

Correspondence received

From: Jackie Dunbar MSP
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024
Subject: Sale of Alcohol at Football Grounds(Case Ref: JD5366)

Dear Neil,

Please find below an email that I have received from a constituent regarding the sale of alcohol at football matches in Scotland.

I would be grateful if you could address the concerns raised by my constituent.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Jackie
Jackie Dunbar MSP
Aberdeen Donside

12a Mastrick Shopping Centre
Greenfern Place
Mastrick
Aberdeen
AB16 6JR

Tel: 01224 011936

Sent: 23 March 2025 11:06
To: Dunbar J (Jackie), MSP
Subject:

Dear Jackie,

I hope this email finds you well.

I'm writing to express my deep disappointment at the continued refusal to even consider allowing the responsible sale of alcohol at football matches in Scotland. It's frustrating that John Swinney and others in the SNP seem to continually brush this issue aside without giving it the proper attention or a fair review, despite strong arguments in favour of change.

The current blanket ban on alcohol at football grounds is outdated and inconsistent. Fans attending rugby matches, concerts, or hospitality events at the same stadiums are permitted to drink, yet regular football supporters are treated differently—often unfairly. This only serves to reinforce outdated stereotypes of football fans that no longer reflect the vast majority of today's support.

There are several clear benefits to reviewing and modernising the approach:

- **Revenue Generation:** Permitting alcohol sales would bring in significant revenue for clubs, especially smaller ones who rely on every penny to survive and grow.

- **Controlled Environments:** Alcohol served inside the stadium can be more easily monitored and regulated than pre-match binge drinking in pubs or on the street.
- **Improved Matchday Experience:** Football is a social event for many, and the ability to enjoy a drink responsibly would enhance the experience—just as it does in most other sports.
- **Equality Across Sports:** It's simply not fair that football fans are treated differently to rugby or other event attendees.
- **Modern Image of Scottish Football:** Embracing change would reflect a more progressive and realistic view of fans today.

I understand the need for public safety, but that should be balanced with fairness and evidence-based policy. Other countries manage alcohol at football safely and effectively—surely Scotland can do the same.

I urge you to raise this matter and push for a serious, evidence-based review rather than the dismissive attitude we've seen from senior government figures. Scottish football fans deserve better.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important issue.

Kind regards,

Reply to Doc 1

Jackie Dunbar MSP
Jackie.dunbar.msp@parliament.scot

Our Reference: 202500459105
Your Reference: Case Ref: JD5366

22 April 2025

Dear Jackie,

Thank you for your email dated 26 March 2025 to Neil Gray MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, on behalf of your constituent about the availability of alcohol at Scottish football grounds. I am replying as Minister responsible for sport.

The Scottish Government is aware of a range of views from football supporters when it comes to the availability of alcohol in football stadiums, and Ministers recognise there is an argument for football supporters to be afforded the same opportunities as fans at other sporting and cultural events.

I chair a round table group on enhancing Scottish football which consists of football governing bodies, supporters groups and cross-party MSPs. The issue of alcohol in football stadia has and will continue to be discussed within that forum, alongside other issues pertinent to Scottish Football.

While we have no plans at present to amend the legislation, I have said that we remain open to discussions on this issue and will consider any proposals put forward by the Scottish FA or SPFL. To date however, we have not received any such proposals.

I hope this information allows you to respond to your constituent.

Yours sincerely

MAREE TODD

Correspondence received

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Sent: 24 March 2025 12:48

To: Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 ; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

Subject: FW: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60 (Case Ref: CA7404)

Good afternoon

I hope all is well

Clare has been contacted by a constituent who has asked that her office forward their email to the relevant ministers.

I have included the email below

Kind regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Constituency Office Manager

Office of Clare Adamson MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Motherwell and Wishaw Constituency

Constituency Office: The Dalziel Building (Suite G2) | 7 Scott Street | Motherwell | ML1 1PN

Tel: 01698 337540

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.co.uk>

Sent: 20 March 2025 17:30

To: Adamson C (Clare), MSP <Clare.Adamson.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60

Hi Clare,

Hope you are doing well.

As you may know, the ban on alcohol in stadiums during games has been in place for nearly 40 years now. Most of the individuals that caused the ban will now be 60+. Whilst I understand that safety concerns were central to the decision, I believe it is time to reconsider this policy in light of recent developments, both within Scotland and across the UK. Other sporting events and football leagues have successfully reinstated alcohol sales without compromising safety, and there is growing support within the football community for a similar approach in Scotland.

The return of alcohol sales would not only enhance the matchday experience for many fans, but it could also bring significant economic benefits to both clubs and local communities. The money generated from alcohol sales could be reinvested into grassroots football, supporting the development of young talent and improving facilities across the country.

We already allow alcohol to be consumed within the stadium- if you are lucky enough to afford expensive hospitality tickets. The ban is a direct target on working class football supporters across Scotland.

I kindly urge you to consider raising this issue in the Scottish Parliament and reviewing the potential for reform. Many football fans, clubs, and surprisingly even the police, believe that we are now in a position to safely bring back alcohol sales in a controlled and regulated manner.

Another issue that has come to my attention is the use of Article 60 by Police Scotland. Article 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order (Scotland) Act 1995 grants police officers the authority to stop and search individuals at football matches without prior suspicion of any crime. This blanket approach can unfairly target law-abiding fans and lead to unnecessary confrontations and distress. I believe the use of Article 60 should be reviewed, as it does not promote the positive atmosphere we should be striving for in Scottish football. It risks alienating fans and creates an environment of mistrust between the police and the public.

I kindly urge you to consider raising these issues in the Scottish Parliament. Reassessing the alcohol ban and reviewing the use of Article 60 would be considered a positive step towards creating a safer, more enjoyable, and more inclusive matchday experience for all involved.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be grateful for any support you can offer in this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Yours

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Reply to Doc 3

Clare Adamson MSP
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@parliament.scot

Our Reference: 202500458738

Your Reference: CA7404

24 April 2025

Dear Clare,

Thank you for your email dated 24 March 2025 on behalf of your constituent, [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], about the availability of alcohol at Scottish football grounds and about Article 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order (Scotland) Act 1995.

The Scottish Government is aware of a range of views from football supporters when it comes to the availability of alcohol in football stadiums, and Ministers recognise there is an argument for football supporters to be afforded the same opportunities as fans at other sporting and cultural events.

I chair a round table group on enhancing Scottish football which consists of football governing bodies, supporters groups and cross-party MSPs. The issue of alcohol in football stadia has and will continue to be discussed within that forum, alongside other issues pertinent to Scottish Football.

While we have no plans at present to amend the legislation, I have said that we remain open to discussions on this issue and will consider any proposals put forward by the Scottish FA or SPFL. To date however, we have not received any such proposals.

In terms of the comments relating to Article 60, Section 60 under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act allows for searches to be carried out at a particular locality, for a specific period of time, where an authorising officer believes that incidents involving serious violence may take place or that persons are carrying dangerous instruments or offensive weapons in that locality without good reason. As you will be aware, there were significant incidences of violent disorder in Glasgow City centre from groups purporting to be Celtic and Rangers fans ahead of the Cup final in December 2024, and Police Scotland would have considered what measures would be appropriate if anticipating such incidences.

Section 60 power is in addition to existing stop and search powers and is authorised on occasions where police believe that there is likely to be incidences involving serious violence. The additional powers granted under a Section 60 provide that a police officer may stop any person (or vehicle) and make any search they see fit whether or not they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the person or vehicle is carrying dangerous instruments.

With regards to football, you will be aware of the issues surrounding the use of pyrotechnics by a small number of fans. Police Scotland, therefore, are able to conduct searches where they believe fans may be carrying such articles which could lead to significant disruption and harm to fans, players and others within the footprint of the ground. I hope this information allows you to respond to Mr McManus.

Yours sincerely

MAREE TODD

Correspondence received

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.com>

Sent: 21 March 2025 06:58

To: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Alcohol at Scottish football Stadia.

First Minister

I just have a quick question in regards to your stance on allowing alcohol within Scottish Football Stadiums.

On a number of occasions now you have strongly opposed to introduction of fans bars within the concourses at football down to safety concerns etc and just have a quick question for you.

Why can my 83-year-old Grandad not have a half pint of best with his pie on the concourse pre match or at half time due to your safety concerns, bit if he spends £170, he can buy a hospitality package that comes with a complimentary bar for 2 and a half hours pre match and an hour post-match? I genuinely find it hard to see your stance as anything other than war on the working-class man.

As we all know, many people enjoy a pint pre match (please find attached a picture of yourself enjoying a pint pre-Scotland match at the Euro's for reference) Why is that fine, but as soon as a bar is installed inside a stadium you suddenly believe the masses will turn into football hooligans?

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Response to Doc 5

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.com

Our Reference: 202500458523

27 March 2025

Dear [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Thank you for your email dated 21 March 2025 to the First Minister about alcohol being allowed within Scottish football grounds. As part of Active Scotland, who lead on sport and physical activity in the Scottish Government, I have been asked to reply.

The Scottish Government is aware of a range of views from football supporters when it comes to the availability of alcohol in football stadiums, and Ministers recognise there is an argument for football supporters to be afforded the same opportunities as fans at other sporting and cultural events.

Maree Todd, the Minister responsible for sport, chairs a round table group on enhancing Scottish football which consists of football governing bodies, supporters groups and cross-party MSPs. The issue of alcohol in football stadia has and will continue to be discussed within that forum, alongside other issues pertinent to Scottish Football.

While we have no plans at present to amend the legislation, we have said that we remain open to discussions on this issue and will consider any proposals put forward by the Scottish FA or SPFL. To date however, we have not received any such proposals.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Active Scotland - Delivery

Correspondence received

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@googlemail.com>

Sent: 06 March 2025 08:15

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: Alcohol at football matches

Dear Mr Swinney,

Thank you for opposing attempts to lift the ban on alcohol sales at football matches. As someone who regularly attends games, and who has long memories of the unpleasant atmosphere and disturbance created by alcohol there, I welcome your stance.

I can see no good purpose to be gained by allowing sales of alcohol at football matches. The proposal seems a recipe for trouble and a return to a darker era.

Your position is much appreciated.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Response to Doc 7

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@googlemail.com

Our Reference: 202500455994

12 March 2025

Dear [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Thank you for your email dated 6 March 2025 to the First Minister about the sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches. As part of Active Scotland, who lead on sport and physical activity in the Scottish Government, I have been asked to reply.

As you are already aware, we have no plans to change the legislation banning alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds.

We regularly meet with the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. We will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters' groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Active Scotland – Delivery

Correspondence received

From: Willie Rennie MSP <Willie.Rennie2@parliament.scot>

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 2:17 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>

Subject: (Case Ref: WR7219)

Dear Neil

I have been contacted by a few of my constituents regarding the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches.

My constituents have explained that while fans can have a drink in hospitality areas of stadiums, there is no general sale of alcohol to supporters as there is at other sporting events in Scotland, including rugby matches. They tell me that they would like football fans to have the same opportunities as fans at other sports and events.

I would be very grateful for your comments and an update on the Scottish Government's position on this issue.

Kind regards
Willie

Willie Rennie

Member of the Scottish Parliament, North East Fife

0131 348 5804

01334 656361

Response to Doc 9

Willie Rennie MSP
Willie.Rennie2@parliament.scot

Our Reference: 202400439915

Your Reference: WR7219

25 November 2024

Dear Willie,

Thank you for your email dated 7 November 2024 to Neil Gray MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, on behalf of your constituents about the consumption of alcohol at football grounds. I am replying as Minister responsible for sport.

As you may know, there have been legal controls over the consumption of alcohol at Scottish football matches since 1 February 1981. Prior to the major disorder on the field during the 1980 Scottish Cup Final between Celtic and Rangers which prompted that legislation, the control and policing and control of alcohol at football had been extremely light touch. Since then, a much more robust approach has been in place, in part to reduce violence and disorder by supporters travelling to and from football matches and within the stadium. Subject to local licensing, alcohol can be provided before and after games in designated hospitality areas within the footprint of the stadium.

While the Scottish Government has no plans at this time to remove the existing general restrictions on alcohol at football matches in Scotland, I am always open to discussions with the football authorities on this. I recognise that football fans want to enjoy the same opportunities as fans of other sports and those going to concerts and festivals but, equally, I am very aware of the recently published statistics on alcohol-related deaths in Scotland which serve as a stark reminder of the challenge our nation faces in tackling alcohol harm. Therefore, any measures to make alcohol more widely available would need very careful consideration.

However, I, my Ministerial colleagues and Officials do engage very regularly with the football authorities on a wide range of issues and we know that, for them, the reintroduction of alcohol at football is a strategic aim, but we have not received any proposals, specific or general, at this time for Government to consider.

I hope this information allows you to respond to your constituents.

Yours sincerely,

MAREE TODD

Correspondence received

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 4:15 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>
Subject: Alcohol ban controversy enquiry

Hi there,

My name is [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] and I am a [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] student at [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]. I'm currently completing my final assessment which is a TV package about violence at Scottish football games.

My aim is to look at whether there is an increase in violence, the measures that are currently in place and how it impacts fan experience. I was wondering if you would be available to speak to me about the link between violence and the alcohol ban, and the recent motion to have it lifted.

If you would be happy for a sit down interview, it would be recorded on cameras, and would be used for assessment purposes only. Which means it will only be viewed by lecturers at Napier university, and I'm happy to have them contact you to confirm if required.

I'm happy to travel to you, and work around your schedule.

However, if this is not possible, I would love it if you were able to give me a statement on the matter or a link to a release.

Please let me know if this is something you would be able to accommodate.

Thank you for your time,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Edinburgh Napier University

Response to Doc 11

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gmail.com

Our Reference: 202400436492
Your Reference: Alcohol ban controversy enquiry

21 October 2024

Dear [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Thank you for your email dated 14 October 2024 to Neil Gray MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, asking for an interview him on the topic or reintroducing the sale of alcohol at football grounds. I am responding as this falls under my portfolio for the duration of Ms McKelvie's absence.

As you may know, there have been legal controls over the consumption of alcohol at Scottish football matches since 1 February 1981. Prior to the major disorder on the field during the 1980 Scottish Cup Final between Celtic and Rangers which prompted that legislation, the control and policing and control of alcohol at football had been extremely light touch. Since then, a much more robust approach has been in place, in part to reduce violence and disorder by supporters travelling to and from football matches and within the stadium. Subject to local licensing, alcohol can be provided before and after games in designated hospitality areas within the footprint of the stadium.

While the Scottish Government has no plans at this time to remove the existing general restrictions on alcohol at football matches in Scotland, we are always open to discussions with the football authorities on this. We recognise that football fans want to enjoy the same opportunities as fans of other sports and those going to concerts and festivals but, equally, we are very aware of the recently published statistics on alcohol-related deaths in Scotland which serve as a stark reminder of the challenge our nation faces in tackling alcohol harm. Therefore, any measures to make alcohol more widely available would need very careful consideration.

However, we do engage very regularly with the football authorities on a wide range of issues and we know that, for them, the reintroduction of alcohol at football is a strategic aim, but we have not received any proposals, specific or general, at this time for Government to consider.

Unfortunately, as these discussions are at an early stage, it would not be appropriate for Scottish Ministers to have an interview with you. However, I do hope the above sets out our current position and that you can use that for your assessment.

Yours sincerely

JENNI MINTO

Correspondence received

From: Kevin Stewart MSP <Kevin.Stewart.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 12:15 PM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Alcohol Legislation at Football Games (Case Ref: KS10111)

Dear Neil,

Please see below for correspondence from a constituent regarding alcohol at football matches.

I would like to note I fully support and echo the comments made by my constituent.

I would be grateful if you could address the points raised and provide any further information on this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Kevin
Kevin Stewart MSP
Aberdeen Central

Tel: 01224 624719

www.twitter.com/@KevinStewartSNP
www.facebook.com/KevinStewartSNP

Dear Kevin,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to discuss an important issue concerning alcohol sales at football matches in Scotland, especially in light of rising concerns regarding antisocial behaviour and violence associated with pre-match drinking.

Countries like New Zealand and Australia have implemented measures allowing alcohol sales at sporting events, leading to positive outcomes. A study by the New Zealand Institute for Economic Research found that allowing alcohol sales at rugby matches resulted in reduced levels of violence and disorderly conduct, as fans were able to drink in a controlled environment. Similarly, in Australia, the introduction of responsible alcohol management at sports events has shown a decrease in alcohol-related incidents, promoting a safer environment for all attendees.

In Scotland, rugby matches have successfully incorporated alcohol sales, creating an enjoyable atmosphere without significant incidents. This model could be adapted for football matches, allowing fans to enjoy their experience in a more regulated setting. By offering alcohol sales within stadiums, we could reduce the need for pre-game drinking in pubs, where excessive consumption is more likely to occur.

Additionally, the presence of queues for alcohol sales during matches could further help prevent excessive drinking. When fans have to wait in line, they are less likely to drink quickly and more inclined to pace themselves, leading to more responsible consumption. This could enhance the matchday experience and reduce the risk of alcohol-related incidents.

I kindly ask you to consider this proposal and pass this email on to the Health Minister. Also if you could forward/CC me in I'd appreciate it.

Implementing this change could contribute to a safer and more enjoyable experience for fans while addressing the issues of antisocial behaviour that have become prevalent on match days.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Response to Doc 13

Kevin Stewart MSP
Kevin.Stewart.msp@parliament.scot

Our Reference: 202400434829
Your Reference: Case Ref: KS10111

7 October 2024

Dear Kevin,

Thank you for your email dated 2 October 2024 to Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, on behalf of your constituent, [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], about the sale of alcohol at football matches. I am replying as Minister responsible for sport.

As you will be aware, there have been legal controls over the consumption of alcohol at Scottish football matches since 1 February 1981. Prior to the major disorder on the field during the 1980 Scottish Cup Final between Celtic and Rangers which prompted that legislation, the control and policing and control of alcohol at football had been extremely light touch. Since then, a much more robust approach has been in place, in part to reduce violence and disorder by supporters travelling to and from football matches and within the stadium. Subject to local licensing, alcohol can be provided before and after games in designated hospitality areas within the footprint of the stadium and is now widely available as such.

While the Scottish Government has no plans at this time to remove the existing general restrictions on alcohol at football matches in Scotland, we are always open to discussions with the football authorities on this. We recognise that football fans want to enjoy the same opportunities as fans of other sports and those going to concerts and festivals but, equally, we are very aware of the recently published statistics on alcohol-related deaths in Scotland which serve as a stark reminder of the challenge our nation faces in tackling alcohol harm.

