

General Direction Consultation

The Board are seeking to gauge opinion on dates in 2023 that may be suitable for the grant of a general extension for events of a local or national significance. This would include potential dates within the festive period as well as other significant dates throughout the year. Please send any suggestions to licensing@aberdeencity.gov.uk by Friday 24 March 2023 together with a note of the reasons that suggested dates would be appropriate.

Traditionally the extension has been that of one additional hour to all on-sales premises whose standard hours conform to the Board's maximum daily trading period of 15 hours. Please clarify if you think this should continue to be the case or if you think the extension should be granted in a different manner when suggesting potential dates for consideration.

Consultation responses

- Police Scotland will not support the granting of a general extension of licenced hours with the exception of specific dates, close to and immediately prior to Christmas Day and Hogmanay/New year's Day. We would certainly object to a blanket extension such as the one for December 2022, as there was very little evidence of the trade taking advantage of the extra hour. The limited benefit to the local economy did not justify the negative impact it had on our City Centre resources, which were compelled to remain within the vicinity of those late opening premises to deal with the resultant antisocial behaviour.

The Coronation is another date that stands out but again we see no reason why it justifies additional licensed hours to celebrate it.

General extensions contradict the licensing objectives, by allowing more time to consume alcohol it increases the risks of harm associated with it.

Kind regards

Neil

Neil Grant

Sergeant A9888

- Hi , May Day Sunday into Monday/ Halloween/Local Holiday weekends – 1 hour extension would be appreciated.

- Dear Sirs

I refer to email of 8th February and note the request for opinions on dates which might require later licensing. I feel that the present arrangements over the festive season are adequate, and no further extensions are required. As a

matter of interest, one of the notable effects of the pandemic is that customers are spending more time in pubs in the afternoons rather than evenings and apart from the 18-30 age group, I really cannot see any demand for later opening at present.