

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

33rd Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Tuesday, 7 November 2023

Post-legislative scrutiny: Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Act 2012

Note by the clerk

Background

1. At its meeting on 27 June 2023, the Committee agreed to undertake post-legislative scrutiny of the operation and effect of the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Act 2012. This was agreed in anticipation of an order potentially being brought before the Scottish Parliament to extend the provisions of the Act in some form beyond the current scheduled expiration date of 30 April 2024.
2. Public Health Scotland published its [final report](#) on “Evaluating the impact of minimum unit pricing for alcohol in Scotland” on 27 June 2023. In response, the Scottish Government published a [report](#) on 20 September 2023 entitled “Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Act 2012 – operation and effect 2018 to 2023”.
3. The Public Health Scotland report concludes that its evaluation of the policy “has demonstrated that MUP has contributed to reducing alcohol-attributable deaths and hospital admissions in Scotland relative to England”. In support of this conclusion, the report cites evidence of “a 13.4% reduction in wholly attributable deaths, driven by reductions in deaths from chronic alcohol conditions” and “a smaller (4.1%) reduction in wholly attributable hospital admissions, again driven by reductions in chronic alcohol conditions”.
4. The Public Health Scotland report further concludes that “the estimated reductions in deaths and hospital admissions were largest among men and those living in the 40% most deprived areas in Scotland”.
5. The report also concludes that “There was no clear evidence of substantial negative impacts on the alcoholic drinks industry, or of social harms at the population level”.

Today’s meeting

1. At today's meeting, the Committee will take evidence from representatives of Public Health Scotland on key findings from its evaluation of minimum unit pricing for alcohol in Scotland.

**Clerks to the Committee
2 November 2023**