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ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

Press Enquiries:

**0121 335 8412/8411 (Mon 20th – Thurs 23rd March)
or 07050 189 821**

**STATEMENT FROM THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF
GASTROENTEROLOGY FOLLOWING THE CHANCELLOR'S BUDGET
ANNOUNCEMENT**

“The British Society of Gastroenterology is disappointed and concerned that the level of increase in the duty on alcohol is not higher. It should have been increased at a level far higher than inflation to limit drinking.

“Our members see the effects of increased alcohol consumption in increased rates of liver disease and death from liver failure.

“Price is a key determinant of the amount people drink. The evidence is overwhelming and shows that the cheaper alcohol is, the more people drink.

“Alcohol has never been cheaper in modern times. By keeping the price low, the Chancellor has ensured that alcohol consumption will remain high - among the highest in Europe.

“Only this morning at its Annual Scientific Meeting, BSG members learnt that for the first time, the rate of deaths from cirrhosis of the liver is higher in the UK than in France. That is not something we should be proud of.”

Ends

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