



26 November 2008

Distillers welcome excise duty change

Scotch Whisky distillers have welcomed the UK Government's clarification of changes to the excise duty on Scotch Whisky, following this week's Pre-Budget Report.

Draft legislation published today raises excise duty by 4% rather than the originally proposed 8%. On the basis of the revised figures, taking into account a temporary 2.5% cut in VAT, the overall duty burden on Scotch Whisky will remain broadly unchanged.

Gavin Hewitt, Chief Executive of The Scotch Whisky Association, said:

"The SWA welcomes the Government's quick and positive action to ensure that the overall duty burden faced by Scotch Whisky in its home market remains broadly unchanged as a result of this week's Pre-Budget Report. This is a good signal to our many overseas markets."

- ENDS -

Note to Editors:

For further information, please contact David Williamson (0131 222 9230 or 07730 496 151).