Therefore, any measures to make alcohol more widely available would need very careful consideration. However, we do engage very regularly with the football authorities on a wide range of issues and we know that, for them, the reintroduction of alcohol at football is a strategic aim, but we have not received any proposals, specific or general, at this time for Government to consider.

I hope you find this information helpful and allows you to respond to your constituent.

Yours sincerely,

MAREE TODD

Correspondence received

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@parliament.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 1:12 PM

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] - restrictions on the sale and consumption of alcohol at SFA grounds

Hi John,

I have noticed you have disregarded the possibility of lifting the alcohol ban that is currently in place in football stadiums.

*Can you please elaborate on this by confirming what the difference is between football and other sporting events that allow alcohol consumption such as Rugby?
I look forward to your reply.*

Thanks,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[\[Redacted – 38\(1\)\(b\) – personal information\]@hotmail.com](mailto:[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.com)

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Response to Doc 15

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.com

Our Reference: 202400434575

Your Reference: restrictions on the sale and consumption of alcohol at SFA grounds

4 October 2024

Dear [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Thank you for your email dated 1 October 2024 to the First Minister, John Swinney about the sale of alcohol at football stadiums. As part of Active Scotland, which leads on sport and physical activity within the Scottish Government, I have been asked to reply.

There have been legal controls over the consumption of alcohol at Scottish football matches since 1 February 1981. Prior to the major disorder on the field during the 1980 Scottish Cup Final between Celtic and Rangers which prompted that legislation, the control and policing and control of alcohol at football had been extremely light touch. Since then, a much more robust approach has been in place, in part to reduce violence and disorder by supporters travelling to and from football matches and within the stadium. Subject to local licensing, alcohol can be provided before and after games in designated hospitality areas within the footprint of the stadium and is now widely available as such.

While the Scottish Government has no plans at this time to remove the existing general restrictions on alcohol at football matches in Scotland, we are always open to discussions with the football authorities on this. We recognise that football fans want to enjoy the same opportunities as fans of other sports and those going to concerts and festivals but, equally, we are very aware of the recently published statistics on alcohol-related deaths in Scotland which serve as a stark reminder of the challenge our nation faces in tackling alcohol harm. Therefore, any measures to make alcohol more widely available would need very careful consideration.

However, we do engage very regularly with the football authorities on a wide range of issues and we know that, for them, the reintroduction of alcohol at football is a strategic aim, but we have not received any proposals, specific or general, at this time for Government to consider.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Active Scotland - Delivery

Correspondence received

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2024 1:05 PM

To: Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing & Sport <ministerscmws@gov.scot>

Subject: Alcohol at Football Matches Ban Lifted.

Good Afternoon

I feel since it was introduced 43 years ago it is now time to lift the alcohol ban for the Season starting 2024/2025.

I feel this ban is totally unfair to the vast majority of football supporters who may want even just one pint at a football game and I have put forward a proposal which should put this policy safely in effect.

I know The clubs really want this.

The proposals I have are this.

Like England there should be a special fan zone where alcohol can only be sold.

Like England you must have your drink in the Zone and can't take it on to the terraces.

All Drinks sold in disposable containers pints so they are not used as weapons or taken on to the terraces to throw onto police, players etc. Unlikely to happen but this is where it is sensible to cover all areas.

Drinks Areas that sell Alcohol also at all times to have Two Security Personnel or Club Officials to make sure Drink is being sold to people in a correct manner and have immediate access to police should in the rare event people being badly under the effects of alcohol etc. Having said that fans should never have been left into the ground if this is the case of people under the influence of drink.

A minimum price should be five pounds a pint.

The restrictions above are quite strict and when I went to Evertons ground in Liverpool that saw it working when I had a drink it was done in an orderly fashion even without huge queues.

I feel it is wrong to penalise the vast majority of law abiding supporters and I feel that the lifting of the ban should be put on a trial period with the restrictions as put in place for one year.

I would be grateful if you could pass this on to the Minister and not just given a standard Civil Service response .

Licenses in grounds between the hours of 1.30 to 4.30 to be strictly observed.

Kind Regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Football Fan

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Response to Doc 17

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gmail.com

Our Reference: 202400401644

5 March 2024

Dear [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Thank you for your email dated 25 February 2024 to Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, about the licensing of alcohol at Scottish football grounds. As part of Active Scotland, I have been asked to reply.

As you are aware, alcohol and other controls at sporting events were introduced in Scotland in 1980 for reasons of public order and safety. The Scottish Government works with all parties to help improve the overall match day experience and ensure all football fans can enjoy our national game in a safe, enjoyable environment.

The Scottish Government agrees with you that the majority of football fans act responsibly and behave in an appropriate manner. However, it is clear that alcohol is still taking a toll on far too many people across Scotland. Recent figures published by National Records of Scotland (NRS) showed that there were 1,276 deaths directly because of alcohol in Scotland in 2022. These figures show that Scotland continues to have a problematic relationship with alcohol, and we are determined to do all we can to address that. That's why we've taken a range of actions to reduce the availability, attractiveness and affordability of alcohol, in line with the World Health Organization's recommended approach. Our Alcohol Framework 2018 contains 20 actions to tackle alcohol related harm, including reviewing the level of the minimum unit price (MUP), improving alcohol product labelling and consulting on a range of restrictions on alcohol advertising and promotion.

Maree Todd, Minister responsible for sport, has regular discussions with the SPFL and Scottish FA to discuss a range of topics, including potential proposals for allowing alcohol back into Scottish football stadia. The football authorities understand that, for Scottish Ministers to consider this further, we would need to see detailed proposals from them which made a very clear case setting out the benefits of such a move.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Active Scotland - Delivery

Parliamentary Question and Answer

S6W-35799

Question

To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to claims that the current restrictions on alcohol sales at football matches, while allowing sales at rugby matches, concerts and other major sporting events, unfairly targets football supporters.

Answer

The Scottish Government is aware of a range of views from football supporters when it comes to the availability of alcohol in football stadiums, and recognises there is an argument for football supporters to be afforded the same opportunities as fans at other sporting and cultural events. However, we currently have no plans to amend the legislation but remain open to discussions on this issue and will consider any proposals put forward.

Parliamentary Question and Answer

S6W-35800

Question

To ask the Scottish Government whether it will commit to a pilot scheme allowing controlled alcohol sales at selected football grounds to assess its feasibility and potential impact, and what its response is to similar trials in other countries.

Answer

The Scottish Government would be willing to look at proposals from either the Scottish FA or SPFL. To date, we have not received any proposals.

Parliamentary Question and Answer

S6W-35801

Question

To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with football (a) clubs and (b) supporter groups regarding the potential impact of allowing alcohol sales inside grounds, and whether it will publish any feedback it has received on this.

Answer

I have discussed this issue a number of times with the SPFL and directly with some football clubs. More recently, the round table on enhancing Scottish football which has representatives from the footballing governing bodies and supporter groups, has discussed the reintroduction of alcohol in football stadia alongside other issues pertinent to Scottish football. We plan to publish the minutes of these meetings on the Scottish Government website in due course.

Parliamentary Question and Answer

S6W-29341

Question

To ask the Scottish Government whether it will consider allowing football clubs to sell alcohol at games, allowing clubs the opportunity to offer fans a chance to meet up and enjoy a pint before the game.

Answer

The Scottish Government remains committed to reducing the significant impact of alcohol harm on the nation's health through a range of measures including the forthcoming increase to Minimum Unit Pricing. However, we also recognise the calls for football fans to have the same opportunities as fans at other sports and events and we will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.

Parliamentary Question and Answer

S6W-29342

Question

To ask the Scottish Government whether it will consider allowing a pilot programme to be established for football clubs to offer the sale of alcohol within family-friendly fan zones before a football game.

Please see answer to S6W-29341.

Note from Ms Todd to First Minister

First Minister

CC: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

ALCOHOL AT FOOTBALL

This note provides an update on the matter of alcohol at football grounds in Scotland. As you will be aware, there have been growing numbers of calls by members of the public, supporter organisations, clubs and football governing bodies to review the legislation governing alcohol in Scottish football stadiums.

There have been legal controls over the consumption of alcohol at Scottish football matches since 1 February 1981. Prior to the major disorder on the field during the 1980 Scottish Cup Final between Celtic and Rangers which prompted that legislation, the control and policing and control of alcohol at football had been extremely light touch, although it should be noted that alcohol was not sold in football stadia, but brought in by fans. Since then, a much more robust approach has been in place, in part to reduce violence and disorder by supporters travelling to and from football matches and within the stadium.

The ban is covered in the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 which makes it illegal to carry alcohol into a football stadium, to consume alcohol within sight of the pitch, to enter a football stadium under the influence of alcohol, or to drink alcohol while on official transport (supporters buses) to football matches. Subject to local licensing, alcohol can be provided before and after games in designated hospitality areas within the footprint of the stadium, or in fan zones.

I have had various discussions with the SPFL on the consumption of alcohol at football over the last couple of years and expressed the clear view that, while the door is not closed on the issue, any proposals coming forward would need to recognise the significant impact of alcohol on public health in Scotland.

While the SPFL recognises this, it remains a strategic aim for the them to allow alcohol sales in stadia. The SPFL has been working hard over the last year, with Police Scotland, Football Safety Officers, and the Scottish Government, to address issues of disorder, and they have made progress on this. Over the last season they have taken punitive measures against clubs in the form of ticket reductions for issues of disorder, they have been a key partner in making the case for the review of FBO legislation, which we are shortly to consult on, and they have got clubs much more engaged in supporting this work. Their approach was recognised by the Justice Secretary at her recent round table on disorder at Easter Road Stadium.

The SPFL's key aim is to enhance the match day experience for fans. There are well over 5 million attendances at SPFL games annually, and the vast majority of whom are well behaved and want an enjoyable experience supporting their team. Tackling disorder to make games safer is one side of this work but the SPFL see it as crucial that they can offer a carrot as well as wielding a stick. Supporting clubs to safely

offer fans the chance to have a drink, within the law and within strict controls, as part of their match day experience is a key part of this holistic approach.

A small number of clubs are looking to pilot strictly controlled zones for the sale of alcohol, either in restricted concourse areas or fan zones within the stadium footprint, for low risk games in the League Cup group stages in July. It should be recognised that in many if not most cases alcohol is present at football stadia at present anyway, either in licensed fan zones or hospitality suites, so this is simply a slight expansion of the current offer.

We understand from the SPFL that the following clubs have either had a licence granted or have a live application at present:

- Ayr United – a licence has been granted on a limited basis for two home league cup ties, versus Arbroath (Sat 19 July) and Forfar (Tues 22 July). We understand the licence is for provision of beer only in a limited area of the concourse with no pitch view, a drink limit, and strict controls to ensure no alcohol is taken outwith the area.
- Arbroath – one licence granted for a home league cup tie in July. Arbroath's stadium has no concourse, so the licence is for a fan zone within the stadium footprint. Fan zones around stadia are fairly common place already.
- St Mirren – the application is at an advanced stage, and Police Scotland have been consulted and are content, but has not yet been granted. This is for a limited concourse area for a league cup match vs Ayr United.
- Partick Thistle – an application is in progress. It is important to note that Partick did have a licence for one match at the end of the 24-25 season but opted not to use it as they wanted more time to prepare.
- Dunfermline, Queen of the South and Stirling Albion – all 3 in progress, again for home league cup ties.

The matches are all within the group stages of the league cup and are viewed as low risk games. The SPFL will have match delegates there and will report back to us on the matches in question.

These pilots are in full accordance with the current legislation. It would not be possible for local licensing authorities to grant permission if that were not the case. The Scottish Government can therefore maintain its position that it has no plans to review the legislation governing alcohol at football.

My officials continue to be in close contact with the SPFL and will keep me updated on this.

MT
25 June 2025

Excerpt from the following documents: [Scotland v Greece match attended by Mr Gray – 23 March 2025][Ms Todd briefing for SWNT v Netherlands – 25 February 2025] [Enhancing Scottish Football Round Table briefing – 10 March 2025] [Ms Minto attending Cup Final 24 May 2025] [FM attending Women’s Scottish Cup Final – 25 May 2025] [Enhancing Scottish Football Round table briefing – 23 June 2025]

ALCOHOL IN FOOTBALL STADIA

Background

Ms Todd has had discussions with the SPFL on the introduction of alcohol at football over the last couple of years and expressed the clear view that, while the door is not closed on the issue, any proposals coming forward would need to recognize the significant impact of alcohol on public health in Scotland. The SPFL recognizes this.

On 25 September, Ms Todd answered a PQ from George Adam on the reintroduction of alcohol at football stating that the Scottish Government would continue to engage with the football authorities on ways to enhance the fan experience. This generated significant interest in the press and football related press in particular.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care had said that the Scottish Government would give serious consideration to any proposal to lift the ban in football stadiums, which many press reports suggested meant we were actively considering the matter. This was subsequently clarified by both Cab Sec HSC and FM who confirmed that there are no plans to review to legislation on alcohol in football grounds; the priority was instead creating a safe and supportive sporting environment for all.

The current state of play is that we know the SPFL is developing proposals in this regard. It remains a strategic aim for the SPFL to allow alcohol sales in stadia. We understand that they are working on proposals for pilot projects which they do not believe require Scottish Government approval or which contravene the existing legislation. However, these are at concept stage only and we have seen no detail.

It is, however, recognised that in many if not most cases it is possible to have alcohol at football stadia at present anyway, either in approved fan zones or hospitality suites. Extending this to concourses in a limited number of pilot projects would be the proposed course of action, with evidence gathered to understand the results and impacts. We understand from the SPFL that Police Scotland are open to discussions on this.

History

There have been legal controls over the consumption of alcohol at Scottish football matches since 1 February 1981. Prior to the major disorder on the field during the 1980 Scottish Cup Final between Celtic and Rangers which prompted that legislation, the control and policing and control of alcohol at football had been extremely light touch, although it should be noted that alcohol was not sold in football stadia, but brought in by fans. Since then, a much more robust approach has been in place, in part to reduce violence and disorder by supporters travelling to and from

football matches and within the stadium. Subject to local licensing, alcohol can be provided before and after games in designated hospitality areas within the footprint of the stadium.

Top Lines

The Scottish Government works with a wide range of organisations to ensure football supporters enjoy our national game in a safe, enjoyable environment.

- We engage frequently with the football authorities on a wide range of issues, using the power of football to help support and improve communities.
- While we are always open to discussions with the football authorities, there are no plans at this time to remove the existing general restrictions on alcohol at football matches in Scotland.
- We have not received any proposals, specific or general, at this time

We must have a clear understanding of how any specific proposals would impact our goal of reducing alcohol-related harm

- The Scottish Government remains committed to reducing the significant impact of alcohol harm on the nation's health through a range of measures including the forthcoming increase to Minimum Unit Pricing.
- However, we recognise the calls for football fans to have the same opportunities as fans at other sports and events and we will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.

We recognise that football in Scotland now is very different to the early 1980s when the current controls were brought in following disorder and violence which marred the 1980 Scottish Cup Final.

- However, there is no doubt that – while football in Scotland today is generally safe and trouble-free – challenges remain, particularly around the increasing use of pyrotechnics.

Email chain clearing lines in response to a media enquiry

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport

Sent: 08 July 2025 17:23

To: Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>;
Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport
<MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024
<MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Sean
McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen
<Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>

Cc: John Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care
<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] @gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] @gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information] @gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister
for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For clearance: Media query - Football fans alcohol - BBC

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] – Ms Todd is content.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Neil
Gray MSP
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG |
Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Email: CabSecHSC@gov.scot

From: Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 July 2025 16:27

To: Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell
<Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport
<MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024
<MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Sean
McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen

Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; Morris Fraser <Morris.Fraser@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>
Subject: For clearance: Media query - Football fans alcohol - BBC

Sport Minister, PO.

Please see for clearance a draft response to this BBC story on the Ayr United piloting sales of alcohol at matches - Football stadium alcohol ban to be lifted in Ayr United pilot - BBC News

The pilots will effectively be an extension of the current hospitality offer to football fans in corporate areas and it will remain the case that no alcohol can be consumed on the terraces or within view of the pitch, as our suggested line sets out.

Officials and SpAds have reviewed.

Grateful for an indication of whether the Minister is content.

Best wishes.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Draft response

Sport Minister Maree Todd said:

“Our position on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds has not changed.

“It is for local licencing authorities and Police Scotland to satisfy themselves that the pilot projects are permissible within the current legislative framework when granting licences.”

Query

I'm looking for comment on Ayr United FC launching a pilot project to allow fans to drink alcohol at two Premier Cup matches.

<https://ayrunitiedfc.co.uk/ayr-united-granted-alcohol-licence-for-upcoming-premier-sports-cup-matches>

Was this pilot project sanctioned by the government? And has the government's position on allowing alcohol at football matches changed?

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Media Manager| News: Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor
<Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; John Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
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[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For review: Media query - Fans alcohol - BBC

Thanks both.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] sorry to press but this story is running
now and SpAds and Community Safety Minister are aware so keen to progress as
soon as possible.

Best wishes.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 July 2025 14:00

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
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[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor
<Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; John Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For review: Media query - Fans alcohol - BBC

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] – do you think worth having a line in
background explaining why it doesn't flout the ban?

The pilots will effectively be an extension of the current hospitality offer to football
fans in corporate areas and it will remain the case that no alcohol can be consumed
on the terraces or within view of the pitch.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; John Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **Cc:** [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **Subject:** RE: For review: Media query - Fans alcohol - BBC

Thanks both.

Can we say this?

Best wishes.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

[Redacted – 30(b)(ii) – free and frank exchange of views]

Background

We regularly meet the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. We will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters' groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 July 2025 13:39

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; John Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>;

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For review: Media query - Fans alcohol - BBC

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] – worth including that point in background note for the journalist (ie. this is not about allowing drinking on football terraces, but is in line with existing practice through hospitality tickets?)

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Unit Head | Population Health Strategy and Improvement Division | Directorate for Population Health | DG: Health & Social Care | Scottish Government |

m: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] |email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 July 2025 13:38

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; John Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For review: Media query - Fans alcohol - BBC

Happy with the existing lines.

For context, we were aware that these pilots were progressing and have briefed FM and Ms Todd. The pilots will effectively be an extension of the current hospitality offer to football fans and it will remain the case that no alcohol can be consumed on the terraces or within view of the pitch. It also remains the case that fans should be refused entry, and can be ejected, if deemed under the influence. We have no plans to relax those requirements. The SPFL have taken their own legal advice in working with clubs to develop the pilots and it is for local licencing authorities and Police Scotland to satisfy themselves that the pilot projects are permissible when granting licences.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Head of Active Scotland | Scottish Government |

' [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]] : [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 July 2025 13:15

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; John Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For review: Media query - Fans alcohol - BBC

Copying [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] too for football interests (anything to add on below [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]?)

