

# Alcohol strategy consultation

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## Page 1: About you

Q1. Please select if you would like your response or personal details to be treated as confidential.

*No Response*

Score

0

Q2. Which of the following best describes you or the professional interest you represent? Please select one option from the menu below.

Voluntary and community organisation

*Please specify which organisation, licensing authority or police force you represent in the box below:*

NECA

Score

0

Q3. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation or interest group, please write in the box below the number of members in your group or organisation.

280

Q4. How did you obtain the views of your members? Please explain in the box below keeping your response to a maximum of 100 words.

*No Response*

Q5. Please indicate in which region you or your organisation is based. Please select one option from the menu below.

*No Response*

Score

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Q6. If you are responding as a member of the public, what is your gender? Please select one option.

No Response

Score

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Q7. If you are responding as a member of the public, what is your age? Please select one option.

No Response

Score

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Page Score

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## Page 2: A minimum unit price for alcohol

Q8. In the alcohol strategy, the government committed to introducing a minimum unit price for alcohol in England and Wales. This consultation will contribute to the debate on the most appropriate price per unit and the mechanism by which, once set, minimum unit pricing would remain effective. It is also an opportunity for interested parties to raise other issues around minimum unit pricing. The purpose of minimum unit pricing is to reduce alcohol consumption, particularly by the most hazardous and harmful drinkers who tend to show a preference for the cheapest alcohol products. By doing so the government estimates there will be a reduction in the associated crime and health harms, especially the numbers of hospital admissions, alcohol-related deaths and alcohol-related crimes. Minimum unit pricing is not intended disproportionately to affect responsible drinkers or particular social groups but to reduce the availability of alcohol sold at very low or heavily discounted prices. More information (including the definitions of hazardous and harmful drinkers) is available in the full consultation document and the impact assessment. Do you want to answer questions on minimum unit pricing? Please select one option.

Yes

Score

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Page Score

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## Page 3: A minimum unit price for alcohol

Q9. The impact of minimum unit pricing will depend on the price per unit of alcohol. The government wants to ensure that the chosen price level is targeted and proportionate, whilst achieving a significant reduction of harm. The government is therefore consulting on the introduction of a recommended minimum unit price of 45p. The government estimates a reduction in consumption across all product types of 3.3 per cent, a reduction in crime of 5,240 per year, a reduction in 24,600 alcohol-related hospital admissions and 714 fewer deaths per year after ten years. Do you agree that this minimum unit price level would achieve these aims? Please select one option.

Yes

***If you think another level would be preferable, please set out your views on why this might be in the box below (keeping your views to a maximum of 200 words):***

Whilst agreeing that minimum unit pricing is a highly targeted and effective approach that would have the greatest impact on younger and heavier drinkers, NECA would support Balance to urge the Government to set a MUP for alcohol of at least 50p for the following reasons: •The University of Sheffield has modelled the effects of MUP on a number of parameters (1). A MUP of 50p compared to a MUP of 45p would save annually an additional 1,000 deaths; 31,000 alcohol-related hospital admissions; 18,000 crimes and would reduce consumption by a further 2.4% •The Faculty of Public Health supported the call

for a MUP of 50p for alcohol in their “12 Steps to Better Health Manifesto” (3) with 50p MUP being ‘Step No. 1’ •The Association of North East Council's Leaders’ and Elected Mayors’ Group support MUP set at 50p •Consideration needs to be given to cross-border purchases if a MUP below that proposed for Scotland (50p) is set, particularly in border areas in the North of England •We believe that a MUP, particularly set at 50p, provides clarity and would be easier to enforce than alternative levels of MUP and different ways of raising price.

Score

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Q10. Should other factors or evidence be considered when setting a minimum unit price for alcohol? Please select one option.

Yes

***If yes, please specify these in the box below (keeping your views to a maximum of 200 words):***

Factors • MUP should be set at no less than 50p per unit, and regularly reviewed to ensure alcohol does not become more affordable over time • The initial introductory period for MUP provision should be in line with that agreed in Scotland and independent evaluations on effectiveness set up, to include whether the level has been set appropriately. Evidence: • 82% of publicans in the North East (NE) state supermarket promotions are hitting their trade (4) • 53% of people in the NE, support MUP • 81% of people in the NE stated they were more likely to support MUP if it reduced drunk and rowdy behaviour – which evidence suggests it would • The BMA support 50p MUP (8) and 80% of GPs in the NE support MUP • The North East has the highest rate of under 18 alcohol specific hospital admissions and evidence from Sheffield University indicates that a minimum unit price set at 50p would result in larger reductions in alcohol consumption amongst this group • Alcohol harm is costing the North East economy over £1 billion a year 40% of child protection cases and 74% of child mistreatment cases in the UK are alcohol related.

