

YOUR MP
House of Commons, London
SW1A 0AA

Date _____

Dear _____,

Public Health Licensing Objective in Alcohol Legislation

I am writing to you as a partner of Trafford's Health and Wellbeing Board to ask you to urge the Government to further consider the addition of a 5th public health licensing objective. In Scotland, 'protecting and improving public health' was added to its alcohol legislation, as a licensing objective, to facilitate more leverage to address the significant impact that alcohol has on population health.

A recent survey by the Local Government Association confirmed that many public health officials would like to see public health included as a fifth licensing objective. A Public Health England pilot recently explored how an analytical support package of data and evidence could be of use in the context of a theoretical fifth licensing objective addressing the protection of public health. Participants in the pilot noted the need for a licensing objective to legitimise their use of health information around alcohol licensing.

Reducing harm from alcohol is a priority for Trafford's Health and Wellbeing Board as alcohol misuse is the third leading risk factor for death and disability, after smoking and obesity. The Trafford Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) outlines:

- Estimates suggest that around 28% of Trafford adults – or around 51,000 - are drinking above the recommended levels, statistically similar to England average (25.7%).
- Rates of alcohol-related deaths in Trafford are similar to England averages.
- Trafford fares less well on some indicators of hospitalisation, especially for those conditions where alcohol is the sole cause.
- Both locally and nationally, alcohol related hospitalisation rates are increasing over time indicating that this is a public health issue of increasing relative importance.
- We know that alcohol widens health inequalities. There is a strong association between the ward hospital admission rate for alcohol harm and deprivation score, with rates increasing as deprivation increases.

The inclusion of an alcohol licensing objective gives local authorities, public health teams and health and wellbeing partners the opportunity to contribute vital health information to licensing decisions.

Yours sincerely