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] Unit Head | Population Health Strategy and Improvement Division | Directorate for Population Health | DG: Health & Social Care | Scottish Government |

m: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] |email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 July 2025 13:13

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; John Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] @gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For review: Media query - Fans alcohol - BBC

Thanks, content with the lines for alcohol interests/position.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] – unsure who is best to comment in [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] absence but I think it was Ayrshire Council that approved below, rather than SG/SFA etc etc?

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Unit Head | Population Health Strategy and Improvement Division | Directorate for Population Health| DG: Health & Social Care | Scottish Government |

m: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] |email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 July 2025 12:55

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; John Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: For review: Media query - Fans alcohol - BBC

Hi.

We have been approached by the BBC over a Ayr United pilot allowing fans to drink at two Premier Cup matches.

We issued the below earlier this year, are you content to reissue? It seems to suggest pilots are not sanctioned by SG, is that the case or has this moved on?

Grateful if we can agree lines by around 230.

Best wishes,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information].

Draft response

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We have no plans to change the ban on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds.

“We regularly meet the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. We will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters’ groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.”

Query

I’m looking for comment on Ayr United FC launching a pilot project to allow fans to drink alcohol at two Premier Cup matches.

<https://ayrunitedfc.co.uk/ayr-united-granted-alcohol-licence-for-upcoming-premier-sports-cup-matches>

Was this pilot project sanctioned by the government? And has the government’s position on allowing alcohol at football matches changed?

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Media Manager| News: Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew’s House, Edinburgh

m: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email from Sports Safety Grounds Authority

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@sgsa.org.uk>
Sent: 08 July 2025 21:23
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: SGSA Attendance at Arbroath v St Mirren - Sat 12 July

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

I hope you're well and have or are about to grab some family time in the sun.

Just to let you know I will be out on my travels this weekend and will be attending Arbroath v St Mirren to carry out a Matchday and Stadium Inspection. Speaking to the Safety Officer today I believe the game is one of those chosen to be part of the alcohol trials within stadiums.

If you need any feedback on this happy to capture anything you might be interest in. Will make sure I get some images of the day as well.

Regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

**Regional Inspector - Scotland
Sports Grounds Safety Authority**

E: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@sgsa.org.uk M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]



10 South Colonnade, London, E14 4PU

Email providing clarity to First Minister

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport

Sent: 07 July 2025 11:37

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport <MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Note to First Minister from Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport - Alcohol Sales in Football

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Thanks for this - these pilots will effectively be an extension of the current hospitality offer to football fans and it will remain the case that no alcohol can be consumed on the terraces or within view of the pitch. It also remains the case that fans should be refused entry, and can be ejected, if deemed under the influence. We have no plans to relax those requirements. The SPFL have taken their own legal advice in working with clubs to develop the pilots and it is for local licencing authorities and Police Scotland to satisfy themselves that the pilot projects are permissible when granting licences.

Kind regards,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Private Secretary

Minister for Drugs, Alcohol Policy and Sport – Maree Todd MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

E-mail: MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot

Mobile: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 03 July 2025 09:33

To: Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport <MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Note to First Minister from Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport - Alcohol Sales in Football

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

The First Minister is grateful for this note but doesn't understand this part of the statement :

“These pilots are in full accordance with the current legislation. It would not be possible for local licensing authorities to grant permission if that were not the case. The Scottish Government can therefore maintain its position that it has no plans to review the legislation governing alcohol at football.”

Could he have an explanation of how these pilots are in accordance with current legislation please.

Many thanks,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Private Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport

Sent: 26 June 2025 13:20

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport <MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: Note to First Minister from Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport - Alcohol Sales in Football

FMPO,

Please see note attached from Maree Todd regarding Alcohol Sales in Football Grounds.

Kin Regards,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Assistant Private Secretary

Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport – Maree Todd MSP

Scottish Government, Room 1E.10 St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

E-mail: MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot

Email chain clearing response to media enquiry

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024

Sent: 04 March 2025 15:14

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS - media query - football alcohol ban pilots - Scotsman

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] – Mr Gray has noted for his part.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Neil Gray MSP

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG |

Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Email: CabSecHSC@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 March 2025 14:52

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR AWARENESS - media query - football alcohol ban pilots - Scotsman

POs CSHSC, MSCMWS

We've been asked again about alcohol/football, specifically reference in below Fol to pilots in concourses at some grounds being 'the proposed course of action'.

Reporter also asking about date of briefing note

Policy colleagues have lines still stand - we've received no details of any proposal from the SPFL

As our position is unchanged, will reissue adding note of requested date in background.

For awareness, the reporter has also gone to Police Scotland

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

LINE TO REISSUE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We have no plans to change the ban on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds.

“We regularly meet with the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. We will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters’ groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.”

Background

This is a 15 November briefing.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

Scottish Government

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email to the SPFL

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 05 March 2025 09:38
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@spfl.co.uk>
Subject: alcohol at football

Morning [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

You may have seen there is stuff in the press again about alcohol at football, picked up from recent FOI releases. We'll be maintaining our lines that we have no plans to change the law at present, and have received no proposals from the SPFL on this.

Happy to speak if helpful.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Strategic Football Lead
Active Scotland
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email chain about updating a FMQ

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 March 2025 09:53

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: amended FMQ - alcohol at football

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] content and much appreciated for pro-active amendments – copying [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] too (in case FM team comes back with request for more info etc)

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Unit Head | Population Health Strategy and Improvement Division | Directorate for Population Health | DG: Health & Social Care | Scottish Government |

m: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] |email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 March 2025 09:04

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: amended FMQ - alcohol at football

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

Nothing in my inbox yet but I'm sure the FMQ team will request amendments to this week's alcohol brief given this morning's articles on alcohol at football (see attached two I got from SG library but there are more). Active Scotland have confirmed the lines used previously are still standing so just moved them up to the top.

Are you content with the revised version?

Thanks,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Alcohol Harm Prevention|Population Health Directorate|Scottish Government|St Andrew's House|Regent Road|Edinburgh|EH1 3DG

Email updating FMQ

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 March 2025 10:34

To: PQ/FMQ Team <pq/fmqteam@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FMQ Brief Commission Request - Health and Social Care - Due 11 am Monday 3rd March

Good morning FMQ team,

Please see attached an amended version of the Alcohol brief for this week in response to a number of articles published this morning regarding alcohol at football.



Alcohol FMQ -
6.03.2025 [amen...

Best wishes,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Alcohol Harm Prevention|Population Health Directorate|Scottish Government|St Andrew's House|Regent Road|Edinburgh|EH1 3DG

Updated FMQ

05 Mar: Various outlets cover a briefing note, prepared for the FM and released under the FOI, which suggests that 'a limited number of pilot projects' to allow alcohol to be sold on football concourses could be under consideration.

Out of scope

ALCOHOL AT FOOTBALL

The Scottish Government regularly meets with the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches and will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters' groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.

- The Scottish Government has no plans to change the ban on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds.

We remain focused on reducing alcohol-related harm and deaths. We continue to treat it as an equal priority with drugs and are working to ensure that people with problematic alcohol use receive the same quality of care and support.

- We have maintained a record £112m to Alcohol and Drug Partnerships for a wide range of measures - including alcohol treatment services.
 - A Public Health Scotland evaluation, commended by internationally-renowned public health experts, estimated that our MUP policy has saved hundreds of lives.
 - We increased the minimum price per unit of alcohol five months ago, as we seek to increase the positive effects of the policy and to take account of inflation.
 - In addition, PHS has been commissioned to review the evidence for different options that are available to the Scottish Government under devolved powers to address alcohol marketing.
 - If the evidence supports it, the Scottish Government will return with a further consultation on a range of targeted proposals.
-
- **[Out of scope]**

Email chain clearing a media enquiry

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024

Sent: 05 March 2025 11:06

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for
Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care,
Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS - media query - football alcohol ban pilots -
Scotsman

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Ms Todd notes for her interests.

Kind regards,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Private Secretary

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport – Maree Todd MSP
Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

E-mail: MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot

Mobile: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 March 2025 14:52

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>;
Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024
<MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR AWARENESS - media query - football alcohol ban pilots - Scotsman

POs CSHSC, MSCMWS

We've been asked again about alcohol/football, specifically reference in below Fol to
pilots in concourses at some grounds being 'the proposed course of action'.

Reporter also asking about date of briefing note

Policy colleagues have lines still stand - we've received no details of any proposal from the SPFL

As our position is unchanged, will reissue adding note of requested date in background.

For awareness, the reporter has also gone to Police Scotland

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

LINE TO REISSUE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We have no plans to change the ban on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds.

“We regularly meet with the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. We will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters’ groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.”

Background

This is a 15 November briefing.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

Scottish Government

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email chain clearing media enquiry

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024

Sent: 13 March 2025 18:23

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for
Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>;
zzzzMinister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing & Sport
<zzzzMinisterSCMWS@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care
<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan
<Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross
Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton
<Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS - media query - football alcohol ban - Aberdeen
comments - P&J

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]– Mr Gray has noted.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet
Secretary for Health and Social Care – Neil Gray MSP
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG |
Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]| Email: CabSecHSC@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 13 March 2025 16:35

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>;
zzzzMinister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing & Sport
<zzzzMinisterSCMWS@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care
<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan
<Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross
Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton
<Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR AWARENESS - media query - football alcohol ban - Aberdeen
comments - P&J

PO CSHSC

PO MPHWH, PO MWSSC cc-ed

For awareness only

The P&J has asked about Aberdeen FC and other clubs' comments expressing support for lifting the football alcohol ban.

As policy colleagues have confirmed our position is unchanged, will reissue previously cleared lines.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

REISSUED LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We have no plans to change the ban on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds.

“We regularly meet with the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. We will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters' groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.”

MEDIA QUERY

I was wondering if the Scottish Government would be able to comment for this story about clubs in Aberdeenshire calling for an end to the Scottish football alcohol ban?

Strongest quotes from Aberdeen FC chief Alan Burrows are as follows:

Alan Burrows, chief executive of Aberdeen FC, said: “Like most other clubs, we support exploring the re-introduction of alcohol in football stadiums.

“Football and clubs' stadiums in Scotland have dramatically changed since the ban was imposed 45 years ago. Improved lay-outs and seating, safety standards, stewarding and policing, for example, combine to make it more conducive to introducing alcohol consumption in a controlled and safe manner.

“We would welcome trialling the re-introduction of alcohol in some areas of the stadium and at certain games to demonstrate that it can be done safely and responsibly.

“Lifting the ban would ensure fairness in relation to every other sport and football fans should be treated fairly.”

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

Scottish Government

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email chain discussing a correspondence case

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 13 March 2025 15:58

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Fair Treatment for Football Fans

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] – agree with below (though would probably note that whilst public health is important, public safety feels equally/moreso in this scenario?) – GMB have met with Ministers for Drugs and Alcohol policy previously but agree that without a clear point of discussion – ie. a proposal/workable proposal etc etc – I think the meeting might not be too constructive or useful for the GMB at this point.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Unit Head | Population Health Strategy and Improvement Division | Directorate for Population Health| DG: Health & Social Care | Scottish Government |

m: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] |email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 13 March 2025 14:47

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Fair Treatment for Football Fans

Hi folks,

GMB want to meet Ministers to discuss relaxing alcohol restrictions at football. I'd agree with [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] that, as we have no proposal yet from the football authorities, there is little value in a meeting at the current time.

I'd suggest noting that Ms Todd has had initial discussions with the SPFL on it, been clear that the door is not closed on it but we'd want to see concerns about public health addressed, and that we know that this is a strategic priority for the SPFL and they will come forward with proposals when they are ready to do so.

Any strong views?

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 13 March 2025 14:37

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Fair Treatment for Football Fans

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Grateful for your thoughts on how to respond to the request to meet with Ms Constance and Mr Gray?

[Redacted – 30(b)(ii) – free and frank exchange of views]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

Sent: 06 March 2025 14:23

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Fair Treatment for Football Fans

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Please see the attached letter from GMB Scotland on behalf of their brewing, whisky and spirits members. They are asking to meet with Ms Constance and Mr Gray to discuss the blanket ban on selling alcohol at football matches.

[Redacted – 30(b)(ii) – free and frank exchange of views]

I am aware of our lines about being open to pilots and not yet having received a proposal from the SPFL etc, but I would be grateful for a steer on how to reply to this?

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024

Sent: 05 March 2025 13:51

To: Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Fair Treatment for Football Fans

Also attached is a copy of the email sent to Ms Constance.

Good Afternoon

For DR Please

Kind Regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Assistant Private Secretary

Business Management Team

Ministerial Private Offices

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | 2 Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gmb.org.uk>

Sent: 05 March 2025 13:41

To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024

<CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024

<CabSecHSC@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gmb.org.uk>

Subject: Fair Treatment for Football Fans

Dear Angela Constance MSP & Neil Gray MSP,

Please find attached correspondence and invitation to meet from [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], GMB Scotland Organiser, regarding Fair Treatment for Football Fans.

Sincerely,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Policy & External Relations Officer

GMB

Scotland

Letter from GMB Union

To: Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs
(CabSecforJHA@gov.scot)

Neil Gray MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
(CabSecHSC@gov.scot)

Sent From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], Organiser, GMB Scotland - return to [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gmb.org.uk)

5 March 2025

Dear Angela Constance MSP & Neil Gray MSP,

Fair Treatment for Football Fans

I am writing on behalf of GMB Scotland's members across Scotland – many of which are football fans – and as the biggest union in Scotland's brewing, whisky and spirits sector (BWS) and Scottish football to urge the Scottish Government to end its blanket ban against alcohol at football matches.

Week in, week out, thousands of football fans visit grounds, home and away, to watch their team play. Scotland's love of football and the passion shown by supporters is unrivalled. It is our national sport. Both fans and the sport should be supported across all leagues and levels to make the experience more enjoyable and raise the standard.

However, fans are treated unfairly. Whilst fans at professional rugby matches are permitted to drink alcohol across the stadium, as are hospitality fans at professional football matches, ordinary football fans are banned from doing so. What underpins this hypocrisy is a prejudice against working class people which demonises and criminalises football fans on limited means.

The outdated laws create a two-tier system of fans. It is not reasonable to retain a ban which is 45 years old. Most football supporters now weren't alive when the ban was introduced. Fans have changed. Football has changed. Now the law must change.

Not only will fans benefit from the relaxing of rules, but so will clubs. Allowing alcohol to be served at grounds will encourage more fans to go to games leading to more ticket sales. Increased revenues will allow football clubs – especially smaller clubs – to grow in quality on and off the pitch.

What we know is that the blanket ban is unfair, outdated and unreasonable. How alcohol can be reintroduced back into grounds is up for discussion. What strength can be served? How many drinks can one fan buy per game? In which stands and games will it be sold at? These are all questions that can be answered through

discussions with fans, clubs and other stakeholders; and hopefully, through monitored trials. But it should not continue.

As Ministers have met with bodies across football and BWS before on this issue, we would be grateful to meet with you as the biggest union in both sectors to put forward our members' views.

Sincerely,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Organiser
GMB Scotland

Email chain discussing an FOI

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 21 March 2025 16:15

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Hi folks,

[Redacted – 29(1)(a) – formulation of policy]

Thanks, and happy to speak if helpful.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Strategic Football Lead

Active Scotland

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Freedom of Information

Sent: 21 March 2025 15:23

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: Director of Population Health <Directorofpopulationhealth@gov.scot>; DG
Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>

Subject: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Good afternoon,

Please be aware that Friday 18th April is a FOISA holiday but Monday 21st April is **not** a FOISA holiday. Please remember to factor this into your timescale for response and note the deadline displaying on MiCase.

Please review this email IN FULL as handling instructions have recently changed.

It looks like this FOI request may be in relation to your policy area. Please confirm this sits with you or advise us immediately if it does not; suggesting business areas that are better suited.

Please note the following:

UK and Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry Restriction Order

Both the UK and Scottish Covid-19 Inquiries have issued a restriction order which affect information that can be released by the Scottish Government. This may directly affect the handling of this request. The UK restriction order can be viewed [here](#) and the Scottish restriction order can be viewed [here](#).

These restriction orders **must** be considered when responding to every request for information.

Prior to releasing any information, please consider whether the information requested has been shared with either the UK or Scottish Covid-19 Inquiries. If so, you **must** contact CIRD (Covid Inquiries Response Directorate) for advice as soon as possible. Please contact them by email: covidinquiriesinformation@gov.scot

Guidance on undertaking the check and providing the record is now part of the compliance documents.

Timescale

- The response to this case should issue as soon as possible and no later than the statutory deadline which is **17/04/25**.

Case handler actions

- 'Assign to self' through the 'Case Actions' tab on MiCase: MiCase - View Case 458409
- Send the requester an **FOI specific acknowledgement letter**, through MiCase.
- Save all correspondence and evidence of how you reached your final decision to the eRDM casefile: 202500458409 - Objective
- Complete all relevant documents as your case progresses, consulting the **attached casefile checklist** for guidance. Remember to complete the mandatory:
 - (i) FOI statement of compliance
 - (ii) Searches template recording details of searches carried out and the results.
- Use the **Response Wizard** contained in MiCase for ALL letters to the requester.

Sensitivity

- In FOISA terms we are assessing this case as **routine***. This means it does not require a Ministerial decision in terms of disclosure.
**The sensitivity assessment can change once full searches have been*

completed. If after searching you consider that the response requires a Ministerial decision please engage with the FOI Unit.)

- Please ensure that your response is signed-off by officials of appropriate seniority (normally C band or above).

Helpful guidance

Watch our helpful videos for further information on how to respond to an FOI request: Freedom of Information Unit - Video Guidance | SG Thrive]

Requests for legal advice, or requests which reference or incorporate legal advice

Requests for legal advice are subject to certain handling protocols. If you receive a request for or relating to legal advice, contact the relevant lawyers in the Scottish Government Legal Directorate (SGLD) who gave that advice to request a review of whether the material is subject to legal professional privilege (LPP). Your normal SGLD contact can help in identifying any legal advice in scope of the request. You must contact the offices of the Law Officers (Lord Advocate and Solicitor General) if the request is for or relates to legal advice from the Law Officers. Please also CC digitalandinformationlaw@gov.scot.

If the request is being dealt with under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and you have shared legal advice with any external persons,

Requests which capture information about FFMs

If your FOI/EIR contains information that you think might be personal/of interest to our former FMs, please contact the FOIU as soon as possible and we will advise you what to do next or sign-post you to the right person to raise this with.

