

Press Release

For immediate use
Tuesday 3rd March 2009

RealAleNet Deplores Scottish Plans to Control Alcohol Selling Prices

RealAleNet is totally against moves by the Scottish Government to prevent businesses selling alcohol at a loss, believing it to be a floored attempt at a solution to alcohol related social problems.

A RealAleNet spokesman said:

"We don't believe that you can cure social ills by price fixing. All it does is penalise responsible citizens who will find their weekly shopping bill rise at a time of economic hardship. Education, better health care and tackling social deprivation would do more in combating alcoholism and binge drinking than any amount of market manipulation.

A person who is addicted to alcohol will turn to more unsavoury substances if their 'cheap fix' is removed from the supply chain. These people need help, not a helping hand down the road to 'cleaning product oblivion'. This measure does nothing to address the major causes of binge drinking and alcohol related problems.

Our biggest fear is that this is the thin end of the wedge, and that the rest of the UK will follow suit."

Whilst RealAleNet is alarmed at the closure of around 5 pubs a day, unlike some other organisations, it doesn't believe that supermarkets selling alcohol as a loss leader significantly contributes to the problem.

ENDS

RealAleNet a.k.a. the Real Ale Network promotes real ale, and campaigns on behalf of responsible real ale drinkers. We provide news, information and opinion on all aspects of real ale and related topics.