

# LICENSING BOARD INFORMATION SHEET

**TYPE OF APPLICATION:** VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE  
**PREMISES:** DUTCH MILL HOTEL, 7 QUEENS ROAD, ABERDEEN

## DESCRIPTION

Variation to remove the wording in the local condition relating to outdoor drinking as follows "(c) that no amplified music or entertainment is to take place in the outdoor area".

The application was deferred at the Board meeting held on 8 February 2022 until such time as a Noise Impact Assessment is submitted and reviewed by Environmental Health.

## OBJECTIONS/REPRESENTATIONS

- Environmental Health

## POLICY

### Preventing Public Nuisance

The Board believes that licensed premises have the potential to have a significant impact on communities. It wishes to maintain and protect the amenity of the surrounding neighbourhoods whilst recognising the valuable cultural and social aspects of such premises.

Whilst licensing powers are not the main statutory mechanism for dealing with public nuisance in general the Board will interpret public nuisance in a wider sense where it relates to the operation of licensed premises, and in particular issues such as noise and litter.

Again, a number of factors should be considered including, but not limited to:

- Location of premises. In particular the proximity to residential or noise sensitive premises such as medical facilities, sheltered housing, schools, places of worship, nurseries and suchlike.
- Hours of operation. Closely related to the location of the premises, the hours of operation should reflect what is appropriate for the surrounding neighbourhood. The terminal hours indicated in the Supplementary Policy on Licensed Hours are the maximum available and will not be suitable for all premises.

- Nature of activities. Any activities carried on in the licensed premises should not be detrimental to the ambience of the locality.
- Outdoor areas. The Board will include a Supplementary Policy on this issue, but applicants will require to ensure that the inclusion of an outdoor licensed area in any premises is appropriate and will not contravene the licensing objective of preventing public nuisance.
- Smoking areas. These should be designed to minimise public nuisance and regularly monitored to cut down on noise and litter.
- Noise from patrons entering and exiting the premises.

#### What the Board Will Do:

- Consider the proximity of proposed licensed premises to noise sensitive premises when considering applications.
- Ensure that licensed hours and activities are appropriate for the type of premises and locality. The terminal hours indicated in the Supplementary Policy on Licensed Hours are the maximum available and will not be suitable for all premises.
- Improve communication between the trade, partners and local communities.
- Impose additional licence conditions where appropriate to prevent public nuisance.
- Highlight best practice where available and increase awareness and education on potential areas of risk.

#### What the Board Will Expect of Licence Holders/Applicants:

- Take a proactive approach to public nuisance with a risk-based approach.
- Be mindful of the location of the premises, hours of operation and activities.
- Comply with all conditions of the premises licence.
- Ensure appropriate control measures are in place and staff training is up to date and relevant.
- Consider public nuisance when establishing the design and layout of the premises.
- Adequate supervision of any outdoor area, smoking area and patrons entering/exiting the premises.
- Sharing of best practice via trade groups.

- Participation in communication to resolve any issues that may arise.
- Co-operation with Police Scotland and Licensing Standards Officers including access to all relevant policies and procedures such as dispersal policies and incident management.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY POLICY – EXTERNAL DRINKING AREAS**

The Board recognises that the incorporation of outdoor areas within the licensed footprint of premises can enhance the operation of such premises but considers that it also attracts additional responsibilities on the part of the licence holder to uphold the licensing objectives.

Before an application to licence an outdoor area will be considered the area in question must benefit from the necessary planning permission and, if required, a pavement permit from the Roads Department of Aberdeen City Council.

All outdoor areas must be delineated on the layout plan forming part of the premises licence and outdoor drinking should be included as an activity within the body of the licence.

The Board will expect premises who currently utilise unlicensed outdoor areas to incorporate such areas within the premises licence by way of variation.

Applicants and licence holders must demonstrate that the areas will not contravene the licensing objectives, in particular with regard to noise, litter and antisocial behaviour. The areas must be regularly monitored, and glassware removed.

The Board will routinely attach additional conditions where an outdoor area is licensed including but not restricted to:

- Outdoor area to be clearly demarcated onsite.
- Use of the area to cease at 2200 hours.
- No amplified music or entertainment to take place in the outdoor area.

The terminal hour may be further restricted, and drinks may be required to be decanted into alternatives to glassware if appropriate.