Many thanks,

FOI Unit

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

FOI Advisor

Freedom of Information Unit| Improving Public Engagement Division| Directorate for Communications and Ministerial Support| DG Corporate

St Andrews House

Scottish Government

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.co.uk>

Sent: 20 March 2025 13:43

To: Central Correspondence Unit <contactus@gov.scot>

Subject: FOI

Hi

In an interview with Sky Sports, the First Minister responded to a question about the sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches by stating that the *"evidence supports the conclusions I come to on these issues"*. He goes on to repeat the notion that his

position on alcohol at football matches is based on 'evidence' by stating he has to *"weigh up the evidence and come to a judgement"*.

Under freedom of information, I would like to request what 'evidence' the First Minister is referring to?

Can you list the sources of the evidence and provide a copy of them?

Can you also confirm what reports or briefings have been prepared by Scottish Government officials for Scottish Ministers on the topic of alcohol at football matches during this Parliamentary term (i.e from May 2021) and also provide copies of these?

For ease of reference, here is a link to the interview -
<https://x.com/ScotlandSky/status/1902692390894219711>

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email chain discussing an FOI

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 March 2025 16:22
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Last briefing I saw was on the debate earlier in the month:

Members Business - S6M -16291 - Carol Mochan MSP - Holistic Approach to Alcohol-Related Brain Damage - 4 March 2025 details - Objective

Alcohol Policy - Treatment - ARDB Debate - Speaking note - 3 March 2025 details - Objective

Kind regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Head of Tobacco, Gambling, Diet and Healthy Weight Unit, Scottish Government

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] @gov.scot>
Sent: 21 March 2025 16:20
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

That's fine, thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]. [Redacted – 30(b)(ii) – free and frank exchange of views]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information].

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 March 2025 16:18
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Sorry [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] but the team are all out today and I've not seen any briefing.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] will be back on Monday.

Kind regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Head of Tobacco, Gambling, Diet and Healthy Weight Unit, Scottish Government

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 March 2025 16:15
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Hi folks,

[Redacted – 29(1)(a) – formulation of policy]

Thanks, and happy to speak if helpful.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Strategic Football Lead
Active Scotland
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Freedom of Information
Sent: 21 March 2025 15:23
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Population Health <Directorofpopulationhealth@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>
Subject: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

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Guidance on undertaking the check and providing the record is now part of the compliance documents.

Timescale

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Case handler actions

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 - (iii) FOI statement of compliance
 - (iv) Searches template recording details of searches carried out and the results.
- Use the **Response Wizard** contained in MiCase for ALL letters to the requester.

Sensitivity

- In FOISA terms we are assessing this case as **routine***. This means it does not require a Ministerial decision in terms of disclosure.
**The sensitivity assessment can change once full searches have been completed. If after searching you consider that the response requires a Ministerial decision please engage with the FOI Unit.)*
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Helpful guidance

Watch our helpful videos for further information on how to respond to an FOI request: Freedom of Information Unit - Video Guidance | SG Thrive]

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If your FOI/EIR contains information that you think might be personal/of interest to our former FMs, please contact the FOIU as soon as possible and we will advise you what to do next or sign-post you to the right person to raise this with.

Many thanks,

FOI Unit

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

FOI Advisor

Freedom of Information Unit| Improving Public Engagement Division| Directorate for Communications and Ministerial Support| DG Corporate

St Andrews House

Scottish Government

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.co.uk>

Sent: 20 March 2025 13:43

To: Central Correspondence Unit <contactus@gov.scot>

Subject: FOI

Hi

In an interview with Sky Sports, the First Minister responded to a question about the sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches by stating that the *"evidence supports the conclusions I come to on these issues"*. He goes on to repeat the notion that his position on alcohol at football matches is based on 'evidence' by stating he has to *"weigh up the evidence and come to a judgement"*.

Under freedom of information, I would like to request what 'evidence' the First Minister is referring to?

Can you list the sources of the evidence and provide a copy of them?

Can you also confirm what reports or briefings have been prepared by Scottish Government officials for Scottish Ministers on the topic of alcohol at football matches during this Parliamentary term (i.e from May 2021) and also provide copies of these?

For ease of reference, here is a link to the interview -
<https://x.com/ScotlandSky/status/1902692390894219711>

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email chain discussing an FOI

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 April 2025 15:44

To: Fol SpAds PO <Fol.SpAdsPO@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

As per my teams message, aware that Jennie is on leave at the moment, but grateful if you could pass this on once she is back?

Many thanks and happy to discuss.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Hi Jennie

Please see the below FOI and draft response and attached document, which has been cleared. Aware that colleagues previously discussed it with you, so grateful if you could look over?

The case is due to answer on 17 April.

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)

Thank you for your request dated 20 March 2025 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for what 'evidence' the First Minister is referring to during his interview on Sky Sport, list the sources of the evidence and provide a copy of them and confirm what reports or briefings have been prepared by Scottish Government officials for Scottish Ministers on the topic of alcohol at football matches during this Parliamentary term (i.e from May 2021) and also provide copies of these.

Response to your request

I enclose a copy of all of the information you requested. This relates to the evidence mentioned by the First Minister and also includes briefings prepared on the sale of

alcohol at football grounds. In relation to the evidence source, this can be found at: Policy Document | Alcohol availability at Scottish Football Stadia - Insights from the 'Football and Alcohol Scoping Study (FASST)' project | University of Stirling and Alcohol availability at Scottish Football. Insights from the 'Football and Alcohol Scoping Study (FASST)' project.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to Richard Foggo, Director for Population Health, C/O FOI@gov.scot and C/O: FOI Unit 1E.10, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG]. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review in accordance with FOISA as soon as possible, and not later than 20 working days from the day following the date we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:

What can I do if I'm unhappy? | Scottish Information Commissioner
(itspublicknowledge.info)

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.co.uk>

Sent: 20 March 2025 13:43

To: Central Correspondence Unit <contactus@gov.scot>

Subject: FOI

Hi

In an interview with Sky Sports, the First Minister responded to a question about the sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches by stating that the *"evidence supports the conclusions I come to on these issues"*. He goes on to repeat the notion that his position on alcohol at football matches is based on 'evidence' by stating he has to *"weigh up the evidence and come to a judgement"*.

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Can you also confirm what reports or briefings have been prepared by Scottish Government officials for Scottish Ministers on the topic of alcohol at football matches during this Parliamentary term (i.e from May 2021) and also provide copies of these?

For ease of reference, here is a link to the interview -
<https://x.com/ScotlandSky/status/1902692390894219711>

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange about submission

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 31 July 2025 14:40
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) 0 personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For review 1330 31 July 2025 - DFM Submission on FIFA Women's World Cup 2035 Bid

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] – I'll amend that now so it's clear!

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Safety & Security | Major Events

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot | [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 31 July 2025 14:23
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For review 1330 31 July 2025 - DFM Submission on FIFA Women's World Cup 2035 Bid

[Redact - 29(1)(a) - formulation of policy

The legislation applies to a combination of football grounds and competitions. It's not "alcohol in stadia" as such because you can get a beer at Murrayfield at the rugby, and if Hampden is hosting a gig or a rugby match it could get a licence. Rugby competitions are not on the list of designated sporting events.

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 31 July 2025 13:31
To: Frances Pacitti <Frances.Pacitti@gov.scot>
Cc: Rachael Mckechnie <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For review 1330 31 July 2025 - DFM Submission on FIFA Women's World Cup 2035 Bid

Hi Fran

Thanks for reviewing so quickly – I was having a formatting nightmare so thanks for picking up typos too! Hopefully I can answer your questions:

[Out of scope]

- On your question re Hampden and alcohol – there is a pilot happening in the lower Scottish leagues. Active Scotland are engaging with Alcohol Policy and SGLD colleagues on this issue to provide further advice in due course.

[Out of scope]

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Safety & Security | Major Events

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot | [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: Frances Pacitti <Frances.Pacitti@gov.scot>

Sent: 31 July 2025 12:39

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: Rachael Mckechnie <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For review 1330 31 July 2025 - DFM Submission on FIFA Women's World Cup 2035 Bid

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

[Redacted – out of scope]

Thanks again for sharing.

Fran

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] @gov.scot>

Sent: 31 July 2025 11:11

To: Frances Pacitti <Frances.Pacitti@gov.scot>

Cc: Rachael Mckechnie <Rachael.Mckechnie@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: For review 1330 31 July 2025 - DFM Submission on FIFA Women's World Cup 2035 Bid

Good morning Fran

[Redacted – 29(1)(a) – formulation of policy]

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Safety & Security Lead | Major Events Division

Directorate for External Affairs and Culture | Scottish Government

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] @gov.scot | [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange clearing media enquiry

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 25 July 2025 17:07

To: Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport <MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; John Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; Director of Population Health <Directorofpopulationhealth@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Request for light briefing ahead of PA bid on Sports portfolio

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Please find attached briefing contribution as requested.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Triage and Policy Officer | Active Scotland Unit | Scottish Government | Area 1B South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

) [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] : [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport

Sent: 22 July 2025 11:51

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport <MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: Request for light briefing ahead of PA bid on Sports portfolio

Hi folks,

Ms Todd has a media interview with PA on **Thursday 31st of July**. This is envisioned to be a long form interview where the Minister can set out her priorities and vision for her new role.

Ms Todd would welcome a light touch briefing from sports on any particular areas policy would like her to highlight. Ms Todd suggests that she could do with detailed background on overlaps between sport and drugs and alcohol policy.

I would be grateful if this could be provided to PO by **COP Friday 25th of July**

As always, an acknowledgement of this ask and confirmation the deadline is feasible would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Private Secretary

Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport – Maree Todd MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

E-mail: MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot

Mobile: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Briefing for media interview

ENGAGEMENT TITLE: Interview with PA

Date and Time of Engagement	Thursday 31 July 2025
Where	Teams MS
Who	Press Association
Key Purpose / Message	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sport and physical activity is vital to the population’s physical, mental and social health and wellbeing. Our Physical Activity for Health Framework sets out a whole-systems approach to get more people, more active, more often. This Framework also plays a vital role in the wider Population Health Framework, which also sets out commitments related to Drugs and Alcohol.
Briefing Contents	Annex A – Lines to take Annex B – Background

ANNEX A LINES TO TAKE

On portfolio crossover

As we look to address the harmful use of drugs and alcohol, we need to use all available tools that we have.

This new portfolio provides a unique opportunity to better explore connections and encourage collaborative working across key stakeholders.

We know that sport is such a powerful tool, it has the power to change lives. I want to increase access to sport for everyone in Scotland regardless of their background.

We can use the tremendous power of sport as both a preventative and prescriptive method in helping us to improve the lives of those affected by drugs and alcohol.

This is because we know that sport has profound positive impacts on our physical, mental and wider social health and wellbeing.

A great example of this is The Changing Room's Extra Time programme, a behavioural change programme run by SAMH which equips participants with the knowledge and tools to live healthier lives, and cope with challenges and adversity that they may face.

We know that many participants have reported that Extra Time has helped to confront their relationship with alcohol and drugs. I'm delighted that this programme continues to expand and is geographically targeted in the areas it is needed most.

I had the great privilege of visiting a Street Soccer Scotland event last year as part of Women and Girls in Sport Week. Many of the participants had struggled with drug and alcohol addictions and hearing their examples of how their lives had been turned around as a result of their involvement in sport was inspiring.

I want to increase the availability of programmes like Street Soccer and Changing Rooms across Scotland but particularly to our rural areas where I believe it can make a huge difference to communities.

On Sport Priorities

Our vision is for a Scotland where more people are more active, more often.

Being physically active is one of the best things we can do for our mental, physical and social health.

We believe there should be no barriers to participating in sport and physical activity; everyone should be able to enjoy being physically active.

Our funding for sport and physical activity continues to be targeted towards programmes that address inequalities in access.

We know sport alone cannot create a fully active nation, which is why we launched the Physical Activity for Health Framework in October 2024.

This whole system's approach enables everyone in Scotland to be more active, more often. This Framework also plays a pivotal role in the wider Population Health Framework which was published in June this year.

On Alcohol in Stadia

There have been increasing calls for alcohol to be made wider available at football matches and we are aware of a few pilots which are being run by some clubs.

We have no plans to change the ban on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds.

We regularly meet the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches as a measure to help improve the match day experience for fans.

We will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters' groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.

I'll be keen to see the feedback from the current pilots being operated during the League cup group stages.

[Out of scope]

ANNEX B BACKGROUND

[Out of scope]

Alcohol at Football

1. There have been growing numbers of calls by members of the public, supporter organisations, clubs and football governing bodies over recent months to review the legislation governing alcohol in Scottish football stadiums.
2. There have been legal controls over the consumption of alcohol at Scottish football matches since 1 February 1981. Prior to the major disorder on the field during the 1980 Scottish Cup Final between Celtic and Rangers which prompted that legislation, the control and policing and control of alcohol at football had been extremely light touch, although it should be noted that alcohol was not sold in football stadia, but brought in by fans. Since then, a much more robust approach has been in place, in part to reduce violence and disorder by supporters travelling to and from football matches and within the stadium.
3. The ban is covered in the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 which makes it illegal to carry alcohol into a football stadium, to consume alcohol within sight of the pitch, to enter a football stadium under the influence of alcohol, or to drink alcohol while on official transport (supporters buses) to football matches. Subject to local licensing, alcohol can be provided before and after games in designated hospitality areas within the footprint of the stadium, or in fan zones.
4. We have had various discussions with the SPFL on the consumption of alcohol at football over the last couple of years and expressed the clear view that, while the door is not closed on the issue, any proposals coming forward to amend the legislation would need to recognise the significant impact of alcohol on public health in Scotland. While the SPFL recognises this, it remains a strategic aim for them to allow alcohol sales in stadia.
5. The SPFL's key aim is to enhance the match day experience for fans. The SPFL has been working hard over the last year, with Police Scotland, Football Safety Officers, and the Scottish Government, to address issues of disorder, and they have made progress on this. Over the last season they have taken punitive measures against clubs in the form of ticket reductions for issues of disorder, they have been a key partner in making the case for the review of FBO legislation, which we are shortly to consult on, and they have got clubs much more engaged in supporting this work. Their approach was recognised by the Justice Secretary at her recent round table on disorder at Easter Road Stadium.
6. There are well over 5 million attendances at SPFL games annually, and the vast majority of whom are well behaved and want an enjoyable experience supporting their team. Tackling disorder to make games safer is one side of this work but the SPFL see it as crucial that they can provide both carrot and stick. Supporting

clubs to safely offer fans the chance to have a drink, within the law and within strict controls, as part of their match day experience is a key part of this holistic approach.

7. A small number of clubs ([Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]) are piloting strictly controlled zones for the sale of alcohol, either in restricted concourse areas or fan zones within the stadium footprint, for low risk games in the Scottish League Cup group stages in July. It should be recognised that in many if not almost all cases alcohol is present at football stadia at present anyway, either in licensed fan zones or hospitality suites, so this is simply an expansion of the current offer.
8. The matches are all within the group stages of the league cup and are viewed as low risk games. The SPFL have had, or will have, match delegates there and following these matches and collation and assessment of all reports, will report back to the Scottish Government on the outcome of those pilots.
9. The Scottish Government's position remains that it has no plans to review the legislation governing alcohol at football. It will be for local licensing authorities and Police Scotland to determine whether the pilot projects are in accordance with the current legislation in considering whether to grant licences.
10. We will continue to maintain close contact with the SPFL on these pilots, feedback on them, and any further proposals.

[Out of scope]

Email exchange about alcohol licensing process

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 July 2025 16:34
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Alcohol at football

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]..

Kind regards,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 July 2025 16:23
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Alcohol at football

FYI. Couple of weeks until we speak.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@north-ayrshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 July 2025 16:18
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@west-dunbarton.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Alcohol at football

That is great [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] and look forward to speaking to you then. [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information].

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 July 2025 16:17
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@north-ayrshire.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@west-dunbarton.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Alcohol at football

Thanks for getting back to me [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]. I'm happy to wait until you return. I'll send through a diary invite to you and [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] for a chat towards the end of w/b 11th August.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Strategic Football Lead
Active Scotland
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@north-ayrshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 25 July 2025 16:09

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@west-dunbarton.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Alcohol at football

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

Many thanks for this. I would be keen to meet and further discuss this. Unfortunately, I am going to be off on holiday till the 11th August-not sure if we can meet nearer the end of that week to discuss? I have copied [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] who may in the interim who may be able to discuss and consider as well. In any event, will revert on my return. Hope that suits with timescales and the query too.

Thanks, [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information].

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 25 July 2025 13:49

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@north-ayrshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Alcohol at football

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 29(1)(a) – formulation of policy]

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Strategic Football Lead

Active Scotland

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange providing advice on media lines

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024

Sent: 24 July 2025 10:39

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims
and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell
<Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Communications Justice and Home Affairs
<CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Alcohol Ban to be lifted

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

With thanks for providing this – Minister was grateful and has noted.

Thank you,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Private Secretary to Minister for Victims and Community Safety, Siobhian Brown
The Scottish Government | 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh,
EH1 3DG

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | E: MinisterforVCS@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 July 2025 16:42

To: Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell
<Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Communications Justice and Home Affairs
<CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Alcohol Ban to be lifted

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Our comms lines on this, previously agreed by Ms Todd, are:

“Our position on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds has not changed.

“It is for local licencing authorities and Police Scotland to satisfy themselves that the pilot projects are permissible within the current legislative framework when granting licences.”

I've attached a briefing note on this setting out the position as we currently understand it. The [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] pilots didn't go ahead in the end. As noted in the brief, the SPFL intend to report back to us following the pilots once they have collated and assessed all the various reports. We are not aware of any issues to date with any of the pilots.

<< File: Alcohol at football - briefing note 22 July 2024.docx >>

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Strategic Football Lead

Active Scotland

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024

Sent: 22 July 2025 09:17

To: Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell

<Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Communications Justice and Home Affairs

<CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –

personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal

information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Alcohol Ban to be lifted

Colleagues

Just checking in on this – give one date has now passed and another game tonight grateful for an update.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024

Sent: 08 July 2025 14:04

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell

<Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Communications Justice and Home Affairs

<CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: Alcohol Ban to be lifted

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], all,

To see article on the [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] pilot for both games on 19th July and 22nd July which will see the alcohol ban lifted - Football stadium alcohol ban to be lifted in [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] pilot - BBC News

Can the Minister please get urgent information/briefing on this? Reactive lines may also be needed so copying in comms for awareness.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Private Secretary to Minister for Victims and Community Safety, Siobhian Brown
The Scottish Government | 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh,
EH1 3DG

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | E: MinisterforVCS@gov.scot

Email exchange about FOI request

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 July 2025 16:13
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: FOI 202500476228 - Sale of Alcohol

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

I have completed my searches for documents relating to the sale of alcohol at football grounds.

