

ALMR Press Notice

ALMR GIVES FULL PICTURE ON LICENSING ACT

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Leading trade body for pubs and bars the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (*ALMR*) has urged decision makers to look at the full picture of the effects of the Licensing Act 2003. The call comes in the light of Local Government Association (LGA) claims that the policy has been a “failure” in reducing alcohol-related disorder.

The LGA states that “around seven out of ten police authorities, PCTs and councils reported an increase or no change in alcohol-related incidents.” However, a full look at the figures shows only 10% of local authorities thought that alcohol related disorder has increased under the Licensing Act, compared with 25% who thought it had decreased. Likewise, just 4% of local authorities thought alcohol-related disorder had increased, compared with 16% - four times as many - who thought it had decreased.

ALMR Chief Executive Nick Bish comments:

“I understand that the LGA has an annual conference to promote. However, this sort of misleading press comment is not helpful. Mounting evidence, including the Government’s far-reaching review, has shown that the Licensing Act has been far from the disaster it is widely portrayed. It is high time that bodies such as the LGA laid off our pubs and bars and instead acknowledged the significant steps that they have taken to promote sensible drinking.”

<ENDS>

Notes for 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 almost 100 member companies, operating over 15,000 outlets.
- The LGA's survey and press release are available online at <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=765218>
- The Department of Culture, Media and Sport's Evaluation of the Impact of the Licensing Act 2003 is available online at http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/3574.aspx

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