

Attached is the Government Alcohol Advisory Group report and the Minister for Justice's legislative proposals as released today 23rd April, 2008.

The Minister's main proposals are:

(1) all off licence trading hours to be 10.30am (12.30pm on Sundays) to 10pm. (Head 3, p4)

(2) Structural separation of alcohol products from other products within mixed trading premises. Renewal of existing licences will 'eventually require compliance with these new requirements'. (Head 6, p 7)

(3) Introduction of test purchasing under Garda control (Head 7, p8)

(4) Minimum temporary closure order is to be for 2 days (Head 11, p13)

(5) Power for Gardai to direct individuals to 'move on' if in possession of alcohol, to seize alcohol in these situations and from minors generally (Head 12, p 14 and Head 15, p18)

(6) Updating of fine levels for sale of alcohol to minors etc. (Head 13, p16; fine levels in Schedules at end)

(7) New offence of advertising and promoting alcohol at reduced prices or free of charge on purchase of a quantity of alcohol (Head 14, p17)

(8) New offence of selling alcohol at reduced price or free of charge on purchase of a quantity of alcohol or other product (Head 14, p17)

(9) Power to restrict a person from promoting their business by an activity that encourages the excessive consumption of alcohol anywhere other than in a private residence (Head 14, p17)

(10) Grounds to object to a wine, spirits or beer off licence broadened to those that apply to pubs, including that it is unsuitable to needs of local residents and that the number of licensed outlets in the area is adequate. Also courts given power to insist on CCTV for such premises. (Head 5, p 6)