



Mr John Brogan
Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation Division
Department of the Environment

By email: drinkdrive@doeni.gov.uk

21 September 2012

Dear Mr Brogan,

Road Traffic (Drink Driving) (Amendment) Bill

I am writing on behalf of the Alcohol Health Alliance UK to express our support for the proposed Road Traffic (Drink Driving) (Amendment) Bill.

The Alcohol Health Alliance (AHA) UK is a group of 31 organisations whose mission is to reduce the damage caused to health by alcohol misuse. The AHA, coordinated by the Royal College of Physicians, works together to:

- highlight the rising levels of alcohol-related health harm
- propose evidence-based solutions to reduce this harm
- influence decision makers to take positive action to address the damage caused by alcohol misuse.

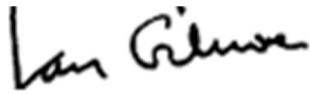
For a full list of members of AHA UK, please visit the Royal College of Physicians website (www.rcplondon.ac.uk/policy/reducing-health-harms/alcohol).

AHA UK would particularly like to express our support for the lower Blood Alcohol Content limits and new powers for police to undertake check point breath tests outlined in the Bill. As the Department of the Environment's 2009 consultation report highlighted, there is strong public support in Northern Ireland for this measure.

These changes are in line with the recommendations of the Review of Drink and Drug Driving Law in Great Britain conducted by Sir Peter North in 2010, which AHA UK supported. The 2010 NICE review into the effectiveness of blood alcohol limits concluded that reducing the Blood Alcohol Content limit from 80 mg/100 ml to 50 mg/100 ml is effective in reducing road traffic injuries and deaths.

Malta and the United Kingdom remain the only European countries with a blood alcohol limit above 50mg/100ml and we welcome Northern Ireland leading the way on implementing this measure, which is vital for reducing the number of deaths and injuries on UK's roads each year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Gilmore". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Professor Sir Ian Gilmore
Chair, Alcohol Health Alliance UK

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