

LICENSING BOARD INFORMATION SHEET

TYPE OF APPLICATION: VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

PREMISES: OLD BLACKFRIARS, 52 CASTLEGATE

DESCRIPTION

- Vary the terminal hour on Thursday from 00:00 to 01:00 hours (would be 15 hours continuous trading)

OBJECTIONS/REPRESENTATIONS

- Police Scotland
- NHS Grampian
- Objection x 1

LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT

HOURS OF TRADING – GENERAL & EXTENDED

General

20.1 The Board expects that all applicants for licensed premises will consider hours of trading to be an important issue when preparing their operating plans. Applicants should not overestimate their trading hours just in case they may be required, as this may precipitate a review of the licence. Should licence holders wish to reduce their operating hours this can be done by way a minor variation which can be granted using delegated powers.

20.2 In its approach to hours of trading the Board will distinguish the city centre from all other areas of the city. The Board will define the city centre as that area shown on the map at Appendix 3.

20.3 In determining the hours of trading, the Board will give full consideration to the Scottish Government guidance under the Act and to the provisions of the Act itself. Each case will be dealt with according to its individual circumstances. The Board will deem up to a maximum of 14 hours continuous trading in any 24 hour period to be reasonable. This is in accordance with the aforementioned Government Guidance which further states that any application for licensed hours for more than 14 hours should require further consideration to the effect of granting extra operating hours. The Board will not normally grant hours beyond 00:00 hours outwith the city centre. The Board will not normally grant hours beyond 02:00 hours within the city centre on weekdays and 03:00 hours on Fridays and Saturdays. Function rooms, for private functions only, wherever located, will normally have a terminal hour of 01:00 hours. Any private functions taking place after 00:00 hours may only do so in purpose built function suites. Applicants wishing to trade before 10:00 hours and beyond 01:00 hours will have to show that they have taken account of all the factors at 20.10.

20.4- 20.7 N/A

20.8 Premises in the City that provide significant entertainment (to the satisfaction of the Board) may apply and be granted hours until 02.00 Sunday – Thursday and 03.00 on Fridays and Saturdays .The Board regards significant entertainment to be entertainment which is of such a nature to be the principal attraction for patrons to attend the premises and where alcohol is served to patrons only as an ancillary accompaniment to their attendance and /or participation in the entertainment provided. The Board considers in these cases that the entertainment is the principal reason for patrons attending the licensed premises and that the consumption of alcohol would therefore be ancillary to such entertainment.in order to be consistent with the licensing objectives. This would apply to premises such as nightclubs (with dance floor areas/facilities included in their operating plan and detailed in their layout plan) where recorded or live music for dancing is provided. Other examples of where significant entertainment may apply are discos, DJs, adult entertainment, and live music for concerts, cabaret and theatrical plays. Some examples where the Board does not consider there to be significant entertainment are pool, darts, dominoes, leisure facilities and background music. The Board are entitled to distinguish between premises of different descriptions offering different facilities or activities. e.g. Section 27(9) of the 2005 Act allows the Board to impose conditions in relation to the sale of alcohol on a premises to which a licence relates or any other activity carried on in such premises. In light of the evidence before the Board on the levels of alcohol consumption in the city and the levels of alcohol related crime the Board wish to promote in terms of the objectives the types of premises which can operate where the service and sale of alcohol is not the primary objective thus contributing to the positive night time economy in the City but not adding to the health or crime related harms associated with are premises which focus wholly or mainly on alcohol consumption.

20.9 Applicants will be expected to give due consideration to the impact their patrons may have after leaving their premises, taking into account the likely exits of patrons from the nearby licensed establishments

The following issues should be considered **in relation to the promotion of the licensing objectives:**

- the effect of the grant of a licence before 10:00 hours or after 01:00 hours
- the proposed hours when any music, including incidental music and karaoke, will be played
- the hours when customers will be allowed to take food or drink outside the premises or be within open areas which form part of the premises
- whether customers and staff have adequate access to public transport when arriving at and leaving the premises, especially at night
- the capacity of the premises
- the type of use, recognising that premises which sell alcohol, play music, provide late night refreshment or takeaway food, are more likely to be associated with for example crime and disorder and public nuisance than premises where the consumption of alcohol is not the main activity.
- the hours at which noise may occur and the disturbance of nearby residents' rest, relaxation and sleep.

20.10 The Board believes that there may be merit in promoting the licensing objectives whereby applicants give consideration to the principle of winding down

periods at the end of the night. By gradually increasing the lighting and winding down entertainment such as loud music before ending the sale of alcohol and the end of trading hours, thereby creating a calmer ambience, patrons leaving the premises may be inclined to behave less boisterously after they have left the premises. In addition patrons may be inclined to leave the premises in small groups on a gradual basis rather than all at once.

20.11 Restricted licensing hours may be appropriate in cases where licensed premises are situated in the vicinity of residential property, or have external areas, or where business hours in the vicinity are likely to lead to undue pressure on public transport, public nuisance, disorder or anti-social behaviour. The Board may impose different restrictions on hours for different premises and for different days of the week in order to promote the licensing objectives. Where applicants intend to apply for any core on sale hours outwith those detailed in paragraph 20.3 above, they will be expected to show how any such activity to be carried out on the premises is consistent with the licensing objectives.

20.12 Consideration will always be given to an applicant's individual case and the Board will take into account any proposals the applicant has to minimise the risk of nuisance or disorder caused or exacerbated by customers departing from the premises or the rise of alcohol related crime or disorder in the vicinity of the premises.