

# Evaluation of legislation to reduce the drink drive limit in Scotland

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|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Submission date</b><br>02/05/2017   | <b>Recruitment status</b><br>No longer recruiting | <input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered<br><input type="checkbox"/> Protocol            |
| <b>Registration date</b><br>27/06/2017 | <b>Overall study status</b><br>Completed          | <input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results |
| <b>Last Edited</b><br>11/07/2023       | <b>Condition category</b><br>Other                | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data                                              |

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

Since 5th December 2014, drivers and riders of vehicles in Scotland have been subject to a stricter drink-drive policy (0.05 g/dL blood alcohol concentration limit) than the rest of Great Britain where the limit has remained unchanged (0.08 g/dL). The fact that a change in drink driving policy has happened in Scotland but not in other parts of Great Britain provides a perfect opportunity to conduct a “natural experiment” to assess whether the change resulted in health gains for Scotland as a whole, and helped reduce differences in health outcomes between the least and most deprived groups in society. The aim of our project is to formally evaluate the change in drink driving legislation.

### Who can participate?

The entire population of Scotland, England and Wales.

### What does the study involve?

The research team review the number of road traffic accidents by reviewing police data of road accidents recorded in a database every week for the four year study period. Information about the amount of alcohol sold is also observed using market research every four weeks for the four year study period.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There are no direct benefits or risks involved with participating

### Where is the study run from?

University of Glasgow (UK)

### When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

December 2014 to December 2017

### Who is funding the study?

National Institute for Health Research (UK)

Who is the main contact?  
Dr Jim Lewsey  
jim.lewsey@glasgow.ac.uk

## Contact information

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

**Contact name**  
Dr Jim Lewsey

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## Additional identifiers

**Protocol serial number**  
NIHR PHR 14/186/58

## Study information

**Scientific Title**  
Evaluation of legislation to reduce the drink drive limit in Scotland: a natural experiment

**Study objectives**  
Research questions:  
1. Has the change in drink driving legislation in Scotland been effective (reduction in RTAs)?  
2. Has the change in drink driving legislation in Scotland led to changes in relative and absolute RTA rates that differ by levels of socio-economic deprivation?  
3. Has the change in drink driving legislation in Scotland led to a reduction in population alcohol consumption?  
4. Has the change in drink driving legislation in Scotland provided good value for money (been cost-effective)?

**Ethics approval required**  
Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**  
Submission to MVLS College Ethics Committee, University of Glasgow. The committee reviewed the application and agreed that there is no objection on ethical grounds to the proposed study (letter dated 22/06/16).

**Primary study design**

Observational

**Study design**

Observational natural experiment design

**Study type(s)**

Other

**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Road traffic accidents and per capita alcohol consumption.

**Interventions**

In Scotland, the drink drive policy was updated and came into effect on 5th December 2014, lowering to 50mg per 100ml of blood from 80mg. In the rest of Great Britain, the limit has remained at 0.08 g/dL.

Road traffic accidents and alcohol consumption by reviewing databases (STATS19 and Nielsen market research). There observations will take place a weekly basis over the 4-year study period for road traffic accidents and 4-weekly over the 4-year study period for alcohol sales data.

**Intervention Type**

Other

**Primary outcome(s)**

Road traffic accident counts will be measured by STATS19 police data of road accidents in Great Britain on a weekly basis over the 4-year study period.

**Key secondary outcome(s)**

1. Off-trade per capita alcohol sales will be measured by alcohol retail sales data from Nielsen market research company on a 4-weekly basis over the 4-year study period
2. On-trade per capita alcohol sales will be measured by alcohol retail sales data from Nielsen market research company on a 4-weekly basis over the 4-year study period

**Completion date**

31/12/2017

**Eligibility****Key inclusion criteria**

The entire population of Scotland (intervention) and England and Wales (control).

**Participant type(s)**

All

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

All

**Sex**

All

**Key exclusion criteria**

No exclusion criteria

**Date of first enrolment**

05/12/2012

**Date of final enrolment**

05/12/2016

**Locations****Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

Scotland

**Study participating centre****University of Glasgow**

Institute of Health and Wellbeing

1 Lilybank Gardens

Glasgow

United Kingdom

G12 8RZ

**Sponsor information****Organisation**

University of Glasgow

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/00vtgdb53>

**Funder(s)****Funder type**

Government

**Funder Name**

National Institute for Health Research

Alternative Name(s)

National Institute for Health Research, NIHR Research, NIHRresearch, NIHR - National Institute for Health Research, NIHR (The National Institute for Health and Care Research), NIHR

Funding Body Type

Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype

National government

Location

United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The current data sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date.

IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

Study outputs

| Output type                     | Details                                                        | Date created | Date added | Peer reviewed? | Patient-facing? |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <a href="#">Results article</a> | results                                                        | 26/01/2019   |            | Yes            | No              |
| <a href="#">Results article</a> | effect on road traffic accident numbers or alcohol consumption | 30/06/2019   | 11/07/2023 | Yes            | No              |