

APPG on Alcohol Harm  
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23.10.2015

Dear Chair and Vice Chairs of the APPG on Alcohol Harm,

**RE: All-Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Harm Inquiry: 'Impact of Alcohol on the Emergency Services'**

On behalf of the Institute of Alcohol Studies, I would like to submit our report called "Alcohol's impact on emergency services" as evidence to your inquiry.

The report presents an extensive survey of police officers, ambulance and paramedic staff, accident and emergency department consultants and fire officers. It outlines the both the financial burden on the emergency services and the human cost to frontline staff. The report also recommends a set of evidence-based policy measures to address this issue.

Survey findings include:

- Violence against emergency services is ubiquitous, with 76% of police, and 50% of ambulance staff, having been injured on the job as a result of drunken violence
- Between a third and a half of emergency service staff have suffered sexual harassment or assault in the line of duty
- Alcohol takes up as much as half of emergency service time
- Emergency services are increasingly stretched, with over 90% of police and ambulance staff reporting they have performed the role of another blue light service in dealing with alcohol-related incidents
- Over half of emergency service staff feel inadequately trained to deal with alcohol-related incidents

*Alcohol's impact on emergency services* presents the findings of a set of large voluntary online surveys of frontline staff, conducted between June and August 2015. 4,022 police, 398 ambulance, 325 Emergency Department and 169 fire and rescue staff responded in total. The surveys were designed and disseminated

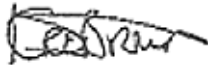
**Advisory Council**

Chairman: Michael Carr, Vice-Chair: Rev Dr Janet Tollington, Director: Katherine Brown  
Professor Rob Baggott, Professor Jonathan Shepherd, Professor Gerard Hastings, Dr Jane Marshall,  
Professor Marsha Morgan, Professor Petra Meier, Professor David Jernigan, Professor Jeff Collin  
Secretary to the Board: Paul Whitaker

with the support of the National Police Chiefs' Council, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, College of Paramedics, the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and the Chief Fire Officers' Association.

The report, together with background information and an animation presenting the report, can be found on our webpage: <http://www.ias.org.uk/What-we-do/IAS-reports.aspx>

Kind regards,



Katherine Brown  
Director,  
Institute of Alcohol Studies

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