



**Making Sense of Science**

## **Don't Drink and Drive (at all).**

**In this party season, new research by Bericon Forensics has shown a significant percentage of the population favour a total drink drive ban**

By Alan Baker  
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As UK police forces begin their annual drink drive initiative to snare drivers who exceed the statutory limit, research\* by Bericon Forensics, an independent consultancy, has shown that almost 70% of individuals who took part in an online survey supported a total drink drive ban.

When asked whether there should be a zero drink drive limit, 69% of respondents said yes. The current drink drive limit of 80 milligrammes per 100 millilitres of blood (80mg%) was introduced in 1967 and whilst there is a public consultation currently underway in Scotland to reduce the figure to 50mg% it seems that the rest of the UK is lagging behind in any review process.

The survey also revealed some interesting consistency between gender; 66% of men and 72% of women supported a zero tolerance approach.

A review of the any effects of age showed that of the three age groups to be profiled, the largest percentage (76%) to favour a total ban were in middle age and the smallest percentage (63%) was for those over 55.

Bericon's Managing Director, Alan Baker, whose company has prepared forensic reports for Court in drink driving cases for 30 years commented that "The fact that there isn't a zero tolerance may encourage people to drink and drive and could explain why so many people guess if they are under or over the limit, especially those that drive the morning after a heavy drinking session the night before."

### **About Bericon Forensics**

Bericon Forensics has provided first class forensic science consultancy to the legal profession and other organisations for 30 years and is one of the oldest independent forensic consultancy organisations in the UK.

Formed in 1982, the company worked from a Nottingham base until 2004 when it was bought by its current Managing Director, Alan Baker, who subsequently relocated the business to Stoke on Trent.

The core business aims to present a "one stop shop" for forensic science and can assist in cases involving drink driving, alcohol calculations, drug driving, blood pattern analysis, DNA, drug analysis and valuation, fingerprints, electronic tags (PID), gunshot or firearms discharge residue (GSR), handwriting, glass, fibres and footwear marks.

For more information, please visit <http://www.bericon.co.uk>

\*Survey of 200 people on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012.