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Q11. The government wishes to maintain the effectiveness of minimum unit pricing and is therefore proposing to adjust the minimum unit price level over time. How do you think the level of minimum unit price set by the government should be adjusted over time? Please select one option.

The minimum unit price should be reviewed after a set period

Score

0

Q12. The aim of minimum unit pricing is to reduce the consumption of harmful and hazardous drinkers, while minimising the impact on responsible drinkers. Do you think that there are any other people, organisations or groups that could be particularly affected by a minimum unit price for alcohol? Please select one option.

Yes

***If yes, please specify in the box below (keeping your views to a maximum of 100 words):***

It would: • Help children through: o Fewer drinking – and those drinking consuming less o Reduced risks of excessive consumption shaping behaviour o Reduced numbers exposed to parental alcohol misuse o Protect children in the family context – alcohol has been identified as a factor in 40% of child protection cases However it would also be important to provide enhanced support for many of our services users who are dependent drinkers. Concerns about a “switch “ in the type of substance used or increased shoplifting to fund drinking may be an issue.

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## Page 4: A ban on multi-buy promotions in the off-trade

Q13. The government is consulting on introducing a ban on multi-buy promotions in the off-trade (e.g. shops and off-licences) as part of its wider strategy to reduce excessive alcohol consumption, and alongside the introduction of a minimum unit price. A ban on multi-buy promotions would therefore not apply to pubs, clubs, bars or restaurants. The term 'multi-buy promotions' refers to alcohol promotions that offer a discount for buying multiple items. The aim of a ban would be to stop promotions that encourage people to buy more than they otherwise would, making it cheaper (per item) to purchase more than one of a product than to purchase a single item. As well as being part of a wider strategy to reduce consumption and tackle irresponsible alcohol sales, a ban on multi-buy promotions would also contribute to the government's aim of encouraging people to be aware of how much they drink and the risks of excessive drinking, so that they can make informed choices. The aim of this consultation is to assess support for such a ban and contribute to our understanding of the impact a ban on multi-buy promotions may have. The types of promotion it is proposed that a ban would include, are: two for the price of one, three for the price of two, buy one get one free, buy six and get 20 per cent off, 24 cans of lager costing less than 24 times the cost of a single can of lager in the shop, a case of wine sold cheaper than the individual price at which the same bottles are sold in the shop, 3 for £10 where each bottle costs more than £3.33. More information is available in the full consultation document and the impact assessment. Do you want to answer questions on a ban on multi-buy promotions in the off-trade? Please select one option.

Yes

Score

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## Page 5: A ban on multi-buy promotions in the off-trade

Q14. Do you think there should be a ban on multi-buy promotions involving alcohol in the off-trade? Please select one option.

Yes

Score

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Q15. Are there any further offers which should be included in a ban on multi-buy promotions? Please select one option.

Yes

***If yes, please specify in the box below (keeping your views to a maximum of 100 words):***

We would support an end to multi-buy promotions in the off and on trade as alcohol is addictive and should not be treated like just another product. Indeed any incentive to purchase and consume more than intended – such as money off or reductions to other products or services or voucher points – should be prohibited. This should include packaging alcohol as part of a meal deal or offering free alcohol on flights or as part of first-class rail travel. For the same reasons we believe that all promotions should be stopped. Alcohol is not an ordinary product and should not be treated as such.

Score

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Q16. Should other factors or evidence be taken into account when considering a ban on multi-buy promotions? Please select one option.

Yes

***If yes, please specify in the box below (keeping your views to a maximum of 200 words):***

•Cheap alcohol deals may result in young people drinking more, as highlighted in the Alcohol Concern and Balance Report 'Drinking to Get Drunk' in which 16-17 year-olds were quoted as saying that price promotions 'attracted young people to drink more than they would have' •A joined up policy approach which addresses the price and availability of alcohol as well as the quality and co-ordination of hospital and community services, is both coherent and evidence-based. It will deliver the health outcomes and reductions in alcohol related mortality •Reductions in consumption levels would improve health inequalities as health harms have a greater impact on lower income groups. For example, alcohol related deaths are 45% higher in areas of high deprivation

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Q17. The aim of a ban on multi-buy promotions is to stop promotions that encourage people to buy more than they otherwise would, helping people to be aware of how much they drink, and to tackle irresponsible alcohol sales. Do you think that there are any other groups that could be particularly affected by a ban on multi-buy promotions? Please select one option.