Attached is a document containing the documents which I have identified. As well as this, there are two previous FOIs which have been published so I have included links in the draft covering response.

I found 9 MiCases and the responses, 5 PQs and answers, the note from Ms Todd to FM (Cab Sec was copied in), a number of briefings which contained the same background information and a couple of email chains relating to media enquiries.

I am still to go through and highlight for redactions so grateful if you could look for any other documents which I have missed.

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Delivery & Policy Officer

Active Scotland

Scottish Government

Ground East, St Andrews House

Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

Email exchange about media enquiry

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 July 2025 10:40

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Communications Justice and Home Affairs <CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Alcohol Ban to be lifted

Adding in Active Scotland colleagues.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 July 2025 10:15

To: Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Communications Justice and Home Affairs <CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Alcohol Ban to be lifted

Copying health comms colleagues who have been looking at this.

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Senior Media Manager

Justice and Home Affairs

Desk: 0131 244 [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024
Sent: 22 July 2025 09:17
To: Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
David Bell <David.Bell@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Communications Justice and Home Affairs <CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Alcohol Ban to be lifted

Colleagues

Just checking in on this – give one date has now passed and another game tonight grateful for an update.

Thanks
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024
Sent: 08 July 2025 14:04
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Communications Justice and Home Affairs <CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: Alcohol Ban to be lifted

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], all,

To see article on the Ayr United pilot for both games on 19th July and 22nd July which will see the alcohol ban lifted - Football stadium alcohol ban to be lifted in Ayr United pilot - BBC News

Can the Minister please get urgent information/briefing on this? Reactive lines may also be needed so copying in comms for awareness.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Private Secretary to Minister for Victims and Community Safety, Siobhian Brown
The Scottish Government | 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh,
EH1 3DG

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] E: MinisterforVCS@gov.scot

Email exchange about correspondence received

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 July 2025 09:25

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Alcohol Ban to be lifted

Importance: High

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Apologies, I missed the e-mail below. Have you been leading on this? We have had nothing to do with it but the Minister is now seeking lines on this. Are you able to provide these or point us to whoever can?

Sorry, happy to discuss.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024

Sent: 22 July 2025 09:17

To: Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Communications Justice and Home Affairs <CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Alcohol Ban to be lifted

Colleagues

Just checking in on this – give one date has now passed and another game tonight grateful for an update.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024

Sent: 08 July 2025 14:04

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>;

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Communications Justice and Home Affairs <CommunicationsJusticeAndHomeAffairs@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: Alcohol Ban to be lifted

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], all,

To see article on the Ayr United pilot for both games on 19th July and 22nd July which will see the alcohol ban lifted - Football stadium alcohol ban to be lifted in Ayr United pilot - BBC News

Can the Minister please get urgent information/briefing on this? Reactive lines may also be needed so copying in comms for awareness.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Private Secretary to Minister for Victims and Community Safety, Siobhian Brown
The Scottish Government | 1W.11, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh,
EH1 3DG

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | E: MinisterforVCS@gov.scot

Email exchange requesting further information

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 16 July 2025 08:54

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: Alcohol Sales

Good morning,

The First Minister has received Ms Todds note regarding Alcohol Sales in Football Grounds.

He is looking for further information to clarify how this is possible within the current regulations.

Grateful if this can be answered as soon as possible for the First Minister.

Thanks,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Deputy Private Secretary to the First Minister

Office of the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange clearing media lines

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport

Sent: 08 July 2025 17:23

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Julie Grant
<Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs and
Alcohol Policy and Sport <MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and
Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; First Minister
<FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross
Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>

Cc: John Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care
<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; Niamh O'Connor <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; [Redacted
– 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister
for Victims and Community Safety 2024 <MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For clearance: Media query - Football fans alcohol - BBC

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] – Ms Todd is content.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Neil
Gray MSP

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG |

Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Email: CabSecHSC@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 July 2025 16:27

To: Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell
<Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport
<MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>; Minister for Victims and Community Safety 2024
<MinisterforVCS@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Sean
McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen

“It is for local licencing authorities and Police Scotland to satisfy themselves that the pilot projects are permissible within the current legislative framework when granting licences.”

Query

I'm looking for comment on Ayr United FC launching a pilot project to allow fans to drink alcohol at two Premier Cup matches.

<https://ayrunitedfc.co.uk/ayr-united-granted-alcohol-licence-for-upcoming-premier-sports-cup-matches>

Was this pilot project sanctioned by the government? And has the government's position on allowing alcohol at football matches changed?

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Media Manager| News: Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

m: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange providing information to FM

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport

Sent: 07 July 2025 11:37

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport <MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Note to First Minister from Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport - Alcohol Sales in Football

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

Thanks for this - these pilots will effectively be an extension of the current hospitality offer to football fans and it will remain the case that no alcohol can be consumed on the terraces or within view of the pitch. It also remains the case that fans should be refused entry, and can be ejected, if deemed under the influence. We have no plans to relax those requirements. The SPFL have taken their own legal advice in working with clubs to develop the pilots and it is for local licencing authorities and Police Scotland to satisfy themselves that the pilot projects are permissible when granting licences.

Kind regards,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Private Secretary

Minister for Drugs, Alcohol Policy and Sport – Maree Todd MSP

Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

E-mail: MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot

Mobile: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 03 July 2025 09:33

To: Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport <MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Note to First Minister from Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport - Alcohol Sales in Football

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

The First Minister is grateful for this note but doesn't understand this part of the statement :

“These pilots are in full accordance with the current legislation. It would not be possible for local licensing authorities to grant permission if that were not the case. The Scottish Government can therefore maintain its position that it has no plans to review the legislation governing alcohol at football.”

Could he have an explanation of how these pilots are in accordance with current legislation please.

Many thanks,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Private Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport

Sent: 26 June 2025 13:20

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport <MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: Note to First Minister from Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport - Alcohol Sales in Football

FMPO,

Please see note attached from Maree Todd regarding Alcohol Sales in Football Grounds.

Kin Regards,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Assistant Private Secretary

Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport – Maree Todd MSP

Scottish Government, Room 1E.10 St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

E-mail: MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot

Email exchange requesting further information

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 03 July 2025 09:33

To: Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport <MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Note to First Minister from Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport - Alcohol Sales in Football

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

The First Minister is grateful for this note but doesn't understand this part of the statement :

“These pilots are in full accordance with the current legislation. It would not be possible for local licensing authorities to grant permission if that were not the case. The Scottish Government can therefore maintain its position that it has no plans to review the legislation governing alcohol at football.”

Could he have an explanation of how these pilots are in accordance with current legislation please.

Many thanks,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Private Secretary to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport

Sent: 26 June 2025 13:20

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport <MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: Note to First Minister from Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport - Alcohol Sales in Football

FMPO,

Please see note attached from Maree Todd regarding Alcohol Sales in Football Grounds.

Kin Regards,
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Assistant Private Secretary
Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport – Maree Todd MSP
Scottish Government, Room 1E.10 St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh,
EH1 3DG
E-mail: MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot

Email commissioning a policy note

From: [Withheld – 36(1) – confidentiality of communication]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport

Sent: 24 June 2025 17:04

To: [Withheld – 36(1) – confidentiality of communication]@gov.scot>; [Withheld – 36(1) – confidentiality of communication]@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport <MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot>

Subject: URGENT: Request for Summary of Alcohol Sales in Football Grounds

Hi [Withheld – 36(1) – confidentiality of communication],

Ms Todd has requested a short note summarising the alcohol sales in football grounds for FM. Ms Todd would be grateful for sight of this before it is sent to FM, please could we receive this by **11:00 on Wednesday 25th June**.

Many Thanks,

[Withheld – 36(1) – confidentiality of communication]

[Withheld – 36(1) – confidentiality of communication]

Assistant Private Secretary

Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport – Maree Todd MSP

Scottish Government, Room 1E.10 St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

E-mail: MinisterforDAPS@gov.scot

Email chain clearing response

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 April 2025 13:49

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60 (Case Ref: CA7404)

Thanks both.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 April 2025 13:36

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60 (Case Ref: CA7404)

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

That looks good to me also.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | **Police Policy Team Leader**

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 April 2025 13:34

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60 (Case Ref: CA7404)

Looks fine to me.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 April 2025 13:30

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60 (Case Ref: CA7404)

Thanks both

Please see the draft response if you could let me have any comments by 3pm?

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Thank you for your email dated 24 March 2025 on behalf of your constituent, [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], about the availability of alcohol at Scottish football grounds and about Article 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order (Scotland) Act 1995.

The Scottish Government is aware of a range of views from football supporters when it comes to the availability of alcohol in football stadiums, and Ministers recognise there is an argument for football supporters to be afforded the same opportunities as fans at other sporting and cultural events.

I chair a round table group on enhancing Scottish football which consists of football governing bodies, supporters groups and cross-party MSPs. The issue of alcohol in football stadia has and will continue to be discussed within that forum, alongside other issues pertinent to Scottish Football.

While we have no plans at present to amend the legislation, I have said that we remain open to discussions on this issue and will consider any proposals put forward by the Scottish FA or SPFL. To date however, we have not received any such proposals.

In terms of the comments relating to Article 60, Section 60 under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act allows for searches to be carried out at a particular locality, for a specific period of time, where an authorising officer believes that incidents involving serious violence may take place or that persons are carrying dangerous instruments or offensive weapons in that locality without good reason. As you will be aware, there were significant incidences of violent disorder in Glasgow City centre from groups purporting to be Celtic and Rangers fans ahead of the Cup final in December 2024, and Police Scotland would have considered what measures would be appropriate if anticipating such incidences.

Section 60 power is in addition to existing stop and search powers and is authorised on occasions where police believe that there is likely to be incidences involving serious violence. The additional powers granted under a Section 60 provide that a

police officer may stop any person (or vehicle) and make any search they see fit whether or not they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the person or vehicle is carrying dangerous instruments.

With regards to football, you will be aware of the issues surrounding the use of pyrotechnics by a small number of fans. Police Scotland, therefore, are able to conduct searches where they believe fans may be carrying such articles which could lead to significant disruption and harm to fans, players and others within the footprint of the ground.

I hope this information allows you to respond to [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information].

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 April 2025 10:12

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60 (Case Ref: CA7404)

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Here are the lines:

[Redacted – out of scope]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | **Police Policy Team Leader**

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 April 2025 09:21

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60 (Case Ref: CA7404)

Importance: High

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] and [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Very sorry about this, but I missed this request and the response is due today. Are you able to provide [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] with your lines on stop and search powers?

Thanks, apologies again.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 10 April 2025 10:32
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60 (Case Ref: CA7404)

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Please see the below email chain – are you please able to provide lines around Article 60?

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 March 2025 16:11
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60 (Case Ref: CA7404)

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Please see the MiCase which just come in. I have lines on the alcohol part, but grateful if you (or point me in the right direction) could provide lines around Article 60 – see the highlighted section below?

Deadline for getting a response back up to the Minister is 7 April.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs 2024
Sent: 24 March 2025 14:17
To: Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024
<MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs
2024 <CabSecforJHA@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60 (Case Ref:
CA7404)

Ministerial response for relevant minister please

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Assistant Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs –
Angela Constance MSP

Scottish Government | 1W.11, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1
3DG
Email: CabSecforJHA@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Sent: 24 March 2025 12:48
To: Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 ; Cabinet Secretary
for Justice and Home Affairs 2024
Subject: FW: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60 (Case Ref:
CA7404)

Good afternoon

I hope all is well

Clare has been contacted by a constituent who has asked that her office forward
their email to the relevant ministers.

I have included the email below

Kind regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Constituency Office Manager
Office of Clare Adamson MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Motherwell and Wishaw Constituency

Constituency Office: The Dalziel Building (Suite G2) | 7 Scott Street | Motherwell |
ML1 1PN
Tel: 01698 337540

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 20 March 2025 17:30
To: Adamson C (Clare), MSP <Clare.Adamson.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Alcohol at Scottish Football and the use of article 60

Hi Clare,

Hope you are doing well.

As you may know, the ban on alcohol in stadiums during games has been in place for nearly 40 years now. Most of the individuals that caused the ban will now be 60+. Whilst I understand that safety concerns were central to the decision, I believe it is time to reconsider this policy in light of recent developments, both within Scotland and across the UK. Other sporting events and football leagues have successfully reinstated alcohol sales without compromising safety, and there is growing support within the football community for a similar approach in Scotland.

The return of alcohol sales would not only enhance the matchday experience for many fans, but it could also bring significant economic benefits to both clubs and local communities. The money generated from alcohol sales could be reinvested into grassroots football, supporting the development of young talent and improving facilities across the country.

We already allow alcohol to be consumed within the stadium- if you are lucky enough to afford expensive hospitality tickets. The ban is a direct target on working class football supporters across Scotland.

I kindly urge you to consider raising this issue in the Scottish Parliament and reviewing the potential for reform. Many football fans, clubs, and surprisingly even the police, believe that we are now in a position to safely bring back alcohol sales in a controlled and regulated manner.

Another issue that has come to my attention is the use of Article 60 by Police Scotland. Article 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order (Scotland) Act 1995 grants police officers the authority to stop and search individuals at football matches without prior suspicion of any crime. This blanket approach can unfairly target law-abiding fans and lead to unnecessary confrontations and distress. I believe the use of Article 60 should be reviewed, as it does not promote the positive atmosphere we should be striving for in Scottish football. It risks alienating fans and creates an environment of mistrust between the police and the public.

I kindly urge you to consider raising these issues in the Scottish Parliament.

Reassessing the alcohol ban and reviewing the use of Article 60 would be considered a positive step towards creating a safer, more enjoyable, and more inclusive matchday experience for all involved.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be grateful for any support you can offer in this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Yours

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email about formatting of FOI response

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 17 April 2025 12:05

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Good morning [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] and [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

We've had an email from a responder of a recent FOI you issued, there seemed to have been a formatting issue when issued. Can you have a look at it again and see if you can reformat so the full PDF can be seen and issue again?

Please contact the FOI mailbox if your still having issues.

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 April 2025 15:27

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

I'd be tempted to provide the whole MUP FMQ – it provides wider context on alcohol misuse and impact on society.

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 April 2025 15:25

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Please see the below draft response and attached document containing excerpts from the FMQ note on alcohol and from the Scotland v Croatia brief. I am not sure whether elements of Doc 2 (Scot v Croatia brief) would be required to be redacted under section 29 – formulation of policy?

Grateful for your thoughts?

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)

Thank you for your request dated 20 March 2025 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for what 'evidence' the First Minister is referring to during his interview on Sky Sport, list the sources of the evidence and provide a copy of them and confirm what reports or briefings have been prepared by Scottish Government officials for Scottish Ministers on the topic of alcohol at football matches during this Parliamentary term (i.e from May 2021) and also provide copies of these.

Response to your request

I enclose a copy of all of the information you requested. This relates to the evidence mentioned by the First Minister and also includes briefings prepared on the sale of alcohol at football grounds. In relation to the evidence source, this can be found at: Policy Document | Alcohol availability at Scottish Football Stadia - Insights from the 'Football and Alcohol Scoping Study (FASST)' project | University of Stirling and Alcohol availability at Scottish Football. Insights from the 'Football and Alcohol Scoping Study (FASST)' project.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to Richard Foggo, Director for Population Health, C/O FOI@gov.scot and C/O: FOI Unit 1E.10, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG]. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review in accordance with FOISA as soon as possible, and not later than 20 working days from the day following the date we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:

What can I do if I'm unhappy? | Scottish Information Commissioner
(itspublicknowledge.info)

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 21 March 2025 15:27

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

As discussed this morning, we've provided no evidence to the FM on this issue, other than what's in briefing for matches, which we have already released. I'll see if [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] / [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] have provided him with anything.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], could you accept?

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Freedom of Information

Sent: 21 March 2025 15:23

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: Director of Population Health <Directorofpopulationhealth@gov.scot>; DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>

Subject: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Good afternoon,

Please be aware that Friday 18th April is a FOISA holiday but Monday 21st April is **not** a FOISA holiday. Please remember to factor this into your timescale for response and note the deadline displaying on MiCase.

Please review this email IN FULL as handling instructions have recently changed.

It looks like this FOI request may be in relation to your policy area. Please confirm this sits with you or advise us immediately if it does not; suggesting business areas that are better suited.

Please note the following:

UK and Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry Restriction Order

Both the UK and Scottish Covid-19 Inquiries have issued a restriction order which affect information that can be released by the Scottish Government. This may directly affect the handling of this request. The UK restriction order can be viewed [here](#) and the Scottish restriction order can be viewed [here](#).

These restriction orders **must** be considered when responding to every request for information.

Prior to releasing any information, please consider whether the information requested has been shared with either the UK or Scottish Covid-19 Inquiries. If so, you **must** contact CIRD (Covid Inquiries Response Directorate) for advice as soon as possible. Please contact them by email: covidinquiriesinformation@gov.scot

Guidance on undertaking the check and providing the record is now part of the compliance documents.

Timescale

- The response to this case should issue as soon as possible and no later than the statutory deadline which is **17/04/25**.

Case handler actions

- 'Assign to self' through the 'Case Actions' tab on MiCase: MiCase - View Case 458409
- Send the requester an **FOI specific acknowledgement letter**, through MiCase.
- Save all correspondence and evidence of how you reached your final decision to the eRDM casefile: 202500458409 - Objective
- Complete all relevant documents as your case progresses, consulting the **attached casefile checklist** for guidance. Remember to complete the mandatory:
 - (v) FOI statement of compliance
 - (vi) Searches template recording details of searches carried out and the results.
- Use the **Response Wizard** contained in MiCase for ALL letters to the requester.

Sensitivity

- In FOISA terms we are assessing this case as **routine***. This means it does not require a Ministerial decision in terms of disclosure.
**The sensitivity assessment can change once full searches have been completed. If after searching you consider that the response requires a Ministerial decision please engage with the FOI Unit.)*
- Please ensure that your response is signed-off by officials of appropriate seniority (normally C band or above).

