



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCOTTISH BEER AND PUB ASSOCIATION SEEKS JUDICIAL REVIEW OF GLASGOW LICENSING BOARD'S POLICY ON TOUGHENED GLASS

The Scottish Beer and Pub Association (SBPA) has today (31st May 2006) launched a legal action on behalf of its members operating pubs in Glasgow at the Court of Session in Edinburgh seeking a judicial review of the Glasgow Licensing Board's decision to ban the use of glass in the city's pubs and clubs. SPBA is also joined in the action by a group of individual operators drawn from the estates of its member companies.

Said Patrick Browne, SBPA Chief Executive: "We accept that the Licensing Board in Glasgow is acting in good faith in trying to address the issue of 'glassing' incidents in the city but we believe the Board is acting outside of its powers under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976. Consequently, we have today launched a legal action seeking a judicial review of the Glasgow Board's decision at the Court of Session in Edinburgh."

"In responding to the Board last year, we argued against the Board's blanket ban on the use of glass which we believed could not be justified in terms of cost or risk and was a totally disproportionate response to the issue. The industry is in full support of policies designed to target and tackle the violent thugs who use glass as a weapon but we believe that the use of plastic bottles or toughened glass is best determined on a premises by premises basis where problems exist, and not across the board."

"We will await the decision of the Court of Session but we feel the Board's policy raises a number of legal issues which need to be clarified."

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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 1,400 of the 5,100 licensed public houses in Scotland.

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2. The Glasgow Licensing Board adopted its policy banning the use of glass last December and it means that all pubs within the Glasgow Licensing Board area with effect from the end of January 2007 would be forced to serve drinks to their customers in toughened glass or plastic bottles, unless they obtained an exemption for their premises.
3. There were 713 licensed public houses in the Glasgow Licensing Board area at the end of 2004 of which in excess of 160 are operated by members of the SBPA.
4. It is expected the case will appear before the Court of Session in the summer.
5. Co-petitioners to the judicial review are individual licensees drawn from SBPA's member companies – Punch Taverns which has 74 licensed premises in Glasgow, Scottish & Newcastle Pub Enterprises which operates 24 pubs, Mitchells and Butlers which operates 36 pubs in the city, and Enterprise Inns which operates 34 tenanted pubs in Glasgow.
6. The legal challenge is supported by the British Institute of Innkeeping in Scotland (BII-Scotland).

For further information contact Patrick Browne, SBPA on:

Tel: 0131 225 4681 Mobile: 0791 509 3052 email: patrick.browne@geoghegans.co.uk