

Notice of Motion

Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee on 2 May 2023

Committee notes that the UK Government's Spring Budget 2023 includes a 10.1% increase on spirits duty.

Committee further notes that the Scottish Whisky Association has described the increase as a "historic blow to the Scotch whisky industry"¹ that will "reduce already tight margins for an industry that employs tens of thousands of people and invests hundreds of millions annually across the UK", and that Moray MP said that the increase is "a blow to the industry which is so vital for jobs and the local economy in Moray"².

Committee recognises that the Scottish Whisky Association suggests that the duty increase will limit the industry's ability to reinvest in job creation.

Committee recognises that roughly 50 percent of Scotland's whisky is produced in Speyside, and that the duty increase will therefore disproportionately negatively impact Moray's job market.

Committee instructs the Chair of the Economic Development and Infrastructure to write to the Chancellor asking that the duty on spirits be reduced as a matter of urgency.

Proposer: Cllr Juli Harris

Seconder: Cllr Sonya Warren

¹<https://www.scotch-whisky.org.uk/newsroom/scotch-whisky-hit-with-historic-blow-after-tax-increase/>

²<https://www.forres-gazette.co.uk/news/moray-mp-very-disappointed-by-whisky-duty-hike-as-msp-hits-307036/>