Helpful guidance

Watch our helpful videos for further information on how to respond to an FOI request: Freedom of Information Unit - Video Guidance | SG Thrive]

Requests for legal advice, or requests which reference or incorporate legal advice

Requests for legal advice are subject to certain handling protocols. If you receive a request for or relating to legal advice, contact the relevant lawyers in the Scottish Government Legal Directorate (SGLD) who gave that advice to request a review of whether the material is subject to legal professional privilege (LPP). Your normal SGLD contact can help in identifying any legal advice in scope of the request. You must contact the offices of the Law Officers (Lord Advocate and Solicitor General) if the request is for or relates to legal advice from the Law Officers. Please also CC digitalandinformationlaw@gov.scot.

If the request is being dealt with under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and you have shared legal advice with any external persons,

Requests which capture information about FMs

If your FOI/EIR contains information that you think might be personal/of interest to our former FMs, please contact the FOIU as soon as possible and we will advise you what to do next or sign-post you to the right person to raise this with.

Many thanks,

FOI Unit

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

FOI Advisor

Freedom of Information Unit| Improving Public Engagement Division| Directorate for Communications and Ministerial Support| DG Corporate
St Andrews House
Scottish Government

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.co.uk>

Sent: 20 March 2025 13:43

To: Central Correspondence Unit <contactus@gov.scot>

Subject: FOI

Hi

In an interview with Sky Sports, the First Minister responded to a question about the sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches by stating that the *"evidence supports the conclusions I come to on these issues"*. He goes on to repeat the notion that his position on alcohol at football matches is based on 'evidence' by stating he has to *"weigh up the evidence and come to a judgement"*.

Under freedom of information, I would like to request what 'evidence' the First Minister is referring to?

Can you list the sources of the evidence and provide a copy of them?

Can you also confirm what reports or briefings have been prepared by Scottish Government officials for Scottish Ministers on the topic of alcohol at football matches during this Parliamentary term (i.e from May 2021) and also provide copies of these?

For ease of reference, here is a link to the interview -
<https://x.com/ScotlandSky/status/1902692390894219711>

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange on updating FMQ

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 April 2025 12:48
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: MUP

It was!

Kind regards,
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Alcohol Harm Prevention Policy Team
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 April 2025 11:31
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: MUP

That's very helpful actually assuming this paragraph is also in the 20th March version:

- Public health stakeholders have responded to the Stirling University report – commissioned by the SPFL and SFA – for instance, Alison Douglas – Chief Executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland, stated that, [QUOTE] “Not only could making alcohol more available at matches increase risks to fan safety and public disorder, it would be a major step in the wrong direction when it comes to people's health.”

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 April 2025 11:27
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: MUP

Morning [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

I have attached this weeks FMQ.

When did FM make the remarks and I'll send over the FMQ for that week, in case you need it for the FOI? Lines shouldn't be much different though.

Kind regards,
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Alcohol Harm Prevention Policy Team
Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 April 2025 10:03
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: MUP

Morning [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Could you send me your FMQ brief around MUP please? I've got an FOI about what "evidence" FM was referring to recently in a Sky Sports interview when he said he was against alcohol being allowed back into football stadia, and I'm just looking to see what material he might have had that has been in his mind when he made that statement.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Strategic Football Lead
Active Scotland
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchanging about formatting FOI

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 02 April 2025 17:08

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] – I've spoken with [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] on this FOI and will follow up direct for the return.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Private Secretary

Office of the First Minister

Mobile: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: 02 April 2025 14:51

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Hi all FMPO PSs

I know FM is super busy, but grateful if someone can speak to him re the interview noted in the request below and what evidence he was referring to and the list of sources he based his comments on – which we need to provide.

Regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | **Scottish Government | First Minister's Ministerial Private Office**

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | 0131 244

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 28 March 2025 10:40
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

If you are not able to look at this today, [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], grateful if you can go back to [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] on this and he can get back to [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information].

Cheers

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | **Scottish Government | First Minister's Ministerial Private Office**
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | 0131 244
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 26 March 2025 11:45
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Please see the request below. I see you were with FM at Edinburgh Castle on 19 March, where the Sky interview took place. **Do you know if the sale of alcohol at football matches was something that was asked off the cuff, given the interviews were part of the Tour de France Grand Depart Media Launch?**

I can't see any briefing re alcohol sales at Football Matches. And in fact, other than a couple of emails from the general public on the back of FM's interview, which were put to Micase for ORs, the only things I found even mentioning the topic are:

<< Message: FW: By 12/02: UEFA EURO 2028 Bill - Clearance of draft Bill and accompanying documents >> << Message: Alcohol Restrictions on ScotRail and Antisocial Behaviours - Pre-Cabinet Considerations - Stage 4 >>

With regards to the questions re:

- what 'evidence' the First Minister is referring to?
- Can you list the sources of the evidence and provide a copy of them?

Can you – or whichever PS covers the sale of alcohol at football matches please clarify this with the FM and get back to me ASAP.

Re this final question on the FOI -

Can you also confirm what reports or briefings have been prepared by Scottish Government officials for Scottish Ministers on the topic of alcohol at football matches during this Parliamentary term (i.e from May 2021) and also provide copies of these?

We would not have anything from May 2021-25 December 2024 due to our outlook retention guidelines and nothing came up from December to present, so that would be a NIL

Regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | **Scottish Government | First Minister's Ministerial Private Office**
5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | 0131 244
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 26 March 2025 10:02

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; John Nicholson <John.Nicholson@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: TRIAGE - FOI - Sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches evidence - 202500458409

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Please see the below FOI.

Could you please undertake a search of the FM's Mailbox for briefings/advice around the "evidence" which the FM referred to during the interview?

We know the FM previously received a briefing for the Scotland v Croatia match where it set out the background around the sale of alcohol at football grounds, but we aren't aware of any briefing being requested or sent up ahead of the interview.

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.co.uk>

Sent: 20 March 2025 13:43

To: Central Correspondence Unit <contactus@gov.scot>

Subject: FOI

Hi

In an interview with Sky Sports, the First Minister responded to a question about the sale of alcohol at Scottish football matches by stating that the *"evidence supports the conclusions I come to on these issues"*. He goes on to repeat the notion that his position on alcohol at football matches is based on 'evidence' by stating he has to *"weigh up the evidence and come to a judgement"*.

Under freedom of information, I would like to request what 'evidence' the First Minister is referring to?

Can you list the sources of the evidence and provide a copy of them?

Can you also confirm what reports or briefings have been prepared by Scottish Government officials for Scottish Ministers on the topic of alcohol at football matches during this Parliamentary term (i.e from May 2021) and also provide copies of these?

For ease of reference, here is a link to the interview -
<https://x.com/ScotlandSky/status/1902692390894219711>

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange clearing a response

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 March 2025 14:30
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Sale of Alcohol at Football Grounds(Case Ref: JD5366)

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

MR for Ms Todd's signature – please see the below draft response.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Thank you for your email dated 26 March 2025 to Neil Gray MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, on behalf of your constituent about the availability of alcohol at Scottish football grounds. I am replying as Minister responsible for sport.

The Scottish Government is aware of a range of views from football supporters when it comes to the availability of alcohol in football stadiums, and Ministers recognise there is an argument for football supporters to be afforded the same opportunities as fans at other sporting and cultural events.

I chair a round table group on enhancing Scottish football which consists of football governing bodies, supporters groups and cross-party MSPs. The issue of alcohol in football stadia has and will continue to be discussed within that forum, alongside other issues pertinent to Scottish Football.

While we have no plans at present to amend the legislation, we have said that we remain open to discussions on this issue and will consider any proposals put forward by the Scottish FA or SPFL. To date however, we have not received any such proposals.

I hope this information allows you to respond to your constituent.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024
Sent: 26 March 2025 10:24
To: Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Sale of Alcohol at Football Grounds(Case Ref: JD5366)

OR.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care - Neil Gray
MSP
Scottish Government
E: cabsechsc@gov.scot
M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: Jackie Dunbar MSP
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024
Subject: Sale of Alcohol at Football Grounds(Case Ref: JD5366)

Dear Neil,

Please find below an email that I have received from a constituent regarding the sale of alcohol at football matches in Scotland.

I would be grateful if you could address the concerns raised by my constituent.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Jackie
Jackie Dunbar MSP
Aberdeen Donside

12a Mastrick Shopping Centre
Greenfern Place
Mastrick
Aberdeen
AB16 6JR

Tel: 01224 011936

Sent: 23 March 2025 11:06
To: Dunbar J (Jackie), MSP
Subject:

Dear Jackie,

I hope this email finds you well.

I'm writing to express my deep disappointment at the continued refusal to even consider allowing the responsible sale of alcohol at football matches in Scotland. It's frustrating that John Swinney and others in the SNP seem to continually brush this issue aside without giving it the proper attention or a fair review, despite strong arguments in favour of change.

The current blanket ban on alcohol at football grounds is outdated and inconsistent. Fans attending rugby matches, concerts, or hospitality events at the same stadiums are permitted to drink, yet regular football supporters are treated differently—often unfairly. This only serves to reinforce outdated stereotypes of football fans that no longer reflect the vast majority of today's support.

There are several clear benefits to reviewing and modernising the approach:

- **Revenue Generation:** Permitting alcohol sales would bring in significant revenue for clubs, especially smaller ones who rely on every penny to survive and grow.
- **Controlled Environments:** Alcohol served inside the stadium can be more easily monitored and regulated than pre-match binge drinking in pubs or on the street.
- **Improved Matchday Experience:** Football is a social event for many, and the ability to enjoy a drink responsibly would enhance the experience—just as it does in most other sports.
- **Equality Across Sports:** It's simply not fair that football fans are treated differently to rugby or other event attendees.
- **Modern Image of Scottish Football:** Embracing change would reflect a more progressive and realistic view of fans today.

I understand the need for public safety, but that should be balanced with fairness and evidence-based policy. Other countries manage alcohol at football safely and effectively—surely Scotland can do the same.

I urge you to raise this matter and push for a serious, evidence-based review rather than the dismissive attitude we've seen from senior government figures. Scottish football fans deserve better.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important issue.

Kind regards,

Email exchange clearing a response

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 March 2025 12:51
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Alcohol at Scottish football Stadia.

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Draft below – have used bits of the responses to the recent PQs.

Thoughts?

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Thank you for your email dated 21 March 2025 to the First Minister about alcohol being widely available at Scottish football grounds. As part of Active Scotland, who lead on sport and physical activity in the Scottish Government, I have been asked to reply.

The Scottish Government is aware of a range of views from football supporters when it comes to the availability of alcohol in football stadiums, and recognises there is an argument for football supporters to be afforded the same opportunities as fans at other sporting and cultural events.

However, we currently have no plans to amend the legislation but remain open to discussions on this issue and will consider any proposals put forward from either the Scottish FA or SPFL. To date, we have not received any proposals.

Maree Todd, Minister responsible for sport, Chairs a round table group on enhancing Scottish football which consists of football governing bodies, supporter groups and cross-party MSPs, has discussed the reintroduction of alcohol in football stadia alongside other issues pertinent to Scottish Football.

I hope you find this helpful.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 March 2025 16:27
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Alcohol at Scottish football Stadia.

Good questions. Happy to look over a draft answer 😊

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 March 2025 16:26
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Alcohol at Scottish football Stadia.

Here we go.....

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 21 March 2025 09:14
To: Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Alcohol at Scottish football Stadia.

OR please
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Mobile [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Sent: 21 March 2025 08:45
To: First Minister
Subject: Alcohol at Scottish football Stadia.
From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.com>
Sent: 21 March 2025 06:58
To: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Alcohol at Scottish football Stadia.
First Minister

I just have a quick question in regards to your stance on allowing alcohol within Scottish Football Stadiums.

On a number of occasions now you have strongly opposed to introduction of fans bars within the concourses at football down to safety concerns etc and just have a quick question for you.

Why can my 83-year-old Grandad not have a half pint of best with his pie on the concourse pre match or at half time due to your safety concerns, bit if he spends £170, he can buy a hospitality package that comes with a complimentary bar for 2 and a half hours pre match and an hour post-match? I genuinely find it hard to see your stance as anything other than war on the working-class man.

As we all know, many people enjoy a pint pre match (please find attached a picture of yourself enjoying a pint pre-Scotland match at the Euro's for reference) Why is

that fine, but as soon as a bar is installed inside a stadium you suddenly believe the masses will turn into football hooligans?

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@hotmail.com

Email chain clearing PQ answer

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 25 March 2025 14:59

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQs - alcohol at football grounds

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] – have amended and sent to PO.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 25 March 2025 14:51

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PQs - alcohol at football grounds

Thanks, made a few wee tweaks.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Head of Active Scotland | Scottish Government |

' [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | : [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 25 March 2025 14:28

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: PQs - alcohol at football grounds

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Please see the below PQs, draft answers and background note...which will be used for all of the PQs.

We are still waiting on a contribution from [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information], so there will be a fourth one for soon.

Q. S6W-35799 Stephen Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to claims that the current restrictions on alcohol sales at football matches, while

allowing sales at rugby matches, concerts and other major sporting events, unfairly targets football supporters.

A. The Scottish Government is aware of a range of views from football supporters when it comes to the availability of alcohol in football stadiums, and recognises there is an argument for football supporters to be afforded the same opportunities as fans at other sporting and cultural events. However, we currently have no plans to amend the legislation but remain open to discussions on this issue and will consider any proposals put forward.

Q. S6W-35800 Stephen Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will commit to a pilot scheme allowing controlled alcohol sales at selected football grounds to assess its feasibility and potential impact, and what its response is to similar trials in other countries.

A. The door is not closed on that and we have repeatedly said The Scottish Government would be willing to look at proposals from either the Scottish FA or SPFL. To date, we have not received any proposals.

Q. S6W-35801 Stephen Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with football (a) clubs and (b) supporter groups regarding the potential impact of allowing alcohol sales inside grounds, and whether it will publish any feedback it has received on this.

A. I have discussed this issue a number of times with the SPFL and directly with some football clubs. the late Ron Gordon when he was Hibernian Chairman. More recently, the round table on enhancing Scottish football, which has representatives from the footballing governing bodies and supporter groups, has discussed the reintroduction of alcohol in football stadia alongside other issues pertinent to Scottish Football. We plan to publish the minutes of these meetings on the Scottish Government website in due course.

BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S6W-35799

There has been growing calls by members of the public, supporter organisations, clubs and football governing bodies to lift the current restrictions on the sale of alcohol in Scottish football stadiums.

Ms Todd has had discussions with the SPFL on the introduction of alcohol at football over the last couple of years and expressed the clear view that, while the door is not closed on the issue, any proposals coming forward would need to recognise the significant impact of alcohol on public health in Scotland. The SPFL recognises this.

On 25 September, Ms Todd answered a PQ from George Adam on the reintroduction of alcohol at football stating that the Scottish Government would continue to engage with the football authorities on ways to enhance the fan

experience. This generated significant interest in the press and football related press in particular.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care had said that the Scottish Government would give serious consideration to any proposal to lift the ban in football stadiums, which many press reports suggested meant we were actively considering the matter. This was subsequently clarified by both Cab Sec HSC and FM who confirmed that there are no plans to review to legislation on alcohol in football grounds; the priority was instead creating a safe and supportive sporting environment for all.

The current state of play is that we know the SPFL is developing proposals in this regard. It remains a strategic aim for the SPFL to allow alcohol sales in stadia. We understand that they are working on proposals for pilot projects which they do not believe require Scottish Government approval or which contravene the existing legislation. However, these are at concept stage only and we have seen no detail.

It is, however, recognised that in many if not most cases it is possible to have alcohol at football stadia at present anyway, either in approved fan zones or hospitality suites. Extending this to concourses in a limited number of pilot projects would be the proposed course of action, with evidence gathered to understand the results and impacts. We understand from the SPFL that Police Scotland are open to discussions on this.

History

There have been legal controls over the consumption of alcohol at Scottish football matches since 1 February 1981. Prior to the major disorder on the field during the 1980 Scottish Cup Final between Celtic and Rangers which prompted that legislation, the control and policing and control of alcohol at football had been extremely light touch, although it should be noted that alcohol was not sold in football stadia, but brought in by fans. Since then, a much more robust approach has been in place, in part to reduce violence and disorder by supporters travelling to and from football matches and within the stadium. Subject to local licensing, alcohol can be provided before and after games in designated hospitality areas within the footprint of the stadium.

Top Lines

The Scottish Government works with a wide range of organisations to ensure football supporters enjoy our national game in a safe, enjoyable environment.

- We engage frequently with the football authorities on a wide range of issues, using the power of football to help support and improve communities.
- While we are always open to discussions with the football authorities, there are no plans at this time to remove the existing general restrictions on alcohol at football matches in Scotland.
- We have not received any proposals, specific or general, at this time

We must have a clear understanding of how any specific proposals would impact our goal of reducing alcohol-related harm

- The Scottish Government remains committed to reducing the significant impact of alcohol harm on the nation's health through a range of measures including the forthcoming increase to Minimum Unit Pricing.
- However, we recognise the calls for football fans to have the same opportunities as fans at other sports and events and we will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.

We recognise that football in Scotland now is very different to the early 1980s when the current controls were brought in following disorder and violence which marred the 1980 Scottish Cup Final.

- However, there is no doubt that – while football in Scotland today is generally safe and trouble-free – challenges remain, particularly around the increasing use of pyrotechnics.

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Delivery & Policy Officer

Active Scotland

Scottish Government

Ground East, St Andrews House

Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

Email chain declining invitation to Scotland International match

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024
Sent: 17 March 2025 13:50
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Ministerial invitation - Scotland vs Greece - 23rd March

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Unfortunately Mr Gray is unable to attend and commented that perhaps Mr Hepburn may be able to.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Neil Gray MSP
Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG |
Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Email: CabSecHSC@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 12 March 2025 11:45
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>
Subject: Ministerial invitation - Scotland vs Greece - 23rd March

PO's

The Scottish FA has asked about Ministerial attendance at the Scotland vs Greece Nations League play-off on **Sunday 23rd March**. Kick off is 5pm and there will be a President's reception from around 4pm. Ms Todd is unable to attend.

This match is the second leg of the Nations League play-off to determine whether Scotland remain in Nations League Group A for the next iteration of the tournament or drop to Group B. Their first leg, in Greece, takes place on Thursday 20th March. Scotland will also face Greece home and away later this year in our World Cup 2026 qualifying group.

Ministers are regularly invited to key sporting events. The match presents the opportunity to demonstrate support for the national team and to discuss current issues with the SFA senior officials and Board members, including:

- [Redacted – out of scope]
- football’s strategic priority for the reintroduction of alcohol in stadia
- [Redacted – out of scope]
- [Redacted – out of scope]
- [Redacted – out of scope]
- [Redacted – out of scope].

