

Julia Drown MP
Member of Parliament for South Swindon

30 May 2003

SU/DoH Consultation
Room 4.6
Admiralty Arch
The Mall
London
SW1A 2WH

National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

Having consulted my constituents, I would like to raise the following points:

- Education is needed at schools, in GPs surgeries, and via the media, about the detrimental effect of alcohol on the health implications of drinking – from liver damage to wider implications such as sexual welfare and domestic violence.
- Can learn from those who have suffered from alcohol abuse – users, families, friends, colleagues, employers etc,
- There should be a tough, uncompromising advertising campaign that is not anti-drink but gives the facts and consequences as they are.
- Need to remove the “street drinker” image of the typical alcoholic and instead, tell the story of a broad range of alcoholics and their lives to create a broader understanding of what a problem drinker is without resorting to figures. Need to remove the anonymity and shame from alcoholism and encourage truly open debate.
- More help is needed for victims of domestic violence which is often the result of alcohol as well as for the person who becomes violent after drinking too much. But there should be increased penalties for repeated alcohol related offences by people who refuse such help.
- Brewers should have to take more responsibility to initiate projects of social and health value related to the damage that alcohol can cause as well as to take a more responsible attitude in relation to the audience they target.
- Ban alcopops.
- One constituent raised the issue that he believes MPs should lead by example and the bars the in Houses of Parliament should be closed.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia Drown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julia Drown MP
Labour MP for South Swindon