**The following response to the Lancet study 'Alcohol use and burden for 195 countries and territories, 1990-2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016' was provided on August 24th.**

“We are committed to encouraging responsible choices about alcohol.

“Many choices in life carry potential risks and benefits.  While some people choose not to drink, health authorities in many countries have developed drinking guidelines to provide guidance on moderate consumption. We believe that for adults of legal drinking age who choose to drink, moderate alcohol consumption can be part of a well-balanced lifestyle.

 “Those with specific questions about their own drinking are encouraged to consult their health professionals.”