Yes

***If yes, please specify in the box below (keeping your views to a maximum of 100 words):***

Young people in particular would benefit from a ban on cheap alcohol deals as outlined above. NECA's young people services often work with young people who have started to drink from an early age. Often taking alcohol from parents and carers homes or being bought it. An increase in the price of alcohol and multi buy deals would make this route of alcohol procurement less likely.

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## Page 6: Reviewing the mandatory licensing conditions

Q18. In its response to the 'Rebalancing the Licensing Act' consultation in 2010, the government committed to review the impact of the current mandatory licensing conditions. More recently, the alcohol strategy made a commitment to review these mandatory licensing conditions to ensure they are sufficiently targeting problems such as irresponsible promotions in pubs and clubs. The government has also committed to consult on whether these mandatory licensing conditions should, where relevant, apply to both the on- and off-trade. This consultation forms part of that review, and will contribute to the government's understanding of how these mandatory conditions are perceived. The five mandatory licensing conditions currently set out in regulations in relation to the supply of alcohol are: a ban on irresponsible promotionsa ban on dispensing alcohol by one person directly into the mouth of anothera requirement to provide free tap water on request to customersa requirement to have an age verification policy to prevent the sale of alcohol to persons under 18 years of age, anda requirement to make available to customers small measures such as half pints or beer or cider or 125ml glasses of wine More information is available in the full consultation document. An explanation of each of these terms can be found on page 20 of the consultation document, in the glossary at the end. Do you want to answer questions on reviewing the mandatory licensing conditions? Please select one option.

Yes

Score

0

Page Score

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## Page 7: Reviewing the mandatory licensing conditions

Q19. Do you think each of the mandatory licensing conditions is effective in promoting the licensing objectives? For more information on the licensing objectives please see the glossary at the end of the full consultation document. Please select one option (Yes, No, Don't know) from each drop down menu.

	Prevention of crime and disorder	Public safety	Prevention of public nuisance	Protection of children from harm
<b>Irresponsible promotions</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Dispensing alcohol directly into the mouth</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Mandatory provision of free tap water</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Age verification policy</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Mandatory provision of small measures</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Score

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Q20. Do you think that the mandatory licensing conditions do enough to target irresponsible promotions in pubs and clubs? Please select one option.

No

*If no, please state what more could be done in the box below (keeping your views to a maximum of 100 words):*

Anything which encourages greater consumption than intended should not be allowed, including: •Price-based promotions •Other incentives, e.g. meal deals or voucher schemes •student 'drink the bar dry' promotions •organised pub crawls associated with students •drinks sold in one large container for consumption from that container, e.g. 'goldfish bowls' •mobile sales, e.g. shots sold from a tray or dispensed from a tank at your table •offering an alcoholic drink cheaper than an one without alcohol, i.e. vodka and coke vs coke alone •the sale of bottles of spirits in on trade premises, seen in some VIP areas of clubs.

Score

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Q21. Are there other issues related to the licensing objectives which could be tackled through a mandatory licensing condition? Please select one option.

Yes

*If yes, please specify in the box below (keeping your views to a maximum of 200 words):*

•Age verification training •The need to keep a refusals book •Till prompts re age verification (i.e. Challenge 25) •Mandatory training to sell alcohol •Provision and promotion of lower strengths beers and wines •Promotion - not simply provision - of small measures; active promotion of soft drinks •Upselling should be prohibited •Point of sale information should be made compulsory stipulating units of alcohol and the recommended limits together with health harms.

Score

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Q22. Do you think that the current approach, with five mandatory licensing conditions applying to the on-

trade and only one of those to the off-trade, is appropriate? Please select one option.

No

*If no, please explain why you think the current approach is not the best approach (keeping your views to a maximum of 100 words):*

The problems of alcohol harm are increasingly associated with cheap alcohol sold from off licence premises, yet only one condition applies to the off trade. Surveys and research consistently point to more alcohol being purchased from supermarkets and more consumed at home where problems of domestic abuse and child protection can be hidden. There is also the issue of pre-loading. Almost one in two publicans in Balance's recent survey indicated that they were seeing customers arriving drunk because of cheap supermarket offers. We also know that people who have pre-loaded before they go out into the night-time economy are more likely to be a victim or perpetrator of crime.

