

Humza Yousaf MSP First Minister Scottish Government Sent by email: firstminister@gov.scot

23 May 2023

AN OPEN LETTER FROM FAMILIES TO THE FIRST MINISTER: HEAR OUR VOICE ON ALCOHOL MARKETING TOO!

Dear First Minister

As family members and friends harmed by a loved one's alcohol use, we welcomed the Scottish Government's commitment in November 2018 to tackling alcohol marketing in Scotland. We also welcomed the consultation on this issue when it was finally published four years later, in November 2022.

So we were shocked to hear your announcement to the Scottish Parliament on 18 April that you have taken these long-awaited proposals "back to the drawing board", to take "a fresh look at this issue" due to alcohol industry concerns.

We live every day with the impact of our loved one's drinking – whether they are still actively using alcohol, are in recovery, or where they have died. We are people from all corners of Scotland and from all walks of life.

The aim of alcohol marketing is to encourage over-consumption. The industry's profits rely on Scotland drinking too much, too often. Our 'Alcohol Everywhere' culture harms whole families and whole communities – children, young people and adults. Alcohol is in your face, no matter where you look, and there is no part of daily life in Scotland which is alcohol-free.

The World Health Organisation has identified restricting alcohol marketing as one of the most effective ways to reduce harm – one of their three 'best buys' along with tackling price and availability. We do not need to consult on this.

We have heard the noise made by the alcohol industry about the proposals to restrict alcohol marketing. It is not surprising that they will do everything to maintain the status quo.

However we also have a voice and we need to be heard. We do not have the power or influence of the alcohol industry, we do not have an army of lobbyists or a multi-million pound PR machine to amplify our voices. Our daily lives are shaped by chaos, exhaustion, disappointment, grief and loss. We do not have the time, energy or resources to compete with the industry. But you have let our voice be drowned out by those with money, power and influence.

We need you to hear us and to hear our stories. We matter too – our families matter, our communities matter. In the past four years, since the Scottish Government publicly committed to tackling alcohol marketing, over 4,500 more people in Scotland have died directly through alcohol. They include our family members, our friends, our colleagues, our loved ones. How many more people will die, how many more lives shattered, how many more families destroyed before you hear our voice?

Yours sincerely,

1.	James	Allan	Forth Valley
2.	Marjorie	Allan	, Forth Valley
3.	J	Allen	, Lothian
4.	Allison	Archdeacon	Inverclyde
5.	F	Balkwill	Forth Valley
6.	Amanda	Barr	Stirling
7.	Sarah	Baxter	Edinburgh
8.	Fiona	Blacklaw	East Lothian
9.	Gillian	Bolton	Fife
10.	Jane	Boylan	Forth Valley
11.	R	Bradley	Glasgow
12.	Lorraine	Briwn	Forth Valley
13.	Sandra	Broadfoot	South Lanarkshire
14.	Alexandra	Broadfoot	South Lanarkshire
15.	Alex	Brown	Falkirk
16.	Catriona	Burnett	East Dunbartonshire
17.	Julie	Calder	Highland
18.	S	Campbell	Fife
19.	С	Campbell	Forth Valley
20.	А	Cassels	Glasgow
21.	J	Cassels	Stirling
22.	S	Cavill	East Lothian
23.	Sarah	Chadfield	Dumfries and Galloway
24.	Karen	Coats	Lothian
25.	Janette	Coleman	Midlothian
26.	Μ	Cooper	Fife
27.	Margaret	Crail	West Lothian
28.	Caroline Brice	Cummings	Greenock

29.	Callum	Davidson	Area not disclosed
30.	Jane	Dewar	Edinburgh
31.	Agnes	Donnachie	Inverclyde
32.	V	Dougal	Lothian
33.	David	Drysdale	Glasgow
34.	Duncan J	Drysdale	Argyll
35.	Andrew	Drysdale	Stirling
36.	E	Duncan	Area not disclosed
37.	S	E	Falkirk
38.	Annemarie	Egan	Fife
39.	Peter	Eyles	West Lothian
40.	Μ	Farmer	Fife
41.	Maria	Fernandez	Fife
42.	К	Fitzsimons	North Lanarkshire
43.	A	Fleming	East Ayrshire
44.	FF	Ford	Forth Valley
45.	Suzie	Gallagher	Inverclyde
46.	Jennifer	Gallagher	Inverclyde
47.	Kimberley	Glencross	West Dunbartonshire
48.	Elizabeth	Glonek	Fife
49.	João	Gonçalves	Inverclyde
50.	Susan	Grant	Edinburgh
51.	Ann-Marie	Gray	Aberdeenshire
52.	С	Hagen	Inverclyde
53.	Penny	Halliday	Dumfries and Galloway
54.	Andrew	Hayne	Inverclyde
55.	Р	Henderson	Forth Valley
56.	Kirsten	Holland	Fife
57.	Sandra	Holmes	Lothian
58.	Lynsey	Houston	Edinburgh
59.	Alyson	Hutton	Fife
60.	Catherine	Johnson	Central
61.	J	Jones	Lothian
62.	L	Kiltie	Fife
63.	E	Lennox	Greater Glasgow and Clyde
64.	0	Lo	Falkirk
65.	Derrick	Louden	South Lanarkshire
66.	Μ	Louden	South Ayrshire
67.	J	Macdonald	Greater Glasgow and Clyde
68.	Pauline Tierney	Macdonald	Stirling
69.	Ν	Macdonald	Lothian
70.	Karen	Macdonald	East Dunbartonshire

