

## **Alcohol related companies**

### ***Preamble***

The 1999 position paper '*Investment in Alcohol Related Companies*' reached two key conclusions deriving from both Biblical teaching and also the Wesleyan tradition:

- that alcohol was not a bad thing in itself;
- but that considering the ways it was used was crucial.

It also decided that the overall exposure of any company to alcoholic drinks was relevant.

### ***Precedents***

Historically, there have been two important precedents:

- Epworth divested from a food retailer on ethical grounds when the proportion of its sales from alcohol rose above 20%;
- however, although a transport group was placed under review when alcohol sales were believed to be approaching 20%, the holding was retained.

### ***Policy statement***

Epworth should:

- consider involvement in spirits and alcopops more negatively than that in beer and wine;
- continue to avoid investment in companies with a significant exposure to the production and sale of alcohol;
- continue to avoid companies which control licensed premises whose commercial success is mainly linked to increased drinking. Investment in hotel chains or restaurants where alcohol is served as an ancillary function to their main business should not be ruled out on this ground alone.

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