

British laws fail to reduce alcohol crime

by UPI

LONDON -- British officials said Tuesday that 24-hour liquor licensing laws have failed to meet their aim of reducing alcohol-related crime. Culture Secretary Andy Burnham said an eight-month review of the legislation found some evidence that the rates of violence and disorder late at night have risen since the laws were introduced, The Daily Telegraph reported Tuesday. "It is clear that the overall reduction in alcohol-related disorder we wanted to see across the country has not materialized consistently in all areas," Burnham said. He said the government is taking steps to "crack down" on drunken behavior and to punish bars that serve children and intoxicated patrons. Burnham said a new "yellow card, red card" warning system has been developed to remove alcohol licenses from establishments that violate liquor laws. "The government remains determined to address these issues, and the report published today has helped us identify a number of ways we can go further to protect the public, both in terms of using all the flexibilities in the act to crack down on irresponsible behavior but also introducing new initiatives to tackle anti-social behavior associated with alcohol consumption," he said.

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