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96.Sharon JeanNicilForth Valley97.BethNorwellWest Lothian98.GNoto La DiegaGlasgow99.SarahO'HareGlasgow100.DennisOwensonLothian101.CarolynPatersonMidlothian102.JuliaPatonWest Lothian103.ChristinaPenmanArea not disclosed104.JReidFalkirk Council area105.LRenwickEdinburgh106.RuthRitchieDumfries and Galloway107.AlisonRobertsonHighland108.GRobertsonForth Valley109.ChristinaRoughEdinburgh110.RaudiaRoughEdinburgh111.RSInverclyde	94.	А	Morrison	Forth Valley
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100.DennisOwensonLothian101.CarolynPatersonMidlothian102.JuliaPatonWest Lothian103.ChristinaPenmanArea not disclosed104.JReidFalkirk Council area105.LRenwickEdinburgh106.RuthRitchieDumfries and Galloway107.AlisonRobertsonHighland108.GRobertsonForth Valley109.ChristinaRodriguezInverclyde110.ClaudiaRoughEdinburgh111.RSInverclyde	98.	G	Noto La Diega	Glasgow
101.CarolynPatersonMidlothian102.JuliaPatonWest Lothian103.ChristinaPenmanArea not disclosed104.JReidFalkirk Council area105.LRenwickEdinburgh106.RuthRitchieDumfries and Galloway107.AlisonRobertsonHighland108.GRobertsonForth Valley109.ChristinaRodriguezInverclyde110.ClaudiaRoughEdinburgh	99.	Sarah	O'Hare	Glasgow
102.JuliaPatonWest Lothian103.ChristinaPenmanArea not disclosed104.JReidFalkirk Council area105.LRenwickEdinburgh106.RuthRitchieDumfries and Galloway107.AlisonRobertsonHighland108.GRobertsonForth Valley109.ChristinaRoughEdinburgh110.ClaudiaRoughEdinburgh111.RSInverclyde	100.	Dennis	Owenson	Lothian
103.ChristinaPenmanArea not disclosed104.JReidFalkirk Council area105.LRenwickEdinburgh106.RuthRitchieDumfries and Galloway107.AlisonRobertsonHighland108.GRobertsonForth Valley109.ChristinaRoughInverclyde110.ClaudiaRoughEdinburgh111.RSInverclyde	101.	Carolyn	Paterson	Midlothian
104.JReidFalkirk Council area105.LRenwickEdinburgh106.RuthRitchieDumfries and Galloway107.AlisonRobertsonHighland108.GRobertsonForth Valley109.ChristinaRodriguezInverclyde110.ClaudiaRoughEdinburgh111.RSInverclyde	102.	Julia	Paton	West Lothian
105.LRenwickEdinburgh106.RuthRitchieDumfries and Galloway107.AlisonRobertsonHighland108.GRobertsonForth Valley109.ChristinaRodriguezInverclyde110.ClaudiaRoughEdinburgh111.RSInverclyde	103.	Christina	Penman	Area not disclosed
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107.AlisonRobertsonHighland108.GRobertsonForth Valley109.ChristinaRodriguezInverclyde110.ClaudiaRoughEdinburgh111.RSInverclyde	105.	L	Renwick	Edinburgh
108.GRobertsonForth Valley109.ChristinaRodriguezInverclyde110.ClaudiaRoughEdinburgh111.RSInverclyde	106.	Ruth	Ritchie	Dumfries and Galloway
109.ChristinaRodriguezInverclyde110.ClaudiaRoughEdinburgh111.RSInverclyde	107.	Alison	Robertson	Highland
110.ClaudiaRoughEdinburgh111.RSInverclyde	108.	G	Robertson	Forth Valley
111. R S Inverclyde	109.	Christina	Rodriguez	Inverclyde
· ·	110.	Claudia	Rough	Edinburgh
112. H Salter Midlothian	111.	R	S	Inverclyde
	112.	Н	Salter	Midlothian

113.	Linda	Scott	Fife
114.	E	Sergeant	Forth Valley
115.	L	Shaw	Fife
116.	Joseph	Somerville	Port Glasgow
117.	Shonagh Lisa	Soutar	Fife
118.	I	Stewart	Midlothian
119.	С	Sykes	Edinburgh
120.	E	Sykes	Edinburgh
121.	J	Sykes	Edinburgh
122.	Kirsteen	Tares	Tayside
123.	Alexandra	Taylor	Edinburgh
124.	Diane	Thomson	East Dunbartonshire
125.	S	Thomson	Forth Valley
126.	Gary	Thomson	Paisley
127.	В	Trowell	Midlothian
128.	Sharon	Tully	Falkirk Council area
129.	С	Varendonck	Renfrewshire
130.	J	W	Fife
131.	Claire	Wadsworth	Glasgow
132.	Jacqueline	Walker	Forth Valley
133.	Alison	Ward	Forth Valley
134.	Μ	Williams	Midlothian
135.	Renate	Wolf	Forth Valley
136.	Gail	Wright	Falkirk Council area
137.	С	Yilmaz	Lothian

Please note: Names have been listed in alphabetical order of surname. To enable signatories to retain the anonymity of their families if preferred, they were invited to sign with their initials or full name, along with their town, local authority or health board area.

CONTACT

This letter has been coordinated by Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs, on behalf of the signatories. For further information, please contact: *Justina Murray, CEO, email ceo@sfad.org.uk, mob 0790 428 0669.*

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