**Consumers: support your wine & spirit industry - email your MP!**

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Who are we?

We are the Wine & Spirit Trade Association (WSTA) and we represent the views of over 300 UK wine and spirit businesses to Government, campaigning for a vibrant and sustainable wine and spirit industry, and helping to build a future in which alcohol is produced, sold and enjoyed responsibly.

Why are we asking you to write to your MP?

The Government has proposed a new system to calculate alcohol duty (tax) which unfairly places a significant financial burden on to the wine and spirit sector. As COVID and Brexit disruption continue to impede the economy, we are concerned that wine and spirit businesses would have little choice but to raise the prices in order to keep afloat, with the industry already facing sky-high bills.

With alcohol duty set to increase by 30% for some products, we would greatly appreciate your support to ensure that prices of our drinks are kept down by advocating for a reduction in alcohol duty for wine and spirits.

We believe it is vital that both the wine and spirit industry and consumers work together as a collective voice if we are to achieve change, and we would be grateful if you could **support us by emailing the below email to your local MP**. Do personalise the highlighted boxes within the letter as you see fit.

We’d love to know when you write to your MP, so please copy in Sophie (Sophie@wsta.co.uk) when you email.

Find your MP

You can find your MP’s details by inputting your postcode, here: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons>

Draft email

**Subject:** Support our wine & spirit industry!

**Cc:** Sophie@wsta.co.uk

Dear [Name of MP],

I am writing to highlight my concern over the Government’s proposed new system to calculate tax on alcoholic drinks.

I understand from [media stories](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/wine-excise-duty-sunak-brexit-b1989237.html) that, under the Government's latest proposals, the lowest alcohol duty rates, which apply to cider and beer (9 and 19p per unit), are going to fall while the much higher rates will remain high for spirits (29p) and increase significantly to 26p for wine. This would mean that over 70% of all wine, 80% of still wine and 90% of red wine would increase in price!

As one of the UK’s more than 30 million UK consumers who enjoys wine, I was expecting the outcome of the review to make tax on alcohol fairer. But these proposals would do the opposite. They would continue to favour cider and beer over wine and spirits. At a time when the cost of living is rising sharply thanks to rising inflation, increases in household energy bills and food prices, it’s a terrible idea to choose to raise taxes, and particularly to penalise wine with such significant duty increases.

As my local MP, I implore you to urge the Chancellor Rishi Sunak and Treasury Minister Helen Whately to change their proposed plans to reform the Alcohol Duty system.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

[Post code]