Score

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## Page 8: Health as a licensing objective for cumulative impact policies

Q23. We want to ensure that licensing authorities are able to take alcohol-related health harms into consideration when making decisions about cumulative impact policies (CIPs) which can be used to manage problems linked to the density of premises in specific areas. A CIP introduces a rebuttable presumption that all new licence applications and variations in that area will normally be refused if the licensing authority receives a relevant representation stating that the application will add to the cumulative impact. However each application must still be considered on its own merits and the licensing authority may still grant the application if it is satisfied that the application will not contribute to the cumulative impact. We are proposing that licensing authorities will be able to take evidence of alcohol-related health harm into account in deciding whether to introduce a CIP and the extent of that CIP. This would be a discretionary power and not an obligation. We expect that those areas with the highest levels of alcohol-related health harm, or fast rising levels of harm from alcohol, will be most likely to use this power. It will allow local health bodies to fully contribute to local decision making and mean licensing authorities can restrict the number of licensed premises in the local area on the basis of robust local evidence. More information is available in the full consultation document and impact assessment. Do you want to answer questions on health as a licensing objective for cumulative impact policies? Please select one option.

Yes

Score

0

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## Page 9: Health as a licensing objective for cumulative impact policies

Q24. What sources of evidence on alcohol-related health harm could be used to support the introduction of a cumulative impact policy (CIP) if it were possible for a CIP to include consideration of health? Please specify in the box below (keeping your views to a maximum of 200 words):

There are a range of sources available, including:

- A&E data
- Ambulance data
- Alcohol specific hospital admissions
- Alcohol attributable hospital admissions

- Under 18 admissions
- Liver and other alcohol related deaths
- Domestic abuse and child protection data
- Alcohol related crime figures
- Local data sources, e.g. residents' surveys.

In principle, we believe that public health should be a licensing objective in its own right and not tied to CIPs. We do not accept the rationale on p7 of the relevant impact assessment stating that it would be disproportionate because the alcohol industry is already taking action as part of the Responsibility Deal. Promises on alcohol labelling have been made before – and been broken. What's more, industry efforts to promote unit information are small and sporadic when compared to the weight of pro alcohol marketing.

Q25. Do you think any aspects of the current cumulative impact policy process would need to be amended to allow consideration of data on alcohol-related health harms? Please select one option.

Yes

***If yes, please specify which aspects in the box below (keeping your views to a maximum of 200 words):***

There is a concern that although the stats from a PCT wide perspective may look compelling, once reduced to neighbourhood / ward size the figure may be small and too easily dismissed. It may be more practical for a public health objective to be linked to borough-wide saturation policies as this is the level at which data becomes meaningful. It also reflects the Scottish experience in areas such as West Dunbartonshire. Furthermore, it gives local politicians the opportunity to take control of the availability of alcohol in their council areas, helping to fulfil their new responsibility for public health.

Score

0

Q26. What impact do you think allowing consideration of data on alcohol-related health harms when introducing a cumulative impact policy would have if it were used in your local area? Please specify your answer in the box below, providing evidence to support your response (keeping your views to a maximum of 200 words):

Introducing a public health objective, particularly to support over-provision or saturation policies at the borough-wide level, would enable licensing decisions to be made taking into account the full impact of alcohol harm within that council's boundaries. It would enable local authorities to control the availability of alcohol in their area – and we know from the World Health Organisation that availability affects the level of harm.

Fewer premises within a particular area would reduce the need for competitive pricing. It would limit the availability of alcohol at a local level to young people, which we know from Alcohol Concern's report 'One On Every Corner' is an indicator of harm. It would evidence the hidden harm of alcohol consumption in terms of home drinking. Finally, through sources such as A&E data, it would help to record the level of alcohol-related assaults reporting to A&E, many of which are not reported to and recorded by the police

Page Score

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## Page 10: Freeing up responsible businesses

Q27. The government has committed to consult on giving licensing authorities greater freedom to take decisions that reflect the needs of their local community. Following the government's Red Tape Challenge in 2011, three areas of reform were specified: alcohol licensing for certain types of premises providing minimal alcohol sales, temporary event notices (TENs) and the licensing of late night refreshment. This section asks for views on these proposals and suggests further ways to reduce burdens on business. The proposals set out here can be seen alongside work undertaken by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to remove unnecessary red tape from regulated entertainment. More information on each of these areas for reform is available in the full consultation document. There



are five subjects covered in this section. They are: ancillary sales of alcohol, occasional provision of licensable activities at community events, an extension of the temporary event notice limit at individual premises, late night refreshment, and further proposals to reduce burdens on business. Do you want to answer questions on freeing up responsible businesses? Please select one option.

