

Alcohol - minimum unit pricing - continuation and future pricing: consultation

Consultation:

1. Do you think Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) should continue?

Yes

No

2. If MUP continues, do you agree with the proposed Minimum Unit Price of 65 pence?

Yes

No

3. We invite comments on:

- the Scottish Ministers' proposal to continue MUP, and
- the proposed Minimum Unit Price of 65 pence

We welcome the proposals set out in the consultation document. Data published by Public Health Scotland¹ has shown that MUP, notwithstanding the COVID pandemic, has succeeded in reducing harm. Other groups and bodies will be better placed to discuss the specifics of the minimum unit price of 65 pence.

We know health inequalities are widening and policies such as MUP are an essential component to addressing these. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is committed to supporting this aim. Pharmacy teams across all settings – community, hospital, primary care and specialist settings – already provide many services that can help reduce health inequalities. These services support people to get the best from their medicines, to improve their health and to live well.

Community pharmacies provide accessible health services, including being located in areas of higher deprivation, which can put them at the front line of improving inequalities. This makes community pharmacies one of the few health services that has the potential to buck the inverse care law (which states that people who need health care the most are the least likely to receive it). In our Pharmacy 2023: Our

¹ Public Health Scotland (2023). Minimum unit pricing (MUP) for alcohol: Evaluation findings at a glance.



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Professional Vision² we envisage pharmacy teams continuing to deliver holistic care to their communities and that may include alcohol brief interventions.

The MUP must be seen as part of a collection of legislative and health policy approaches, inclusive of health, social care and third sector bodies to address the wider societal impact of health inequalities. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society would advocate maintaining a focus on those already suffering from alcohol addiction/abuse and looking at novel ways of intervening, some of which may involve community pharmacy.

² Royal Pharmaceutical Society Scotland(2022). Pharmacy 2030: Our Professional Vision.
<https://www.rpharms.com/pharmacy2030>

