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School for Public Health Research @ LSHTM (SPHR@L)

SPHR@L Seminar Series: 2014-2015

A talk by **Dr Niamh Fitzgerald**
University of Stirling

Wednesday, 20th May 2015, 5:15-6:30pm; Reception to follow

LSHTM, Room G9 (Faculty Meeting Room) 15-17 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SH

**Using alcohol licensing to achieve public health objectives: limits and
limitations**

Abstract

Alcohol licensing legislation in Scotland has included the objective of 'protecting and improving public health' since 2005. It also includes a requirement that local licensing board policies report on the extent to which 'overprovision' of licensed premises exists within any given locality. In this seminar, Dr Niamh Fitzgerald, University of Stirling, will report on an interview study that explored how public health representatives have attempted to influence local alcohol licensing policies and decisions in Scotland. In particular the research considered how they sought to ensure that the public health licensing objective was understood and implemented and to identify the factors which have been important in their experiences for helping or hindering their efforts. Dr Fitzgerald will discuss the efforts required to make progress on influencing licensing towards public health, the importance of individual attitudes, bias, relationships and systemic issues. She will reflect on the current and potential role and purpose of alcohol licensing in the context of wider alcohol policy, from the perspective of the public health community.

Dr Niamh Fitzgerald is Lecturer in Alcohol Studies at the Institute for Social Marketing, UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies at the University of Stirling. She is interested in alcohol policy and interventions in particular how policies are understood and presented by and for different audiences. She has extensive teaching, implementation and research experience in alcohol screening and brief interventions, particularly in primary care, antenatal and youth settings.