No

Score

0

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## Page 11: Freeing up responsible businesses

Q28. Ancillary sales of alcohol. For many businesses, the sale of alcohol is only a small part of, or incidental to, their wider activities, and occurs alongside the provision of another product or service (which this consultation refers to as an 'ancillary sale'). For example, a guesthouse might wish to provide wine to its guests with an evening meal or a complimentary bottle of wine in a guest's room, while a hairdresser might wish to offer clients a glass of wine. Should special provision to reduce the burdens on ancillary sellers be limited to specific types of business, and/or be available to all types of business, providing they meet certain qualification criteria for limited or incidental sales? Please select one option in each row.

No Response

Score

0

Q29. If special provisions to reduce licensing burdens on ancillary sellers were to include a list of certain types of business, do you think it should apply to the following? Please select one option in each row.

No Response

Score

0

Q30. Do you have any suggestions for other types of businesses to which such special provision could apply without impacting adversely on one or more of the licensing objectives? Please write your suggestions in the box below, keeping your views to a maximum of 200 words:

No Response

Q31. The aim of a new 'ancillary seller' status is to reduce burdens on businesses where the sale of alcohol is only a small part of their business and occurs alongside the provision of a wider product or service, while minimising loopholes for irresponsible businesses and maintaining the effectiveness of enforcement. Alternatively, a second option is to broaden the definition of 'ancillary sales' to include all businesses (and/or not for profit activities) through the use of a general set of qualification criteria, for example, to the effect that: alcohol must be sold or supplied as a small part or proportion of a sales transaction or contract for a wider service, and the amount of alcohol that could be supplied as part of that contract cannot exceed a prescribed amount. Do you think that the qualification criteria proposed meet this aim?

No Response

Score

0

Q32. Do you think that these proposals would significantly reduce the burdens on ancillary sellers?  
Please select one option in each row.

*No Response*

Score

0

Q33. Do you think these proposals would impact adversely on one or more of the licensing objectives?  
Please select one option.

*No Response*

Score

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Q34. What other issues or options do you think should be considered when taking forward proposals for a lighter touch authorisation? Please specify in the box below keeping your response to a maximum of 200 words:

*No Response*

Page Score

0

## Page 12: Freeing up responsible businesses

Q35. Do you agree that licensing authorities should have the power to allow organisers of community events involving licensable activities to notify them through a locally determined notification process?  
Please select one option.

*No Response*

Score

0

Q36. What impact do you think a locally determined notification would have on organisers of community events? Please select one option in each row.

*No Response*

Score

0

Page Score

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## Page 13: Freeing up responsible businesses

Q37. Should the number of TENs which can be given in respect of individual premises be increased?  
Please select one option.

*No Response*

Score

0

Q38. If you answered yes, please select one option to indicate which you would prefer. Please select one option.

*No Response*

Score

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Page Score

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## Page 14: Freeing up responsible businesses

Q39. Do you think that licensing authorities should have local discretion around late night refreshment in each of the following ways? Please select one option in each row.

*No Response*

Score

0

Q40. Do you agree that motorway service areas should receive a nationally prescribed exemption from regulations for the provision of late night refreshment? Please select one option.

*No Response*

Score

0

Q41. Please describe in the box below any other types of premises to which you think a nationally prescribed exemption should apply (keeping your views to a maximum of 100 words).

*No Response*

Page Score

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## Page 15: Freeing up responsible businesses

Q42. Do you agree with each of the following proposals? Please select one option in each row.

*No Response*

Score

0

Q43. Do you think that each of the following would reduce the overall burdens on business? Please select one option in each row.

*No Response*

Score

0

Q44. Do you think that the following measures would impact adversely on one or more of the licensing objectives (see glossary)? Please select one option in each row.

*No Response*

Score

0

Q45. In addition to the suggestions outlined above, what other sections of or processes under the 2003 Act could in your view be removed or simplified in order to impact favourably on businesses without undermining the statutory licensing objectives or significantly increasing burdens on licensing authorities? (Please keep your views to a maximum of 200 words.)

*No Response*

Page Score

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## Page 16: Impact assessments

Q46. Impact assessments for the proposals in this consultation have been published alongside the full consultation document. Do you think that the impact assessments related to the consultation provide an accurate representation of the costs and benefits of the proposals? Please select one option in each row.

	Yes	No	Don't know
Minimum unit pricing			X
Multi-buy promotions			X
Health as a licensing objective for cumulative impact			X
Ancillary sales of alcohol			X
Temporary event notices			X
Late night refreshment			X
Removing the duty to advertise licence applications in a local newspaper			X
Sales of alcohol at motorway service stations			
Personal licences			X

Score

0

Q47. Do you have any comments on the methodologies or assumptions used in the impact assessments? If yes, please specify in the box below, clearly referencing the impact assessment and page to which you refer (keeping your views to a maximum of 400 words).

No.

Page Score

## Scoring Summary

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