

# Reducing the Drink Drive Limit in Scotland: A Scottish Government consultation

## RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note. This form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

### 1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

Sacro

Title Dr

Surname

Nicol

Forename

Billy

### 2. Postal Address

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### 3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual

/ Group/Organisation

Please tick as appropriate

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)? *Please tick as appropriate*  Yes  No

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis  
*Please tick ONE of the following boxes*

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

*Please tick as appropriate*  Yes  No

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

*Please tick as appropriate*

Yes

No

Please send your response with the completed Respondent Information Form to:

[Drink.drivelimit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Drink.drivelimit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or

Postal address:

Jim Wilson  
Room 2W  
Justice Directorate  
Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

**The deadline for responding is 29 November 2012**

This consultation, and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the consultation web pages of the Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations>.

# REDUCING THE DRINK DRIVE LIMIT IN SCOTLAND CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

## Question

1. Do you agree that the drink drive limits should be reduced in Scotland?

Yes

If yes, please go to Q1A.

If no, please go to Q2.

## Question

1A. The Scottish Government is proposing:

- A reduction in the blood limit from 80mg of alcohol in every 100 ml of blood to 50 mg of alcohol in every 100 ml of blood;
- An (equivalent) reduction in the breath limit from 35 mcg of alcohol in 100 ml of breath to 22 mcg of alcohol in every 100 ml of breath; and
- An (equivalent) reduction in the urine limit from 107 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of urine to 67 mg of alcohol in every 100 ml of urine.

Do you agree with the SG proposal to reduce the drink driving limits?

Yes, Sacro welcomes the steps being taken to make driving safer. However, this alone will not address the potential harm caused if someone does drink and drive.

## (Optional question)

2. Do you have any evidence for what would be the main consequences of the SG proposals? No.

## (Optional question)

3. Do you have any evidence for what would be the financial impact of the SG proposals?

No

## Question

4. Do you have any comments to make on the ancillary matters related to the SG's proposal to reduce the drink drive limits?

No

## Question

5. Are there any other measures that should be considered in order to tackle drink driving?

Sacro suggests that whilst the steps proposed are welcomed, until changes result in the reduction of the incidence of drinking and driving, the reduction in milligrams of alcohol in a person's blood stream will not help those people harmed by a drunk driver's behaviour, or assist in the rehabilitation of those responsible for causing harm.

Sacro suggests that the Government consider the provision of restorative justice in such circumstances, especially where there has been a serious offence, for example manslaughter, caused by someone drinking and driving. There are examples of restorative justice helping those harmed and those responsible in similar circumstances<sup>1</sup>. Although this is mostly anecdotal evidence, it is supported by research that demonstrates a high degree of victim satisfaction and reductions in re-offending<sup>2</sup> where restorative justice is provided. There is also evidence that suggests restorative justice is effective in helping those harmed by serious crimes<sup>3</sup>. It gives the person harmed a chance to have questions answered about the crime and the person directly responsible for the crime and can often lead to them being able to restart their life. There are also positive changes possible by the person responsible, as well as reducing the risk of re-offending in some studies, they too can start to rebuild a life and live in their community.

Sacro considers that there are presently opportunities to develop the use of such a restorative justice approach, until the new proposals reducing the legal limit of alcohol in the blood stream are tested.

**Please email this response by 29 November 2012 to:**

[Drink.drivelimit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Drink.drivelimit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Or you can post it to:

Jim Wilson  
Room 2W  
Justice Directorate  
Scottish Government

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sacro.org.uk/carruthersaddress2005.pdf> and <http://www.restorativejustice.org/press-room/07kindscrimes/driving-while-intoxicated>

<sup>2</sup> Sherman, L. and Strang, H., (2007) Restorative Justice: The Evidence. London: Smith Institute

<sup>3</sup> CF - *Victim Offender Dialogue in Crimes of Severe Violence*, A Multi-Site Study of Programs in Texas and Ohio, Umbreit M, Coates R, Vos B, Center for Restorative Justice & Peacemaking School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, 2002

- *Evaluation of the Collaborative Justice Project: A restorative justice program for serious crime*. Rugge, T., Bonta, J., & Wallace-Capretta, S. (2005). Ottawa: Public Safety Canada.

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