

Police Scotland

There has been some discussion nationally within Police Scotland about off sale premises and the amount of alcohol stolen from them.

As you know it's an established practice for stores to keep their alcohol on open display, which makes it very easy to steal regardless of security tags, CCTV etc.

Stores in general appear to only consider their profit margins when reviewing the loss of alcohol by shoplifting and don't take into account the licensing objectives, particularly:

Protecting and Improving Public Health

Protecting Children from Harm

Preventing Crime and Disorder

Those stealing alcohol tend to be children and those from a poorer demographic whose health outcomes are proportionately are greater at risk from alcohol abuse. Not to forget smaller organised crime groups who target alcohol.

Would it be possible to add something to the new policy statements, that reinforces the duty of 'off sale' premises to secure their alcohol stocks from theft? This would allow the police to start submitting representations in relation to this security issue and it would be beneficial if the representations were in line with the new policy.

I appreciate it's not for Boards to enforce crime prevention measures, but the consumption of stolen alcohol is strongly linked to alcohol abuse, underage drinking, antisocial behaviour etc.