

SU/DoH Consultation  
Room 4.6  
Admiralty Arch  
The mall  
London  
SW1A 2AW

31 January, 2003

Dear Sirs,

This is out of the consultation time, but you may wish to consider it, as I have kept to some key points that are specific to alcohol problems relating to the workplace.

I will just keep this to a series of bullet points:

- There are over 24million people in employment. If DoH statistics (1999) relating to the overall adult population reflect the working population, 4% (960,000) have a level of alcohol dependency.
- Alcohol problems with people in employment affects our country's GDP. In the USA the Government has a target to improve productivity by reducing 'unproductivuty' because of substance misuse. England could do likewise.
- The 'drug/alcohol in the workplace strategy' is a model that is very similar to the accepted good practice in the USA and also (via informal contact) with the views of the International labour Organisation (ILO). It is also supported by TUC and CBI. This could easily be adapted to form part of the Alcohol Strategy relating to interventions an initiatives in the workplace
- If employers were encouraged to adopt the four minimum standards (see attached), this would go a long way to making a real difference, not just in the workplace but the impact that would have with friends and family and communities. It is a chance for employers and employer associations to take a big lead, but it will need Government encouragement.

I'm sure you have an enormous amount to consider, so I have kept this short. If we can of any further help, please let us know.

John Grace  
Workplace Services