

Replied via post 31/1/03

**S.F.R.A.**  
**Southampton Federation of Residents' Associations**  
**(Founded 1972)**

SU/DoH Consultation  
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11th January 2003

Dear Sirs,  
National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

My main comment on the consultation document is that the timing of the consultation is all wrong.

MPs should be made aware of all the evidence about alcohol abuse before they vote on the Licensing Bill, not after.

I fully endorse the comments already submitted by the "Open-all-Hours" group especially the Institute of Alcohol Studies and the Civic Trust and will not therefore re-iterate what they have told you, other than to point out that alcohol related injuries and illness cost the NHS £58m per annum, para-medics ambulance crews and A&E staff all suffer abuse and one in six A&E patients are suffering injuries or illness due to alcohol abuse.

The Licensing Bill at present does not have the checks and controls that were in the 1983 Act.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Wiggmar, Chairman S.F.R.A.

cc. Andrew McNeill IAS  
John Bennett MP  
Alan Whitehead MP  
Sandra Gidley MP