If Mr Gray or Ms Minto would be keen to attend, it would be helpful to know by the end of this week so we can make arrangements. Full briefing and official support would of course be provided.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Strategic Football Lead

Active Scotland

Scottish Government

St Andrew’s House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Official support is expected at all meetings and engagements unless otherwise agreed with Private Office.

It is the responsibility of supporting policy officials to produce a minute or note of Ministerial meetings for the corporate record – this should be submitted to Private Office within 5 working days of the meeting in line with published guidance.

Please **do not** forward on this invite - if you require anyone else to be invited, please let Private Office know.

Please call to discuss if you have any queries or are likely to miss the deadline.

Thank you very much,

Minister for Business Private Office

Email exchange clearing media lines

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024

Sent: 13 March 2025 18:23

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for
Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>;
zzzzMinister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing & Sport
<zzzzMinisterSCMWS@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care
<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan
<Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross
Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton
<Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS - media query - football alcohol ban - Aberdeen
comments - P&J

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] – Mr Gray has noted.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Neil
Gray MSP

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG |

Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Email: CabSecHSC@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 13 March 2025 16:35

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>;
zzzzMinister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing & Sport
<zzzzMinisterSCMWS@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care
<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal
information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan
<Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>; Ross
Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton
<Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

Subject: FOR AWARENESS - media query - football alcohol ban - Aberdeen
comments - P&J

PO CSHSC

PO MPHWH, PO MWSSC cc-ed

For awareness only

The P&J has asked about Aberdeen FC and other clubs' comments expressing support for lifting the football alcohol ban.

As policy colleagues have confirmed our position is unchanged, will reissue previously cleared lines.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

REISSUED LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We have no plans to change the ban on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds.

“We regularly meet with the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. We will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters' groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.”

MEDIA QUERY

I was wondering if the Scottish Government would be able to comment for this story about clubs in Aberdeenshire calling for an end to the Scottish football alcohol ban?

Strongest quotes from Aberdeen FC chief Alan Burrows are as follows:

Alan Burrows, chief executive of Aberdeen FC, said: “Like most other clubs, we support exploring the re-introduction of alcohol in football stadiums.

“Football and clubs' stadiums in Scotland have dramatically changed since the ban was imposed 45 years ago. Improved lay-outs and seating, safety standards, stewarding and policing, for example, combine to make it more conducive to introducing alcohol consumption in a controlled and safe manner.

“We would welcome trialling the re-introduction of alcohol in some areas of the stadium and at certain games to demonstrate that it can be done safely and responsibly.

“Lifting the ban would ensure fairness in relation to every other sport and football fans should be treated fairly.”

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

Scottish Government

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange about the Enhancing Scottish Football roundtable

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024

Sent: 27 February 2025 10:05

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Minister for Social
Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Enhancing Scottish Football round table

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

Ms Todd is content with the proposed agenda below and to invite Liz Smith MSP and
Fulton McGregor MSP. They have not yet been invited but I am happy to extend the
invite to them?

Ben Macpherson has tentatively accepted this meeting.

Many Thanks,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Assistant Private Secretary

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport – Maree Todd MSP

Scottish Government, Room 1E.10 St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh,
EH1 3DG

E-mail: MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 26 February 2025 12:19

To: Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024
<MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –
personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: Enhancing Scottish Football round table

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

Please see below a proposed agenda for the next ESF R-T on 10th March. This has
been discussed with the football authorities, who are content.

1. Welcome and intro comments (Ms Todd)
2. Minutes of last meeting and ToR (agreement)
3. Standing items (just to note no significant update on alcohol at football or
English regulator since last meeting, Duncan to give short pyros update)
4. Fit & Proper Person Test -Gary Booth will present on this from the Scottish FA
(**this is the substantive agenda item**)
5. Scottish FA Update on recent developments and areas of interest (e.g. Co-
operation Agreements; Pitching In Fund; Free to Air broadcast)

6. SPFL Update - Neil/Calum to update on Challenge Cup Format
7. SWPL Update – Fiona to update on the positive growth & progress of the SWPL, stakeholder engagement (fans, players etc.) as well as summarising some of the distinct challenges in women’s game.
8. Suggestions for next meeting agenda
9. Close

Items 5-7 will be presented as updates in the realm of governance, transparency and accountability, as issue identified in the SFSA report.

If Ms Todd is content I’ll circulate to the group.

ALSO, Ben Macpherson has suggested inviting Liz Smith as both a Conservative rep and given her role in Chair the CPG on Sport, and adding Fulton McGregor to the mailing list so he can attend if Ben cannot. Has Liz Smith (and Fulton?) been invited to this meeting yet?

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Strategic Football Lead
Active Scotland
Scottish Government
St Andrew’s House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange about an FOI

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 February 2025 11:45
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: TRIAGE - FOI - FMAR – (1) of 3: Booze ban at football - 202500452333

Ok, thanks
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Head of Active Scotland | Scottish Government |
' [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | : [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 February 2025 11:26
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: TRIAGE - FOI - FMAR – (1) of 3: Booze ban at football - 202500452333

Sorry, please see below:

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)

Thank you for your request dated 11 February 2025 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for all documentation held by the Scottish Government about the booze ban at football, including correspondence sent and received (including internal), minutes/notes from meetings, briefings and analysis from the last three months.

Response to your request

I enclose a copy of most of the information you requested.

Exemptions under sections 29(1)(a) (formulation of government policy) and section 38(1)(b) (personal information) of FOISA applies to some of the information you have requested.

An exemption 38(1)(b) of FOISA (personal information) applies to some of the information requested because it relates to people below the grade of a senior civil servant.

An exemption under section 29(1)(a) of FOISA (formulation or development of government policy) applies to some of the information requested because it relates to the development of the Scottish Government's policy. This relates to the possibility of alcohol being widely available at Scottish football grounds.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is some public interest in release because there is growing call for alcohol to be available in football grounds as it currently is in rugby grounds. However, this is outweighed by the public interest in that the Scottish Government needs to space to consider options fully in order to support making the right policy decisions.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to Richard Foggo, Director of Population Health, C/O FOI@gov.scot and C/O : FOI Unit 1E.10, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG]. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review in accordance with FOISA as soon as possible, and not later than 20 working days from the day following the date we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:

What can I do if I'm unhappy? | Scottish Information Commissioner
(itspublicknowledge.info)

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 25 February 2025 11:24

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: TRIAGE - FOI - FMAR – (1) of 3: Booze ban at football - 202500452333

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] – the redacted documents look fine – I'm not seeing the draft response though?

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Head of Active Scotland | Scottish Government |

' [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | : [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 25 February 2025 11:17

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: TRIAGE - FOI - FMAR – (1) of 3: Booze ban at football - 202500452333

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Please see the below FOI, draft answer and attached documents. The documents contain the information marked for redaction and the other has the redactions made.

I have included the email chain below to show the searches undertaken.

Grateful for comments/clearance?

Deadline for the case is 11 March.

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 12 February 2025 08:31

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: TRIAGE - FOI - FMAR – (1) of 3: Booze ban at football - 202500452333

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

I have accepted and sent out the acknowledgement.

I have also completed searches on MiCase and ERDM.

On MiCase, I have found the previous FOI. I also found a few MiCases but these are out of scope as they are outside of the three months as per this FOI request.

In ERDM, I found the FM's brief for the Scotland v Croatia match and the minute of the round table on enhancing Scottish Football.

Attached is a document containing all the relevant information. Marked in yellow is information for redaction under personal information. Marked in red is information which is out of scope of the request. I have also marked a section in the Scot v Croatia brief for redaction under free and frank provision of advice.

Grateful for your thoughts on the attached document?

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 11 February 2025 17:12

To: Director of Population Health <Directorofpopulationhealth@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: TRIAGE - FOI - FMAR – (1) of 3: Booze ban at football - 202500452333

Yes, for us. There will be very little on this thankfully. In fact we may have answered a very similar one recently.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information].

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Director of Population Health

Sent: 11 February 2025 17:08

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: Director of Population Health <Directorofpopulationhealth@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: TRIAGE - FOI - FMAR – (1) of 3: Booze ban at football - 202500452333

Importance: High

Hi both

Please see the FOI request below. Would this be for your team to respond?

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Freedom of Information

Sent: 11 February 2025 16:47

To: DG Health & Social Care <DGHSC@gov.scot>; Director of Population Health <Directorofpopulationhealth@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: TRIAGE - FOI - FMAR – (1) of 3: Booze ban at football - 202500452333

Importance: High

Good afternoon,

Please review this email IN FULL as handling instructions have recently changed.

It looks like this FOI request may be in relation to your policy area.

1. Background

Please note this is a former multi area request which cuts across a number of business areas within SG.

It may help to understand that the FOI Unit (FOIU) deems Former Multi Area Requests (FMAR) as:

“Requests for information where there are 2 or more questions within one email asking for information on different topics, covering different DGs”.

2. The request

The FOIU has considered the request in full and has decided to split the request. The questions below are for your DG to take forward. Please note, we will not consider any further splitting of this request. If you would like to discuss this, please reach out to the FOIU.

1. Could you supply all documentation held by the Scottish Government about the booze ban at football, including correspondence sent and received (including internal), minutes/notes from meetings, briefings and analysis from the last three months?

3. Handling instructions

The FOIU has assessed this request overall as a FOI.

This FOI has been given an overall **routine** marking*. Please remember to get appropriate sign off (C band or above).

**Sensitivity assessment can change once full searches have been completed. If after searching you consider that the full response requires an upgrade, please contact the FOIU.*

4. Timescales

We expect all requests to be assigned to colleagues within 48 hrs of being triaged.

There is an expectation with Former Multi Area Requests that an earlier response time is achieved. We expect simple, routine FOIs to be issued by day 10, and certainly no later than the statutory deadline of **11/03/2025**.

5. Case Handler actions

- 'Assign to self' through the 'Case Actions' tab on MiCase: MiCase - View Case 452333
- Send the requester an **FOI specific acknowledgement email** through MiCase.
- Save all correspondence and evidence of how you reached your final decision to the eRDM casefile: 202500452333 - Objective
- Complete all relevant documentation as your case progresses, the attached casefile checklist will keep you right, including:
 - i. Fol Statement of Compliance listing information identified as in scope and a summary of decisions made
 - ii. Searches template recording details of searches carried out and the results.
- Use the **Response Wizard** contained on MiCase for ALL letters to the requester

6. Helpful guidance

Watch our helpful videos for further information on how to respond to an FOI request: Freedom of Information Unit - Video Guidance | SG Thrive]

Detailed guidance is available at SharePoint Collection.

7. Other considerations

UK and Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry Restriction Order

Both the UK and Scottish Covid-19 Inquiries have issued a restriction order which affect information that can be released by the Scottish Government. This may directly affect the handling of this request. The UK restriction order can be viewed [here](#) and the Scottish restriction order can be viewed [here](#).

These restriction orders **must** be considered when responding to every request for information.

Prior to releasing any information, please consider whether the information requested has been shared with either the UK or Scottish Covid-19 Inquiries. If so, you **must** contact CIRDC (Covid Inquiries Response Directorate) for advice as

soon as possible. Please contact them by email:
covidinquiriesinformation@gov.scot

Guidance on undertaking the check and providing the record is now part of the compliance documents.

Requests for legal advice, or requests which reference or incorporate legal advice

Requests for legal advice are subject to certain handling protocols. If you receive a request for or relating to legal advice, contact the relevant lawyers in the Scottish Government Legal Directorate (SGLD) who gave that advice to request a review of whether the material is subject to legal professional privilege (LPP). Your normal SGLD contact can help in identifying any legal advice in scope of the request. You must contact the offices of the Law Officers (Lord Advocate and Solicitor General) if the request is for or relates to legal advice from the Law Officers. Please also CC digitalandinformationlaw@gov.scot.

If the request is being dealt with under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and you have shared legal advice with any external persons, please let the FOI Unit know.

Read our advice here.

Requests which capture information about FFM and FDFM

If your FOI/EIR contains information that you think might be personal/of interest to our former FM and/or DFM, please contact the FOIU as soon as possible and we will advise you what to do next or sign-post you to the right person to raise this with.

Many thanks,
FOI Unit

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@reachplc.com>

Sent: 11 February 2025 13:00

To: Central Correspondence Unit <ceu@gov.scot>

Subject: Booze ban/Salmond FOI

Hi there

I'd like to request information through FOI legislation.

1. Could you supply all documentation held by the Scottish Government about the booze ban at football, including correspondence sent and received (including internal), minutes/notes from meetings, briefings and analysis from the last three months?

[Redacted – out of scope]

[Redacted – out of scope]

Cheers

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Scottish Daily Express political reporter
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange clearing media lines

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024

Sent: 31 January 2025 08:43

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS - alcohol at football grounds - St Johnstone comments - Tay FM

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

Mr Gray has noted with thanks.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Neil Gray MSP

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG |

Email: CabSecHSC@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

Sent: 28 January 2025 12:16

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 ; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health ; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024

Cc: Communications Health and Social Care ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; Jack Middleton ; Jennie Gollan ; Ross Ingebrigtsen ; Sean McGivern

Subject: FOR AWARENESS - alcohol at football grounds - St Johnstone comments - Tay FM

POs

For awareness only

We've been asked again about alcohol at football grounds of the back of comments from St Johnstone owner Adam Webb.

Policy colleague have confirmed previous lines stand and our position is unchanged so have reissued previously cleared lines.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

MEDIA QUERY

As mentioned, we've been speaking with the St Johnstone owner Adam Webb this morning and he is renewing calls for alcohol to be allowed in football grounds.

He has told us it would improve fans' experience on game days and that it is unfair rugby fans can enjoy a drink when football ones can't.

Could we please receive a response to this?

REISSUED LINE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We have no plans to change the ban on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds.

“We regularly meet with the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches.

We will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters' groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.”

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

Scottish Government

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange about an FOI

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 January 2025 15:03

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: TRIAGE - FOI - Restrictions on the sale of alcohol in football grounds (related to 202400441142) - 202500446510

Importance: High

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Please see the below FOI request, draft answer and attached document for release.

As with recent media enquiries and PQs, we haven't received anything from the SPFL about making alcohol available at football grounds.

Attached is a list of documents between the SPFL and the SG involving Aberdeen since 1 January 2022. The SPFL have seen the redacted version and have no further comment.

Grateful for clearance?

Deadline for the case is tomorrow, 30th January.

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 (FOISA)

Thank you for your request dated 1 January 2025 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your request

You asked for correspondence between the Scottish Government and the SPFL from 1 January 2022 that include reference to restrictions on the sale of alcohol in football grounds and, separately, also those documents that include reference to Aberdeen FC.

Response to your request

I enclose a copy of some of the information you requested. The correspondence is from the SPFL relating to Aberdeen Football Club. These are invitations to the Viaplay League Cup Semi-Final and Cup Final in 2023. While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance we are unable to provide some of the information you have requested because an exemption(under section 38(1)(b) -

personal information of FOISA applies to that information. This exemption prevents the release of personal information for people under the grade of senior civil servant.

The Scottish Government does not have any correspondence with the SPFL in relation to the sale of alcohol at football grounds. Ministers have said that they would be content to look at proposals, but we haven't received any proposal from the SPFL. This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Ground East, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gmail.com>

Sent: 01 January 2025 18:38

To: Scottish Government Case Handling Service <casehandling.service@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202400441142

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to your email of 12/12/24, please would narrow the search to include those documents that include reference to restrictions on the sale of alcohol in football grounds and, separately, also those documents that include reference to Aberdeen FC?

Kind regards,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

For awareness only

We've been asked again about alcohol at football grounds of the back of comments from St Johnstone owner Adam Webb.

Policy colleague have confirmed previous lines stand and our position is unchanged so have reissued previously cleared lines.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

MEDIA QUERY

As mentioned, we've been speaking with the St Johnstone owner Adam Webb this morning and he is renewing calls for alcohol to be allowed in football grounds.

He has told us it would improve fans' experience on game days and that it is unfair rugby fans can enjoy a drink when football ones can't.

Could we please receive a response to this?

REISSUED LINE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We have no plans to change the ban on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds.

“We regularly meet with the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. We will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters' groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.”

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

Scottish Government

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange clearing media lines

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

Sent: 28 January 2025 17:18

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health <MinisterforPHWH@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 <MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Jennie Gollan <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Sean McGivern <Sean.McGivern@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS - alcohol at football grounds - St Johnstone comments - Tay FM

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

Ms Minto has noted, and is content.

Kind regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Unit Head

Ministerial Private Office

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Sent: 28 January 2025 12:16

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024 ; Minister for Public Health and Women's Health ; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024

Cc: Communications Health and Social Care ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; Jack Middleton ; Jennie Gollan ; Ross Ingebrigtsen ; Sean McGivern

Subject: FOR AWARENESS - alcohol at football grounds - St Johnstone comments - Tay FM

POs

For awareness only

We've been asked again about alcohol at football grounds of the back of comments from St Johnstone owner Adam Webb.

Policy colleague have confirmed previous lines stand and our position is unchanged so have reissued previously cleared lines.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

MEDIA QUERY

As mentioned, we've been speaking with the St Johnstone owner Adam Webb this morning and he is renewing calls for alcohol to be allowed in football grounds.

He has told us it would improve fans' experience on game days and that it is unfair rugby fans can enjoy a drink when football ones can't.

Could we please receive a response to this?

REISSUED LINE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We have no plans to change the ban on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds.

“We regularly meet with the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. We will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters' groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.”

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

Scottish Government

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange clearing media lines

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 21 November 2024 12:50

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: POLICY VIEW - alcohol - football grounds - BBC Aberdeen

Yes still stand/consistent with FM comments in late September [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Unit Head | Population Health Strategy and Improvement Division | Directorate for Population Health| DG: Health & Social Care | Scottish Government |

m: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Sent: 21 November 2024 12:40

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Cc: Communications Health and Social Care ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Subject: POLICY VIEW - alcohol - football grounds - BBC Aberdeen

Hello all

We've been asked again about alcohol at football grounds and any plans to change the law.

Lines, combining previously issued, below.

Do these stand, if so propose reissuing.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

MEDIA QUERY

It was just to check current stance on alcohol sales in football grounds / any plans for change in the law. Albeit the Aberdeen FC trial plan is for alcohol sale outside Pittodrie in a fan zone for a SPFL game.

Previous for context: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0rg44z72lro>

DRAFT LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We have no plans to change the ban on alcohol sales at Scottish football grounds.

“We regularly meet with the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. We will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters’ groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.”

