

**13 JUNE 2005**

**PUBS WELCOME SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT LICENSING REPORT  
BUT CALL FOR ACTION ON OBJECTIONS AND ON-TRADE PROMOTIONS**

The Scottish Beer and Pub Association (SBPA) has today welcomed the publication by the Scottish Parliament's Local Government Committee of its Stage 1 Report on the Licensing (Scotland) Bill. However, the Association said it was disappointed by the Committee's support for objections to licence applications by "any person." The Association also called for any restrictions on "irresponsible promotions" to be extended beyond pubs and clubs to grocery stores and supermarkets.

Said Scottish Beer and Pub Association Chief Executive, Patrick Browne: "We welcome the broad findings of the Committee on the Licensing Bill but we are disappointed about the right of "any person" to lodge objections against licensing applications. If this provision makes it onto the statute book it will add unnecessary costs to the licensing system for no appreciable benefit. Only those with a real and material interest should be allowed to object to licence applications rather than leaving anyone, irrespective of where they are, free to lodge an objection and then leaving a Licensing Board to decide whether it is 'genuine' as suggested by the Committee."

"We would also call for the intended restrictions on 'irresponsible promotions' in pubs and clubs to be extended to the off trade. We are not supportive of restricting all types of drinks promotions but if it is correct for Scottish Executive to intervene in the commercial operation of the on trade and to place restrictions on it then these limits should also be extended to off licences. There is a growing problem of consumers drinking excesses of alcohol in the home environment before heading out to pubs or clubs, and the Scottish Executive seems unwilling to tackle this problem."

**ENDS**

**Notes for Editors**

1. The Scottish Beer and Pub Association was originally formed in 1906. Members are brewing and large pub companies representing the licensed trade industry in Scotland. The main aim of the Association is to contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of Scotland through employment, investment and training. Members account for 1,500 of the 5,100 licensed public houses in Scotland.

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