

## Manifestos 2019: Key commitments on alcohol

The table below shows the relevant commitments from the main parties' manifestos regarding alcohol. Most parties have included initiatives on mental health; we have included these only where co-occurring issues are mentioned or they are otherwise unusual.

Party	MUP	Duty	Labelling	Marketing	Others
<b>Conservative</b>		<p>“Alcohol Duty Review: Scotch whisky is a national export that supports 42,000 jobs across the UK. Yet the tax on each bottle of Scotch sold in this country represents almost three quarters of its price. That is why over the past two years we have frozen the duty on spirits, cutting the price of a bottle of Scotch by 30p. Now, we want to do more, which is why we will review alcohol duty to ensure that our tax system is supporting British drink producers”</p> <p>“We will cut taxes for small retail businesses and for local music venues, pubs and cinemas”, including reduced business rates</p>			<p>“We will expand electronic tagging for criminals serving time outside jail, including the use of sobriety tags for those whose offending is fuelled by alcohol.”</p> <p>“Will establish a community ownership fund of £150M to encourage takeovers of civic organisations or community assets that are under threat – local football clubs, but also pubs or post offices.”</p> <p>While there is no firm commitment on alcohol harms, there is a reference to tackling “underlying causes of increases in NHS demand, for example via a long-term strategy for empowering people with lifestyle-related conditions such as obesity to live healthier lives”</p> <p>“We will pilot integrated domestic abuse courts that address criminal and family matters in parallel.”</p>

					Online protection for children and most vulnerable
<b>Labour</b>	"We will review the evidence on minimum pricing."		"Alcoholic drinks will be labelled with clear health warnings."		<p>"We will address drug-related deaths, alcohol-related health problems and the adverse impacts of gambling as matters of public health, treated accordingly in expanded addiction-support services."</p> <p>"Pubs are community hubs but 18 are closing each week in Britain. Labour will list pubs as Assets of Community Value so community groups have the first chance to buy pubs when they are under threat".</p> <p>"Will back bottle-return schemes"</p> <p>"Launch a wholesale review of the care system, including kinship care."</p> <p>"appoint a Commissioner for Violence against Women and Girls."</p>
<b>Lib Dem</b>	"Introduce minimum unit pricing for alcohol, taking not of the impact of the policy in Scotland"	"Review the UK excise duty structure to better support whisky exports" (NB this is in their Scotland chapter - and it is expected to be revenue neutral)			<p>"We will also ensure universal access to addiction treatment" [including in prison]</p> <p>"Pursue a Health in All Policies approach as recommended by the WHO."</p>

					<p>“Keep public health within local government, where it is effectively joined-up with preventive community services. We will re-instate the funding that was cut from public health budgets by the Conservatives and join up services across public health and the NHS.”</p> <p>“Fund public information campaigns to tackle stigmas within specific communities.”</p> <p>“Examine the available funding and planning rules for live music venues ... protecting venues from further closure.”</p>
<b>SNP</b>		<p>“We will oppose any trade talks with the US until they drop the new tariffs on Scotch whisky.”</p> <p>“SNP MPs will encourage reform of the UK’s excise duty structures and fairer tax for Scotch whisky. They will also seek UK government to improve the whisky industry's connectivity and sustainability, including funding for low carbon projects.”</p>		<p>Whisky cited as a vital export industry requiring promotional and marketing support from UK government</p>	<p>Protecting children from harm - including age verification for sites</p>

<b>Green</b>	“Introduce minimum unit pricing, which has been shown to reduce harmful drinking in Scotland.”	“Additional revenue generated from tax changes (per year): Increased alcohol duties: £3 billion”*  “Reduce VAT on food and drink served in pubs, bars and restaurants”		“Prohibit commercial advertising of alcohol (and all other drugs)”	
<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	“We will further explore how the tax system can be used to promote public health, for example through introducing a minimum price per unit of alcohol...”	“We will further explore how the tax system can be used to promote public health, for example through introducing a minimum price per unit of alcohol, and through imposing additional taxation on other potentially harmful products.”  “Plaid Cymru MPs will also seek to ensure that any future trade deals secure geographical indications for key Welsh food ... and Welsh Wine”			“Plaid Cymru has already led the way on public health measures in Wales, campaigning successfully for a ban on smoking in public places and minimum alcohol pricing. Until recently we were ridiculed for suggesting a sugary drinks tax, but now this is policy across the UK.”  “We will also ensure that counselling services are available and well-funded as victims of rape can suffer from co-occurring issues relating to mental health and drug and alcohol abuse, especially due to self-medication.”

\*The Green Party say they are going to raise £3bn in alcohol duty. The HMRC's ['Ready Reckoner'](#) says a 1% increase in all alcohol duty would raise £15m. That implies duty would need to rise by 29% to raise as much revenue as the Greens want.