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

Scottish Government

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email about a research report

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] @gov.scot>

Sent: 11 October 2024 14:21

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Briefing paper - football and alcohol scoping study

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] from the University of Stirling has been in touch with their findings on the recent research into alcohol at football stadia- see email below and briefing attached.

The research was commissioned by SFA and SPFL and at this point it is unclear if they intend to publish the full report.

However, the key findings included in the attached have been published, link below, and would be able to be referred to if this issue was raised again.

Institute for Social Marketing | Publications | About | University of Stirling

Happy to chat if helpful,

Kind regards,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Alcohol Harm Prevention Policy Team

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 11:05 AM

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Subject: Briefing paper - football and alcohol scoping study

Dear [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

I hope this finds you well. You may remember we were funded by the SFA and SPFL to conduct a scoping study to identify key concerns regarding alcohol being on general sale at Scottish football matches. We have now submitted our final report to the funders but are not at liberty to release this publicly as the copyright lies with them. Therefore, we have compiled the attached briefing paper which summarises our key findings. You will have seen the recent media coverage on this issue, so we feel it is important to have our findings in the public domain. Please feel free to get in touch if you would like to discuss this any further. Please also feel free to pass this

on to other contacts within the Scottish Government whom you feel would be interested in these findings or let me know their details and I would be happy to send them a copy.

Best wishes,

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Senior Research Fellow

Institute for Social Marketing and Health

University of Stirling

Tel: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange clearing media lines

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 October 2024 10:28

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Urgent - Consuming alcohol at football stadiums - DUE 10.30 today

Thank you all!

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
First Minister's Questions Manager, Scottish Government
4th Floor, St Andrew's House
Preparing First Minister's Questions (FMQs) (sharepoint.com)

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 10:26 AM

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Subject: RE: Urgent - Consuming alcohol at football stadiums - DUE 10.30 today

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] / [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

To confirm I have reviewed and am content with the lines below.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Solicitor | Scottish Government Legal Directorate | Economy & Social Protections Division

Tel [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 9:32 AM

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Urgent - Consuming alcohol at football stadiums - DUE 10.30 today

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

Contribution below – copying [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] to ensure the legal references are correct:

- There have been legal controls over the consumption of alcohol at Scottish football matches since 1 February 1981 following the introduction of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980.
- Part II of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 (sporting events: control of alcohol etc.) sets out the current legal framework.
- Prior to the major disorder on the field during the 1980 Scottish Cup Final between Celtic and Rangers which prompted that legislation, the control and policing and control of alcohol at football had been extremely light touch – although alcohol was permitted to be brought into stadia, rather than being sold there.
- Since then, a much more robust approach has been in place, in part to reduce violence and disorder by supporters travelling to and from football matches and within the stadium.
- Subject to local licensing, alcohol can be provided before and after games in designated hospitality areas and fan zones within the footprint of the stadium.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Strategic Football Lead

Active Scotland

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 October 2024 09:13

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Urgent - Consuming alcohol at football stadiums - DUE 10.30 today

Copying in Active Scotland colleagues – will provide advice by 10:30.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Alcohol Harm Prevention | Population Health Strategy and Improvement Division | Population Health Directorate | Scottish Government

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 9:11 AM

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

information]@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: Urgent - Consuming alcohol at football stadiums - DUE 10.30 today

Importance: High

Hi both,

I hope you are both well.

FM asked for the information on rules in terms of alcohol consumption on football stadiums grounds.

Grateful if you could provide it to us by 10.30 today as this is needed prior to FMQ.

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

First Minister's Questions Manager, Scottish Government

4th Floor, St Andrew's House

Preparing First Minister's Questions (FMQs) (sharepoint.com)

Email exchange clearing media lines

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 26 September 2024 17:18

To: Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024

<MinisterforSCMWS@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024

<CabSecHSC@gov.scot>

Cc: Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh

<Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>;

Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal

information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –

personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal

information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –

personal information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care

<CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: MINISTERIAL CLEARANCE: Media query - Bauer - Sale of alcohol at football

Thank you [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information].

I'll issue the response now.

Kind regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

News | Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9021

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024

Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 5:17 PM

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport 2024 ; Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care 2024

Cc: Jack Middleton ; Emily Mackintosh ; Jeanette Campbell ; Ross Ingebrigtsen ;

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal

information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) –

personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted –

38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ;

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; Communications Health and Social

Care

Subject: RE: MINISTERIAL CLEARANCE: Media query - Bauer - Sale of alcohol at football

As indicated by the Sports Minister in Parliament, we will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters' groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience."

PQ

Q. To ask the Scottish Government whether it will consider allowing football clubs to sell alcohol at games, allowing clubs the opportunity to offer fans a chance to meet up and enjoy a pint before the game.

Answer

The Scottish Government remains committed to reducing the significant impact of alcohol harm on the nation's health through a range of measures including the forthcoming increase to Minimum Unit Pricing. However, we also recognise the calls for football fans to have the same opportunities as fans at other sports and events and we will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.

FULL MEDIA QUERY

Maree Todd responded to a question from SNP MSP George Adam in which she says -

"The Scottish Government remains committed to reducing the significant impact of alcohol harm on the nation's health through a range of measures including the forthcoming increase to Minimum Unit Pricing. However, we also recognise the calls for football fans to have the same opportunities as fans at other sports and events and we will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience."

I'd previously been under the impression the Scottish Government was against re-introducing alcohol sales at football grounds, but George believes this response means the door is open.

Would you be able to provide me with a statement on the Scottish Government's position on alcohol sales at football matches?

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-29341>

We've interviewed George Adam and the supporters football association so will be looking to run from tomorrow morning.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]**News | Senior Media Manager
Communications Health and Social Care**

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9021

RESPONSE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We regularly meet with the Scottish Professional Football League to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. As indicated by the Sports Minister in Parliament, we will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters’ groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.”

PQ

Q. To ask the Scottish Government whether it will consider allowing football clubs to sell alcohol at games, allowing clubs the opportunity to offer fans a chance to meet up and enjoy a pint before the game.

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We've interviewed George Adam and the supporters football association so will be looking to run from tomorrow morning.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

News | Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300
244 9021

Email exchange clearing media lines

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 26 September 2024 16:37

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: POLICY VIEWS: Media query - Bauer - Sale of alcohol at football - By 5.15pm please

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] thank you.

That makes perfect sense. I've tried to overcome the double use of engage. If you are content with this I will send up to SpAds?

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We regularly engage meet with the Scottish Professional Football League on a to discuss a wide range of issues, including the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. As indicated by the Sports Minister in Parliament, we will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters' groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.”

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

News | Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]] Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9021

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2024 4:33 PM

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; Communications Health and Social Care

Subject: RE: POLICY VIEWS: Media query - Bauer - Sale of alcohol at football - By 5.15pm please

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]. The PQ answer really says it all, so I'd be tempted to refer to it. Some comments below. If you can think of another word I'd maybe change one of the instances of “engage”.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 26 September 2024 16:21

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; Communications Health and Social Care <CommunicationsHealthandSocialCare@gov.scot>

Subject: POLICY VIEWS: Media query - Bauer - Sale of alcohol at football - By 5.15pm please

Colleagues

POLICY VIEWS BY 5.15PM PLEASE

Apologies for the late query but we have been asked by Bauer for a response to a written answer from Ms Todd to a question from George Adam MSP on the re-introduction of the sale of alcohol in football. The answer was published yesterday and Bauer have followed up asking what the current position is from the Scottish Government.

They have also interviewed George Adam and someone from the Scottish Football Supporters Association on this and are planning content for tomorrow so require our response tonight. I'd be grateful for **policy views by 5.15pm**.

DRAFT RESPONSE

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We regularly engage with the Scottish Professional Football League on a wide range of issues, including current legislation on the sale and consumption of alcohol at football matches. As indicated by the Sports Minister in Parliament, we will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.”

PQ

Q. To ask the Scottish Government whether it will consider allowing football clubs to sell alcohol at games, allowing clubs the opportunity to offer fans a chance to meet up and enjoy a pint before the game.

Answer

The Scottish Government remains committed to reducing the significant impact of alcohol harm on the nation's health through a range of measures including the forthcoming increase to Minimum Unit Pricing. However, we also recognise the calls for football fans to have the same opportunities as fans at other sports and events

and we will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience.

FULL MEDIA QUERY

Maree Todd responded to a question from SNP MSP George Adam in which she says -

"The Scottish Government remains committed to reducing the significant impact of alcohol harm on the nation's health through a range of measures including the forthcoming increase to Minimum Unit Pricing. However, we also recognise the calls for football fans to have the same opportunities as fans at other sports and events and we will continue to engage with the football authorities, supporters groups and clubs on ways to enhance the fan experience."

I'd previously been under the impression the Scottish Government was against re-introducing alcohol sales at football grounds, but George believes this response means the door is open.

Would you be able to provide me with a statement on the Scottish Government's position on alcohol sales at football matches?

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-29341>

We've interviewed George Adam and the supporters football association so will be looking to run from tomorrow morning.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

News | Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh

Mobile: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] Portfolio Media inquiries: 0300 244 9021

Email exchange clearing media lines

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 March 2024 12:32

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Lines request - alcohol - women's footbaLL

Thanks all

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Senior Media Manager

Communications Health and Social Care

Scottish Government

M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 12:32 PM

To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] ; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Subject: RE: Lines request - alcohol - women's footbaLL

Hi All,

Alcohol lines:

- It is clear that alcohol is taking a toll on too many people across Scotland. Recent figures published by National Records of Scotland (NRS) showed that there were 1,276 deaths directly because of alcohol in Scotland in 2022.
- Scotland continues to have a problematic relationship with alcohol, and we are determined to do all we can to address that.
- The Scottish Government is determined to do all we can to reduce alcohol harm.
- That is why we take an evidence based approach, following the World Health Organization's focus on reducing the affordability, availability and attractiveness of alcohol.
- It is clear from that alcohol harm in Scotland needs to be addressed with almost all of the responses to our recent restricting alcohol advertising and promotions consultation acknowledging that harmful drinking is a serious problem in Scotland.

Let me know if you need anything more,

Kind regards,
[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Alcohol Harm Prevention Policy Team
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 11:10 AM
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Lines request - alcohol - women's footbaLL

Fiona McIntyre (SWPL Managing Director) reckoned some clubs might be thinking about it but as a governing body they are absolutely not. So the opening line could be:

- This is not something which the SWPL or individual clubs have discussed with us and we are not aware of any such plans

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 March 2024 10:58
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Lines request - alcohol - women's footbaLL

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Adding comms colleagues [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] for awareness

Can we say we don't believe there are any plans?

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Senior Media Manager
Communications Health and Social Care
Scottish Government
M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 10:55 AM
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Lines request - alcohol - women's footbaLL

I've just heard from the SWPL. It is a sensationalist headline and there is no work afoot. Not sure we need any further update to the proposed lines below (other than the suggested general alcohol lines?).

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information].

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Sent: 07 March 2024 10:28
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Lines request - alcohol - women's footbaLL

Thanks [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information],

I've asked the SWPL if there is actually work afoot or if this is just a sensationalist article. I've also asked SGLD for advice as to the identified loophole and whether we could easily address it through an SSI updating the list of competitions to which the current legislation applies.

We may need holding lines though:

[Redacted – 29(1)(a) – formulation of policy]

Alcohol colleagues (copied) may also want to add something about Scotland's difficult relationship with alcohol.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information].

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Strategic Football Lead
Active Scotland
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
Mob: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 March 2024 10:13
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: Lines request - alcohol - women's footbaLL

Hello [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

As discussed, just keen for some short lines/holding position that could be deployed, if asked, by Comms Head of News at today's post-FMQs briefing with press re today's Herald splash –

Bid to sell drink at women's football

Clubs 'aim to exploit legal loophole for matchdays'

Scotland's papers: Tory budget row over oil windfall tax - BBC News

Briefing is 1.15 and Julie has call out for update from us by 11 if poss.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Senior Media Manager
Communications Health and Social Care
Scottish Government
M: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email chain about correspondence received

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 05 March 2024 13:08
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Alcohol at Football Matches Ban Lifted.

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Have now had a contribution from [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] which I have added into the response.

Grateful for your thoughts on the below:

Thank you for your email dated 25 February 2024 to Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport, about the licensing of alcohol at Scottish football grounds. As part of Active Scotland, I have been asked to reply.

As you are aware, alcohol and other controls at sporting events were introduced in Scotland in 1980 for reasons of public order and safety. The Scottish Government works with all parties to help improve the overall match day experience and ensure all football fans can enjoy our national game in a safe, enjoyable environment.

The Scottish Government agrees with you that the majority of football fans act responsibly and behave in an appropriate manner. However, there are fans who are still not following pleas from their clubs to act responsibly and spoiling the experience for so many.

It is clear that alcohol is taking a toll on too many people across Scotland. Recent figures published by National Records of Scotland (NRS) showed that there were 1,276 deaths directly because of alcohol in Scotland in 2022. These figures show that Scotland continues to have a problematic relationship with alcohol, and we are determined to do all we can to address that. That's why we've taken a range of actions to reduce the availability, attractiveness and affordability of alcohol, in line with the World Health Organization's recommended approach. Our Alcohol Framework 2018 contains 20 actions to tackle alcohol related harm, including reviewing the level of the minimum unit price (MUP), improving alcohol product labelling and consulting on a range of restrictions on alcohol advertising and promotion.

Maree Todd, Minister responsible for sport, has regular discussions with the SPFL and Scottish FA to discuss a range of topics, including potentially allowing alcohol back into Scottish football matches. For Scottish Ministers to consider further, we would need to see detailed proposals from the football authorities which would also need to be agreed by Police Scotland.

I hope you find this information helpful.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Area GA South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6

6QQ | Tel: 0131 244 [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 2:01 PM
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Subject: RE: Alcohol at Football Matches Ban Lifted.

Sorry, no – I am still waiting on [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] coming back to me on the health impacts of drinking

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Area GA South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | Tel: 0131 244 [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 11:33 AM
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Alcohol at Football Matches Ban Lifted.

This is the last I saw on this I think. I can't see a draft reply

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 February 2024 13:28
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Alcohol at Football Matches Ban Lifted.

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Has indeed been a while - very well thanks.

Thank you for sending on – very useful lines which I have used.

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Area GA South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ | Tel: 0131 244 [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 12:20 PM
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Alcohol at Football Matches Ban Lifted.

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Long time since we've been in touch. Hope you are well.

To be honest, I am not sure there is an alcohol licensing aspect to this correspondence. The fact that there is a ban on the sale of alcohol at football is not a licensing policy issue. My understanding is that the policy was a direct response to events at certain football matches way back when. I found an oral PQ from 2015 which includes relevant information on the ban etc. which may be helpful in developing a response to this.

Football - ban on alcohol at football matches - oral pq - 17 February 2015 details - Objective ECM (scotland.gov.uk)

Cheers

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]
Head of Criminal Law, Practice and Licensing Unit
Criminal Justice Division
Room GW, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Scottish Government

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 12:07 PM
To: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Alcohol at Football Matches Ban Lifted.

Hi [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]/[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Hope you are well?

Please see the below correspondence asking to have the ban of alcohol at football matches lifted.

Grateful for any contribution?

Many thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Delivery & Policy Officer | Active Scotland | Scottish Government | Area GA South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6

6QQ | Tel: 0131 244 [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] | Email: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2024 1:05 PM

To: Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing & Sport <ministerscmws@gov.scot>

Subject: Alcohol at Football Matches Ban Lifted.

Good Afternoon

I feel since it was introduced 43 years ago it is now time to lift the alcohol ban for the Season starting 2024/2025.

I feel this ban is totally unfair to the vast majority of football supporters who may want even just one pint at a football game and I have put forward a proposal which should put this policy safely in effect.

I know The clubs really want this.

The proposals I have are this.

Like England there should be a special fan zone where alcohol can only be sold.

Like England you must have your drink in the Zone and can't take it on to the terraces.

All Drinks sold in disposable containers pints so they are not used as weapons or taken on to the terraces to throw onto police, players etc. Unlikely to happen but this is where it is sensible to cover all areas.

Drinks Areas that sell Alcohol also at all times to have Two Security Personnel or Club Officials to make sure Drink is being sold to people in a correct manner and have immediate access to police should in the rare event people being badly under the effects of alcohol etc. Having said that fans should never have been left into the ground if this is the case of people under the influence of drink.

A minimum price should be five pounds a pint.

The restrictions above are quite strict and when I went to Evertons ground in Liverpool that saw it working when I had a drink it was done in an orderly fashion even without huge queues.

I feel it is wrong to penalise the vast majority of law abiding supporters and I feel that the lifting of the ban should be put on a trial period with the restrictions as put in place for one year.

I would be grateful if you could pass this on to the Minister and not just given a standard Civil Service response .

Licenses in grounds between the hours of 1.30 to 4.30 to be strictly observed.

Kind Regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Email exchange about correspondence received

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** zzzfirstminister24

Sent: 16 June 2023 13:51

To: zzzPublic Engagement Unit <zzzCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Cc: zzzzMinister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing & Sport <zzzzMinisterSCMWS@gov.scot>; zzzMinister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy <zzzMinisterforDAP@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Alcohol at football matches case ref HY6666

PEU

CTR for the relevant Minister to Humza Yousaf in his constituency capacity, re SG policy for Alcohol at football matches and any changes regarding bringing football matches in-line with Rugby matches in terms of Alcohol being on sale.

Not sure if this will sit with alcohol policy or sports policy officials, but I have copied in [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] who is the lead official re football, who will be able to confirm for you.

Cheers

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

| **First Minister's Ministerial Private Office | 5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | 0131 244** [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information] |

From: [Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 3:33 PM

To: First Minister

Subject: Alcohol at football matches case ref HY6666

Good afternoon,

We received the below email at our constituency office and wonder if you can offer anything wider on what the First Minister has said in the radio interview quoted here

Hello, Mr. Yousaf,

I am a constituent of yours in Pollok and wanted contact you regarding your comments to Radio Clyde News in which you called the scenes at the weekend 'unacceptable' and suggested that clubs contribute toward the hosting of and clean up following these events.

I think this is a disingenuous suggestion. Football clubs in Scotland, as I'm sure you are aware, are not allowed to sell alcohol outside of corporate areas, they are not allowed to permit outside alcohol, and they are not allowed to permit supporters in playing areas following a game.

My question is simply to make clear whether or not your SNP government will bring treatment of football supporters into line with that of rugby, who are treated like adults, in that they are allowed to enjoy a drink with their friends at the stadium.

Thanks

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]****

Kind regards

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

[Redacted – 38(1)(b) – personal information]

Constituency Caseworker for Humza Yousaf MSP

Glasgow Pollok

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