

Positive Action Group

Hon J A Brown Esq MHK
Chief Minister
Chief Minister's Office
Government Office
Bucks Road
Douglas IM1 3PG

15th July 2008

Dear Chief Minister

We are a political lobby group committed to encourage people's interest and involvement in Island politics. One way we aim to achieve this is by holding regular open public meetings where topics of political interest are discussed and debated.

At one such P A G meeting in February 2008 entitled, 'Alcohol in Our Society', it was resolved by the members present that the existing Drug and Alcohol Strategy be modified and a new, dedicated, Alcohol Strategy be created.

Since then there has been considerable interest, in the media, about the existing Strategy, and we are aware that you and your Ministers recognise the public disquiet that exists.

Rather than just rely on the bald statement of the proposition agreed at our February meeting it was felt necessary to examine in more detail the current situation that is causing concern amongst so many people.

Having completed the exercise we submit 'A Case for a Separate Alcohol Strategy' for consideration by you and your colleagues, and we hope it will contribute to the discussions you may be having.

We believe that in having a combined D & A Strategy where illegal substances (drugs) will, of necessity, demand greater time, attention and resources, alcohol related problems have been left to increase, causing widespread unease.

Another worrying finding is that resources tend to be directed at rehabilitating recognised dependent drinkers. We strongly believe that a wider holistic 'population' approach should be considered where predictably vulnerable sectors of society are helped to modify potentially dangerous drinking habits.

We sincerely trust that you will give our submission serious deliberation.

Yours faithfully

W Roger Tomlinson
Chair - Positive Action Group

The POSITIVE ACTION GROUP,
Chairman: W Roger Tomlinson MBA

26, Woodbourne Court, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM2 3AT Telephone (01624) 863106 e-mail: info@positiveactiongroup.org.