

Date 18th August 2016
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Ms Ruth O'Hare
Solicitor
Legal and Democratic Services
Corporate Governance
Aberdeen City Council
Business Hub 6, Level 1 South,
Marischal College, Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1AB

Dear Ms O'Hare

**Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Application for a Premises Licence
The Hub (Ground Floor), University of Aberdeen, Elphinstone Road, Aberdeen,
AB24 3TU**

I refer to the above application and in terms of Section 22(1) (a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005; I make the following representation under the licensing objective:

Protecting and Improving Public Health.

University of Aberdeen, (Campus Services), Kings College, Old Aberdeen, has applied for a Premises License for the ground floor area of The Hub. The licensed area contains a cafe bar area, information service desks, meeting spaces, PC access facilities, shop, food outlet and an International Student Centre. They have stated that "*the premises and building at large provides social focus, personal development and support services and is a natural meeting place for students. The provision and sale of alcohol is incidental to the primary purpose of both the premises and building at large.*" There is no proposal to provide restaurant facilities or bar meals within the premises.

We are aware that increasing numbers of young people between the ages of 16 – 24 are choosing not to drink alcohol but this does not appear to be representative of the student population.

A Systematic Review of UK Student Alcohol Consumption between 2002-2014¹ found:

- Student alcohol *consumption increasing* over this period
- Hazardous* drinking patterns recorded ranging from 69% - 89% (M) & 62% - 77% (F)
- Male and Female consumption converging
- Between 20% and 30% of students identified as 'problem drinking'

Hazardous alcohol consumption continues to be the most prevalent public health issue encountered by university students. Despite increased efforts, levels of consumption among students have continued to increase throughout the past number of decades. These levels of consumption remain a primary concern to those attempting to improve student health and well-being. As nations attempt to reduce alcohol related harm, a spotlight on the excessive consumption patterns among university students showcases the need for interventions to achieve national goals.

I understand that the premises will be run in accordance with the "Alcohol Impact Programme". The overarching aim for this programme has been to create and implement a whole-institution approach to holistic behaviour change in universities to reduce alcohol related crime and disorder and promote responsible drinking amongst the student population.

To compliment this approach I would suggest that the following conditions are applied to the granting of this license:

1. That the premises stock and promote a range of "no" and "low" alcohol products to allow greater choice to patrons. (see attached booklet for examples of products)
2. The stock of "no" and "low" alcohol products is equal to or greater than 5% of the entire drinks stocked by the premises.
3. The premises applies for accreditation through the Best Bar None² scheme.

For these reasons, and in terms of Section 22(1) (a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, the Public Health Directorate of NHS Grampian submits this representation to the application as the granting of it would be inconsistent with one or more of the licensing objectives, namely Protecting and Improving Public Health.

Yours sincerely

Dr Tara Shivaji
Consultant in Public Health

Heather Wilson
Health Improvement Officer (Alcohol & Drugs)

*Hazardous drinking is quantified as a level of consumption above the sensible limit increasing the risk of harms

¹ <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-016-2843-1>

² <http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/bestbarnone/>

