



Licensing Services

# Alcohol Policy Review 2018

## Analysis of data and trends – Impact on Moray

XX<sup>st</sup> May 2018

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Licensing boards are required by Scottish Government legislation to publish a licensing policy statement explaining how they propose to exercise their functions under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. The current Moray Council licensing policy statement expires in November 2018 and work is now underway to prepare the policy that will come into force after that date. The policy has to take into account the requirements of the act, which attempts to balance the rights of those who drink responsibly against the need to protect communities from nuisance and crime associated with alcohol misuse. The act contains 5 licensing objectives:

- preventing crime and disorder
- securing public safety
- preventing public nuisance
- protecting and improving public health, and
- protecting children and young persons from harm.

The licensing policy statement is also required to include a statement about the extent to which the licensing board considers there to be an over-provision of licensed premises, or licensed premises of a particular description, in any locality within the board's area.

This report gathers data from a variety of sources to provide a picture of Moray's relationship with alcohol, and how Moray compares with other authorities. Data is presented on the following topics:

- drinking habits of Scottish adults, and how they are changing over time
- mortality rates associated with alcohol misuse, nationally, across Moray, and in intermediate zones within Moray
- the health impacts of alcohol, including the work of the Moray Alcohol and Drug Partnership
- the impact of violent and antisocial behaviour across Moray as a whole
- the location of licensed premises (on- and off-sales)
- and also the economic impact of Moray's extensive whisky industry .

Note that the drink-driving limit in Scotland was reduced on 5 December 2014.<sup>1</sup> The current limits are:

- 22 mcg of alcohol in 100 ml of breath (the 'breath limit')
- 50 mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood (the 'blood limit')
- 67 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of urine (the 'urine limit')

In addition, on 1 May 2018 the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Act 2012 came into force across Scotland with a minimum unit price of 50p.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Road Traffic Act 1988 (Prescribed Limit) (Scotland) Regulations 2014

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.mygov.scot/minimum-unit-pricing/>