

Local Licensing Forum

Report on availability of information from other Forums

Background

Under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 each Council must establish a Local Licensing Forum for their area. The Forum must meet regularly (at least 4 meetings in each calendar year). The purpose of this report is to identify which information regarding Licensing Forums in other areas is available. The Licensing Forum felt it would be beneficial to see how other Forums deal with similar issues.

Aberdeenshire Council

Aberdeenshire is divided into three licensing divisions and, instead of establishing one Local Licensing Forum for the area, the Council established 3 separate Forums for each licensing division; North, Central and South Aberdeenshire.

Aberdeenshire.gov.uk, the Aberdeenshire Council's website, provides access to agendas and minutes for all three Licensing Forums. These appear to be quite up-to-date and easily accessible.

Highland Council

Highland.gov.uk publishes the agendas and minutes of its Forum onto their website though these do not appear to be completely up-to-date (most recent agenda is July 2010 and most recent minute is 2009).

Dundee City Council

Dundee.gov.uk also provides copies of agendas and minutes of their Licensing Forum on their website, although I found the agendas quite difficult to find because they are contained with all other council agendas in a chronological basis. This would then entail needing to know the dates of the meetings beforehand.

Moray Council

Moray.gov.uk also has their agendas and minutes available on their website. They appear to be relatively up-to-date. Moray Council also run an online discussion board for Licensing issues. The discussion board ensures that the people of Moray are able to contribute to the system and make their thoughts known, so that the views and concerns of the community can be properly heard and represented. All entries are directed to the most appropriate member and then the query and response are held on the system so that interested parties may view them.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this report shows that, although differing slightly in timeous nature, each Licensing Forum provides both agendas and minutes for their operations. This information is within the public domain and available for all interested parties to view.