

ALMR MATTERS

Published every fortnight, the ALMR's e-zine alert service gives you an early warning of new and emerging issues. Its at-a-glance format together with links to more detailed briefing papers - with advice and guidance - provide you with vital information you need to run your business effectively.

- **Cigarette Machines:** The Government has announced new plans to increase the penalties for retailers found selling tobacco to those under age – including against those allowing vending machines to be used by under 18s. The detailed proposals have yet to be published, but will take the form of a negative licensing scheme. Outlets found guilty of selling tobacco to under 18s on more than 3 occasions within 2 years will be banned from selling tobacco in the future.

Currently, test purchasing operations for cigarettes have not focused on vending machine sales, but there is evidence that some Trading Standards Officers are keen to do so. The health lobby has also indicated that vending machines are their next target and an eventual ban seems likely.

At present, there is no offence of attempting to buy cigarettes whilst under age but we have added our weight to a campaign by the British Retail Consortium. An Early Day Motion has been tabled in Parliament by Dawn Butler MP.

- **Poker in Pubs:** the Gambling Commission has issued new advice to licensing authorities on poker, bingo and other small scale gambling games being held in pubs – allowed for the first time in September 2007 following the introduction of the new Gambling Act. Whilst directed at those enforcing the new law, the advice contains useful information for operators wishing to host small scale gambling on their premises to help them avoid breaking the law. A copy of the advice and relevant codes of practice is available to [download here](#)
- **Portman Group:** The Portman Group has issued a [retailer alert](#) banning three products – Iganoff Cannabis-Flavoured Vodka, Perigan's Cannabis-Flavoured Gin and Rodnik's Cannabis-Flavoured Absinthe. Licensees should not place orders for these products after 22 January and should aim to sell through any existing stock by this date.
- **Political Digest:** the latest edition of our digest provides information and advice on all recent and forthcoming changes in the law and political debate. You can [download a copy from our website.](#)

For news and information on these and other issues – together with details of forthcoming events – visit our website www.almr.org.uk

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