UK Spirits

appg

Annual Report of Activities

2026

Introduction

This report provides details of the activities, management and future plans of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Spirits.

The UK Spirits All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) was established in July 2025 to promote the value of the spirits sector to the UK economy and wider society; boost awareness of the economic, cultural, and community benefits of the UK spirits trade; and connect parliamentarians with distillers and trade representatives from their own constituencies.

Over the past year, the APPG has published a major inquiry report into the impact of excise duty on UK distillers, held evidence sessions and an industry showcase in Parliament, and made several evidence submissions to HM Treasury. Members of the group have spoken up for spirits producers in the House and in debates on a range of challenges facing the industry, including on alcohol duty, the value of spirits to pubs and the wider hospitality sector, extended producer responsibility, deposit return schemes and more.

This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. All-Party Parliamentary Groups are informal groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues. The views expressed in this report are those of the group.

A note from the Chair

This year I have been delighted to drive forward the work of the All Party-Parliamentary Group for UK Spirits, alongside a group of committed cross-party colleagues who join me in raising the profile of the struggles facing Britain’s iconic spirits sector. With hundreds of producers across the UK, most MPs will have at least one distiller in or around their constituency and their impact is wider than their footprint – they are an integral part of the hospitality sector, helping restaurants, pubs and bars not only survive but thrive.

Whilst we reflect on our successes over the previous year in sharing the story of the spirits industry with Westminster, we must recognise this is an industry that is currently feeling a great deal of pain.

Excise duty has been increased by 17% in the last 3 years, which has further compounded financial challenges already crippling producers. The spirits sector is being unfairly discriminated against and the way that excise duty is applied must be reconsidered. HM Treasury has lost money as a result, with receipts down by £94 million in the last year alone and £1.1 billion lower than initially forecast.

If the Government is serious about delivering growth and supporting the hospitality sector, it must also be serious about backing the spirits industry and the distillers who are at the cutting edge of innovation. This year, HM Treasury has launched a review of the Government's excise duty regime. We've heard from numerous distillers across the past year who have all made clear that reforming the excise duty would make a tangible difference. It's vital this review is not simply a tick-boxing exercise, and the work of the APPG in the coming year will reflect the importance of getting it right for the industry.

I look forward to the year ahead and continuing to bring colleagues together to be the cross-party voice for thousands of UK distillers who support Britain's world-class hospitality sector.

Carolyn Harris MP
Chair, UK Spirits APPG

UK Spirits APPG Officers

Chair
Carolyn Harris MP
(Labour)

Officer
Peter Dowd MP
(Labour)

Officer
Joe Robertson MP
(Conservative)

Officer
Mike Reader MP
(Labour)

Secretariat: The UK Spirits APPG secretariat has been provided by iNHouse Communications on behalf of the UK Spirits Alliance.

UK Spirits APPG Activities

During this period, the UK Spirits APPG has undertaken the following events & activities

- July 2025: Inaugural General Meeting
- September 2025: Spirits Showcase
- September 2025: Launch of inquiry on the impact of excise duty for UK distillers

- November 2025: Report Publication on impact of excise duty
- November 2025: Budget Submission
- February 2026: EGM to elect Mike Reader MP as Officer
- June 2026: Submission to HMT Excise Review Consultation
- A number of informal officers and members meetings were held during the reporting period.

UK Spirits APPG future activities

- Inquiry into Excise Duty, including oral evidence sessions
- Spirits Industry Showcase
- Spirits Industry Dinner