Reducing the Drink Drive Limit in Scotland: A Scottish Government consultation

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note. This form must be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name
Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Title
Mr ☐ Ms ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☒ Please tick as appropriate

Surname
Dwarakanath

Forename
Deepak

2. Postal Address

9 QUEEN STREET
EDINBURGH

Postcode EH2 1JQ Phone 0131 247 3608 Email l.lockhart@rcpe.ac.uk

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)? Please tick as appropriate

☐ Yes ☐ No

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick ONE of the following boxes

☐ Yes, make my response, name and address all available
☐ Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address
☐ Yes, make my response available, but not my address

(c) The name and address of your organisation will be made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your response to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate

☐ Yes ☐ No

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate

☐ Yes ☐ No
Please send your response with the completed Respondent Information Form to:

Drink.drivelimit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or

Postal address:

Jim Wilson
Room 2W
Justice Directorate
Scottish Government
St Andrew’s House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

**The deadline for responding is 29 November 2012**

This consultation, and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the consultation web pages of the Scottish Government website at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations.
REDUCING THE DRINK DRIVE LIMIT IN SCOTLAND
CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Question

1. Do you agree that the drink drive limits should be reduced in Scotland?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, please go to Q1A.
If no, please go to Q2.

Question

1A. The Scottish Government is proposing:

- A reduction in the blood limit from 80mg of alcohol in every 100 ml of blood to 50 mg of alcohol in every 100 ml of blood;
- An (equivalent) reduction in the breath limit from 35 mcg of alcohol in 100 ml of breath to 22 mcg of alcohol in every 100 ml of breath; and
- An (equivalent) reduction in the urine limit from 107 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of urine to 67 mg of alcohol in every 100 ml of urine.

Do you agree with the SG proposal to reduce the drink driving limits?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Yes, RCPE agrees with the proposal to reduce the drink driving limits. The evidence (for example, from the Institute for Alcohol Studies) suggests that a reduction in the limits would make a positive impact in terms of reducing road traffic accidents and road traffic deaths.

(Optional question)

2. Do you have any evidence for what would be the main consequences of the SG proposals?

Given the evidence presented by the Institute of Alcohol Studies (Alcohol and Drink Driving, 2010) that drinking by drivers with blood alcohol levels of between 50mg% and 80mg% was a significant but largely hidden cause of accidents, RCPE hopes that the new limit would be beneficial but is concerned that this may be modest by comparison with the zero limit applied in some European countries and/or the introduction of random testing to enforce the change. It is important to de-normalise drinking and driving with a clear “Don’t drink and drive” message, particularly when the public find it difficult to link consumption to impairment and legal limits.
3. Do you have any evidence for what would be the financial impact of the SG proposals?

Comments:
No comment

4. Do you have any comments to make on the ancillary matters related to the SG’s proposal to reduce the drink drive limits?

Comments:
No comment
Question

5. Are there any other measures that should be considered in order to tackle drink driving?

Comments:

- All public information and policy campaigns should continue to emphasise that all levels of alcohol will impair the function to drive and that people metabolise alcohol at varying rates making it impossible to advocate a safe driving level.
- Younger and less experienced drivers may merit specific messages and/or zero levels. Graduated licensing could be introduced and would complement other safety measures under consideration such as restricting maximum speed or ability to carry passengers.
- RCPE accepts the public anxiety about random testing, with the potential for abuse and the challenge of “morning after” low levels of blood alcohol but random testing has been shown to be effective in seasonal campaigns and merits further consideration.
- As a founder member of SHAAP the RCPE commends their separate response.

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