible I had more to drink than was wise.

I got my wine from a local source at £1 per litre (20 per unit) so the suggested minimum price of 12p would mean a 120% increase in its price.

Object to the proposed 12p duty on 2 grounds.

1) There seem to be a lot of comments being made about the additional cost to "moderate drinkers". It has been suggested several times on TV recently that the extra cost to "moderate drinkers" would be about £10 per year. I suspect that the origin of this figure is the 11 bottles or 11 units of alcohol consumed per week made by Nick Smith MP (see Hansard February 2nd 2011). If the suggested range for a glass is 10 to 21 units per week surely a "moderate drinker" would be someone who drank perhaps 10 units (2 pints) of wine or 4 small glasses of wine) per week. For the increase to cost him to be £10 per year (120p per week) the increase in cost to a minimum of 45p would have to be only 10p per pint, that is 10 per cent of alcohol. The suggested increase to a minimum of 12p per unit would be much higher than that.

2) An increase in minimum price might well mean that my local source, as no longer competitive with "the Big Boys" as a local producer might gain the sale.

3) As a retired British Diplomat I consider myself as one of the well behaved majority. The extra unit of alcohol would not bankrupt me but I object in principle to the suggestion that the well behaved majority should be penalised because (A) a minority are not and (B) the Police / Parliament / Society fail to force them to behave themselves.

I know that the above sounds very negative and I would support any responsible initiative to reduce the effects on society of excessive drinking but the right way must be for more effective control by the Police, Parliament and the Courts and by those involved in the selling of drink, whether a supermarket or a pub.

I do hope that you can add my views to the Cabinet's consultation.

Best regards