



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Ash Denham MSP
Minister for Community Safety
Scottish Government

via email

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**Local Government and Communities
Committee**

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Dear Ash

Thank you very much for attending the Committee on 27 March 2019 to give evidence on alcohol licensing and local communities. The Committee found the session informative and interesting. As you know, this session followed on from a roundtable evidence session on the same theme with a number of stakeholders, which took place on 23 May 2018.

In its discussion of the evidence after the meeting, noted the key themes arising from the evidence and agreed to write back to you to request the following information:

Working together at Scottish Government level: an issue that arose in our evidence-taking with you was the cross-portfolio nature of the brief, especially in relation to public health. The Minister for Community Safety is responsible for the alcohol licensing system, a key aspect of which is the advancement of the five licensing objectives, including the objective to protect and improve public health. At the same time, as you pointed out in your evidence, the health aspects of alcohol are overall the responsibility of the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing, who is the responsible Minister in relation to the recently published *Alcohol Framework 2018: Preventing Harm*. The Committee would be interested in obtaining more information from you, and as appropriate from Mr FitzPatrick, as to the practicalities of how you work together to deliver Scottish Government policy in this area.

For information, letters on related matters arising from the evidence sessions are also being sent to the Law Society of Scotland and to Licensing Boards. The intention is to publish all exchanges of correspondence as public evidence in relation to the Committee's work

It would be very helpful to have a response by Monday 13 May 2019.

Yours sincerely,

James Dornan MSP
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee