



The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure

Call for evidence on consultation ECR0140

The Alcohol (Licensing, Public Health and Criminal Justice) (Scotland) Bill – Stage 1 consideration by the Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee

The Royal College of Pathologists' written submission

June 2015

For more information please contact:
Rachael Liebmann
Registrar

The Royal College of Pathologists
2 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AF

Phone: 020 7451 6700
Email: registrar@rcpath.org
Website: www.rcpath.org

Summary of The Royal College of Pathologists' written submission

1. Do you support the Bill as a whole?

Yes – the areas of activity within this new bill will add to existing legislation on alcohol consumption, control and licensing and remove current loopholes that exist in some of these areas.

2. Do you support particular provisions in the Bill?

Yes – all of them

3. Do you have concerns about particular provisions in the Bill?

No

4. How will the particular provisions in the Bill fit with your work, or the work of your organisation?

Most of the provisions do not have a direct effect on the work of the Royal Colleges or their fellows, however there is clear linkage within the bill that aims to help reduce inappropriate over consumption of alcohol by both adults and minors. This will have a significant effect on the prevalence of alcohol related disease, in particular liver disease, which are still at very high levels and impacting upon the NHS clinical and financial burden.

5. Will the Bill have financial or resource implications for you or your organisation?

If the end result is a reduction in inappropriate excessive alcohol consumption, especially amongst minors, then this should reduce the clinical and financial consequences for the NHS.

6. Do you have any other comments or suggestions relevant to the Bill?

No

1 About The Royal College of Pathologists

- 1.1** The Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH) is a professional membership organisation with charitable status. It is committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and to promoting excellence in the teaching and practice of pathology. Pathology is the science at the heart of modern medicine and is involved in 70 per cent of all diagnoses made within the National Health Service. The College aims to advance the science and practice of pathology, to provide public education, to promote research in pathology and to disseminate the results. We have over 10,000 members across 19 specialties working in hospital laboratories, universities and industry worldwide to diagnose, treat and prevent illness.
- 1.2** The Royal College of Pathologists makes specific comments on **the Alcohol (Licensing, Public Health and Criminal Justice) (Scotland) Bill – Stage 1 consideration by the Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee.**
- 1.3** These comments were compiled by Dr Bernie Croal, Chair of the Scottish Regional Council.

2 Feedback on the Alcohol (Licensing, Public Health and Criminal Justice) (Scotland) Bill – Stage 1 consideration by the Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee

- 2.1** The Royal College of Pathologists considers the areas of activity within this new bill will add to existing legislation on alcohol consumption, control and licensing and remove current loopholes that exist in some of these areas.
- 2.2** Most of the provisions do not have a direct effect on the work of the Royal Colleges or their fellows, however there is clear linkage within the bill that aims to help reduce inappropriate over-consumption of alcohol by both adults and minors. This will have a significant effect on the prevalence of alcohol related disease, in particular liver disease, which are still at very high levels and impacting upon the NHS clinical and financial burden.
- 2.3** If the end result is a reduction in inappropriate excessive alcohol consumption, especially amongst minors, then this should reduce the clinical and financial consequences for the NHS.