



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Minimum Pricing for Alcohol in Wales

Key Information



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Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Background

Minimum pricing for alcohol is being introduced in Wales on 2 March 2020

It will set a floor price for alcohol, meaning that alcohol cannot be sold or supplied below that price.

Minimum pricing for alcohol aims to reduce the excessive consumption of alcohol and the significant and widespread harms which can be caused by hazardous and harmful drinking. Alcohol is a major cause of death and illness in Wales.

It leads to a number of health and social harms, particularly for the significant minority of people who drink to excess.

In 2018, there were 535 alcohol-related deaths in Wales; and in 2018-19, there were nearly 60,000 alcohol attributable hospital admissions.

All of these harms are preventable.

Evidence demonstrates there is a link between drinking at harmful levels and the availability of cheap alcohol, with minimum pricing being effective in reducing alcohol consumption among hazardous and harmful drinkers.

Some stakeholders have commented that people who are currently alcohol dependant may find the initial transition challenging.

Within your role, you may be working closely with people and families that may be affected by the introduction of a minimum price for alcohol.

You may have the opportunity to share this information about minimum pricing with them – and to highlight the opportunities where they could seek support.



Minimum Pricing for Alcohol is coming to Wales

What you need to know...

Key Information for **All Stakeholders**

How you can prepare beforehand

Welsh Government has developed materials about the introduction of minimum pricing for alcohol, including an infographic on how minimum pricing works, along with its anticipated outcomes.

Additional information regarding minimum pricing for alcohol and the introduction of a minimum unit price (MUP) is also available on the Welsh Government website.

<https://gov.wales/minimum-unit-pricing-alcohol>

Where possible, let people know that the change is coming.

Everyone needs to be aware of minimum pricing for alcohol. This includes moderate drinkers, hazardous and harmful drinkers, and dependent drinkers.

The planned introduction of minimum pricing may prompt people to seek support.

Use the upcoming changes as an opportunity to encourage people to engage with support services, if needed.

Things to keep in mind after implementation

Some stakeholders have commented that there is the possibility of a short term rise of people requiring additional support and seeking advice, when minimum pricing is introduced.

Make yourself aware of the specialist services someone may benefit from being referred to if you recognise a change in their behaviour.



DAN 24/7

will be able to provide information on alcohol and substance misuse services in the local area, for those who may want support.

Wales Drug and Alcohol Helpline / Llinell Cymorth Cymru Ar Gyffuriau Ac Alcohol

Freephone:

0808 808 2234 / TEXT DAN 81066

This number will help you find the most relevant service in your area.

www.dan247.org.uk/

Minimum Pricing for Alcohol is coming to Wales

What you need to know...

Housing Providers

How you can prepare beforehand

Consider making materials and information available to tenants that lets them know about minimum pricing for alcohol and a list of relevant services and contact numbers.

You can support people who may be worried about the introduction of a minimum price by sharing information such as the minimum unit price (MUP) infographic, which highlights how the price of alcohol will change once MUP comes into force on 2 March 2020.

Things to keep in mind after implementation

People may require additional support. Be prepared to offer people more time and identify all opportunities to help people access specialist support.

Some stakeholders have commented that people may worry that they, or someone they live with, might prioritise money for alcohol over rent.

If needed, contact relevant support agencies and give people time to manage their tenancies.

Substance Misuse Teams and Service Providers

How you can prepare beforehand

Be aware of the organisations, schemes and projects that might be helpful to someone in your area.

Remind people of the option to start lowering their alcohol intake gradually ahead of the pricing change – and the support available to help them do this.

Things to keep in mind after implementation

Some stakeholders have commented that we may see an increase in people wanting to access detox or rehabilitation. Be prepared to refer people to relevant support services.

Other stakeholders have commented that there is a possibility that people will switch to other substances.

Welsh Government commissioned research to specifically look at this issue and published its findings on the Welsh Government website.

<https://gov.wales/minimum-pricing-alcohol-research-potential-consequences>

Some stakeholders are also concerned that the introduction of minimum pricing for alcohol could mean people enter into involuntary withdrawal. We think this risk is low, but it is still important that you know the signs – and be prepared to seek medical assistance if symptoms are severe.

