



**PRESS NOTICE - 15<sup>th</sup> June**

### **Crime levels at historic low**

The leading trade body for Britain's pubs and bars today welcomed the publication of Government statistics showing that levels of crime in England and Wales have continued to fall and are now at their lowest level since records began.

The British Crime Survey and Police Recorded Crime are consistent in showing a long term decline in levels of crime – down 50% from its peak in 1995 and 9% year on year. The number of violent incidents involving alcohol has also declined by 41% since 1995.

ALMR Head of Communications, Kate Nicholls, said:

“There is no doubt that the long term trends are heading in the right direction and this is testament not only to government initiatives but also efforts by pubs and bars to clean up our town centres. We want a zero-tolerance approach to alcohol-related crime and disorder and are committed to helping reduce these figures further, and in particular alcohol related crime.

What these figures show is that if Government is serious in delivering this it needs to urgently tackle the problem at source – cheap, readily available alcohol - not just manage the symptoms as they have done in the past. The reason the proportion of incidents involving alcohol is not declining at the same rate as overall crime should be laid firmly at the door of the supermarkets who peddle alcohol at pocket money prices. That is why we have presented proposals to the Home Office to re-regulate the off trade.”

The British Crime Survey suggests that the good news about falling crime is not getting across to the public, however, with two thirds of respondents continue to believe that levels of crime are rising at a national level.

Kate Nicholls concluded:

“As long of as we have politicians like Ed Miliband in The Times today continuing to talk of town centres blighted by bars and alcohol related disorder, we will continue to have lagging public perceptions and collective efforts to tackle the genuine problems we face will be undermined.

ENDS

#### **Notes to Editors**

- ALMR is the only national trade body solely dedicated to representing the interests of pub and bar operators, and to providing them with business support and advice. It has 80 member companies with a reach out to around 10,000 outlets.
- The Home Office Statistical Bulletin is available at <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1210.pdf>
- In an article in today's Time, Ed Miliband suggests that the dominance of late night bars and clubs in southern market towns contributed to Labour's electoral defeat
- For more information, please contact: Nick Bish 07831 778993 or Kate Nicholls: 07958 796 238

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