

Robert Kilroy-Silk writes...on Alcohol Abuse and 24-Hour Drinking

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What are the Government trying to do to us? Why is it insisting on introducing 24 hour drinking when everyone who will be affected by it is so opposed?

The police think that the idea is daft. They say that they cannot cope with the current problem of drink induced disorder and crime and that it will be impossible to police twenty-four hours of drunken yobbery.

The medical profession also believe that the Government's plan is barmy. It says the hospitals that are already under pressure from alcohol – casualty departments will be overrun and the cost to the NHS will run to millions of pounds.

So why are the Government persisting? What motivates ministers? Why are they so determined to ignore expert opinion and create a society dominated by gambling and drink?

Is this the Blair vision of the New Britain? And then he wonders why he fails to connect with decent, hard-working families