Minimum Pricing for Alcohol is coming to Wales

What you need to know...

Outreach Teams

How you can prepare beforehand

Be aware of the organisations, schemes and projects that might be helpful to someone in your area.

Familiarise yourself with contact details and referral routes. There are a variety of support options available.

Things to keep in mind after implementation

Some stakeholders have commented that we may see an increase people wanting to access detox or rehabilitation. Be prepared to refer people to relevant support services.

Other stakeholders have commented that there is a possibility that people will switch to other substances (such as spice).

Welsh Government commissioned research to specifically look at this issue and published its findings on the Welsh Government website.

<https://gov.wales/minimum-pricing-alcohol-research-potential-consequences>

Some stakeholders are also concerned that the introduction of minimum pricing for alcohol could mean people enter into involuntary withdrawal.

We think the risk is low, but it is still important that you know the signs and be prepared to seek medical assistance if symptoms are severe.

Third Sector / Voluntary Organisations

How you can prepare beforehand

Give people physical information and space to discuss concerns and plans.

Be aware of all organisations, schemes and projects that might be helpful to someone in your area.

Familiarise yourself with contact details and referral routes.

Things to keep in mind after implementation

Continue to be aware of the organisations, schemes and projects that might be helpful to someone in your area.

Minimum Pricing for Alcohol is coming to Wales

What you need to know...

Health Professionals / Health Services / GPs / Mental Health Teams

How you can prepare beforehand

Give people physical information and space to discuss concerns and plans.

Be aware of all organisations, schemes and projects that might be helpful to someone in your area.

Familiarise yourself with contact details and referral routes.

Welsh Government has written to all GPs providing information on minimum pricing for alcohol and its planned introduction.

This includes a poster for GPs to display in surgeries.

Things to keep in mind after implementation

Some stakeholders have commented that there is the possibility of a short term rise of people requiring additional support and seeking advice, including the possibility of a rise of people seeking support and advice from health services and GPs.

In particular, some stakeholders are also concerned that the introduction of minimum pricing for alcohol could mean people enter into involuntary withdrawal.

Some stakeholders have also commented that we may see an increase in people wanting to access detox or rehabilitation.

Be prepared to refer people to relevant support services.

Other stakeholders have commented that there is a possibility that people will switch to other substances (such as spice).

Welsh Government has commissioned research to specifically look at this issue and published its findings on the Welsh Government website.

<https://gov.wales/minimum-pricing-alcohol-research-potential-consequences>

Minimum Pricing for Alcohol is coming to Wales

What you need to know...

Helplines

How you can prepare beforehand

The introduction of minimum pricing for alcohol may be prompt people to seek support and they may ring your helpline.

Welsh Government has developed materials about the introduction of minimum pricing for alcohol, including an infographic on how minimum pricing works, along with its anticipated outcomes.

Additional information regarding minimum pricing for alcohol and the introduction of a minimum unit price (MUP) is also available on the Welsh Government website.

<https://gov.wales/minimum-unit-pricing-alcohol>

Things to keep in mind after implementation

Some stakeholders have commented that there is the possibility of a short term rise of people requiring additional support.

You may see an increase in the number of people contacting your helpline.

It is still important that you know the signs and be prepared to seek medical assistance if symptoms are severe.

Minimum Pricing for Alcohol is coming to Wales

What you need to know...

Police / Emergency Services

How you can prepare beforehand

The introduction of minimum pricing for alcohol may prompt people to seek support.

Use the upcoming changes as an opportunity to encourage people to engage with support services.

Be aware of organisations, schemes and projects that might be helpful to someone in your area.

Things to keep in mind after implementation

Some stakeholders have commented that there is a possibility that people will switch to other substances (such as spice) and may also turn to shoplifting, following the introduction of a minimum price for alcohol.

Welsh Government has commissioned research to specifically look at the issue of switching and how people might change their behaviours and published its finding on the Welsh Government website

<https://gov.wales/minimum-unit-pricing-alcohol>

Likewise, some stakeholders are also concerned that the introduction of minimum pricing for alcohol could mean people enter into involuntary withdrawal.

We think the risk is low, but it is still important that you know the signs and be prepared to seek medical assistance if symptoms are severe.