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Anti-Social Behaviour Report Aberdeen City Centre February 2017



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**Sergeant Gill Flett
North East Division
Police Scotland**

for the purposes of informing representations made to
Aberdeen City Licensing Board.

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Introduction

This report will detail Police Scotland data pertaining to Aberdeen City Centre between 1st April 2013 and 31st January 2017. Information is focussed on instances of Anti-Social Behaviour and Crimes of Violence.

Data will be provided displaying the proportion of offending that occurred in the City Centre area during overnight periods between 2200 hours and 0559 hours on a Friday/Saturday and the same time period on a Saturday/Sunday, compared to the City Centre area in the remaining hours of the week and also the rest of Aberdeen City as a whole.

Methodology

Data has been obtained from the following source:

- **Crimefile** - Police Scotland Crime Recording System

Limitations

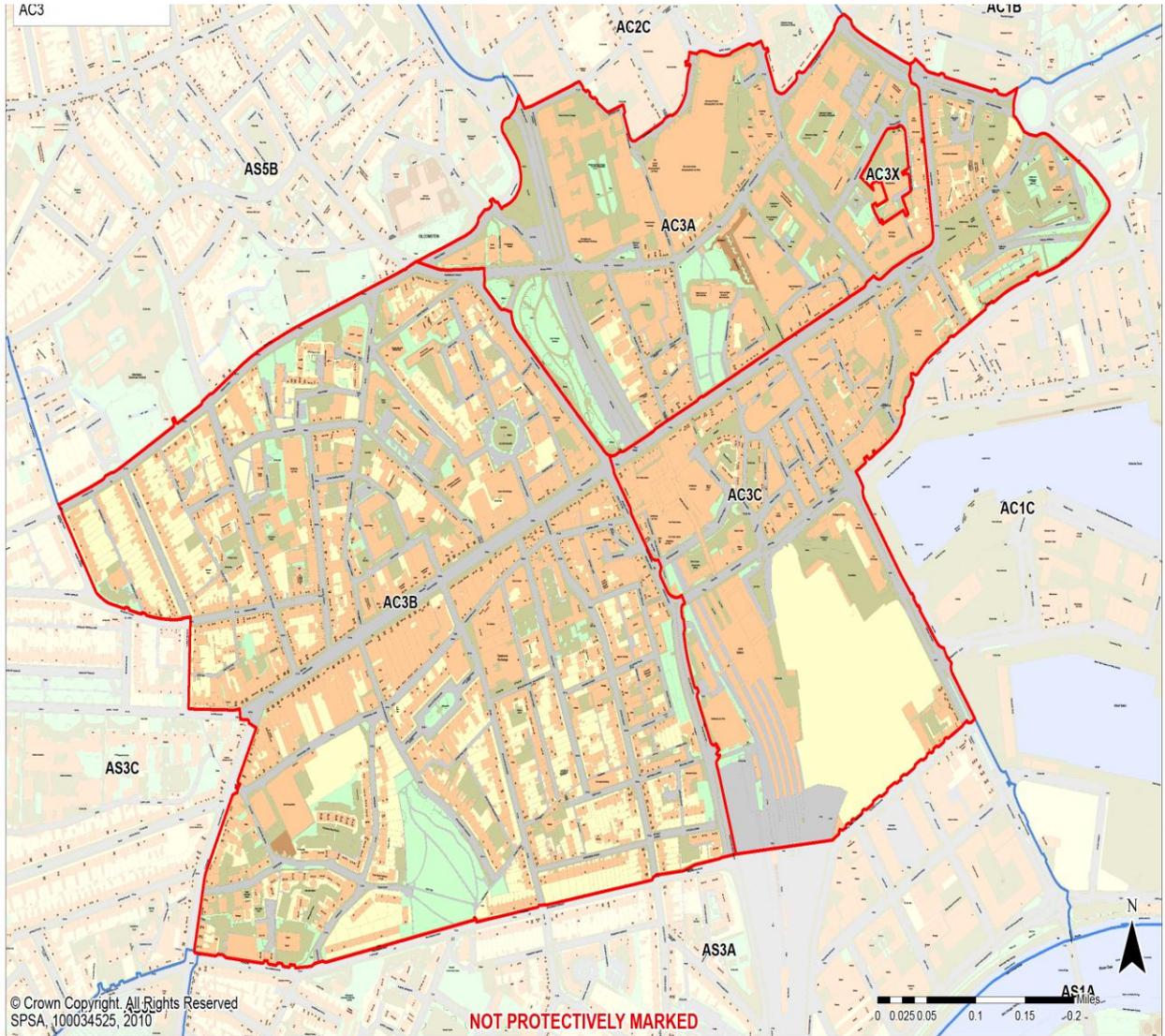
The offence data contained within this document details only those that have concerned within the City Centre area of Aberdeen as identified in the map below in the AC3A, AC3B and AC3C shaded areas and excluding the AC3X area.

These three areas correspond with Police neighbourhoods of the City Centre Community Policing team and bear close resemblance to the City Centre area as defined in the Aberdeen City Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy 2013-2016.

For the purposes of this report, Weekend Night Time Economy hours are between 2200 and 0559 hours on a Friday/Saturday and Saturday/Sunday. This totals 16 hours, which equates at less than one tenth of a 168 hour week.

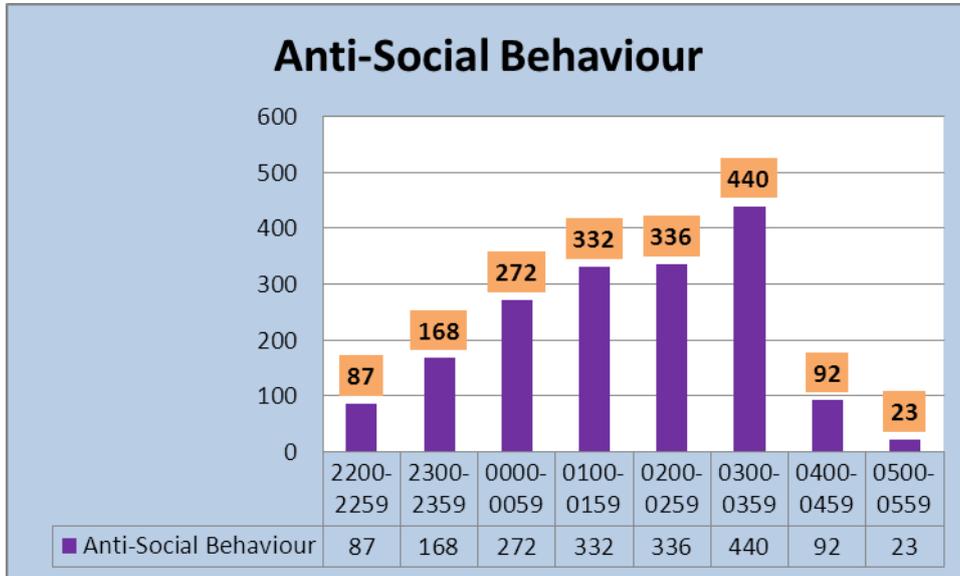
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is a combination of Breach of the Peace and Threatening or Abusive Behaviour offences.

City Centre Area



Anti-Social Behaviour

The chart below shows a breakdown of offences per hour window on Friday/Saturday and Saturday/Sunday periods within the City Centre area. The table beneath shows a percentage breakdown of the share of City Centre Weekend Night Time Economy offending compared to the City Centre (CC) during all 168 hours of a week and the whole of Aberdeen (AA) during the same time period.

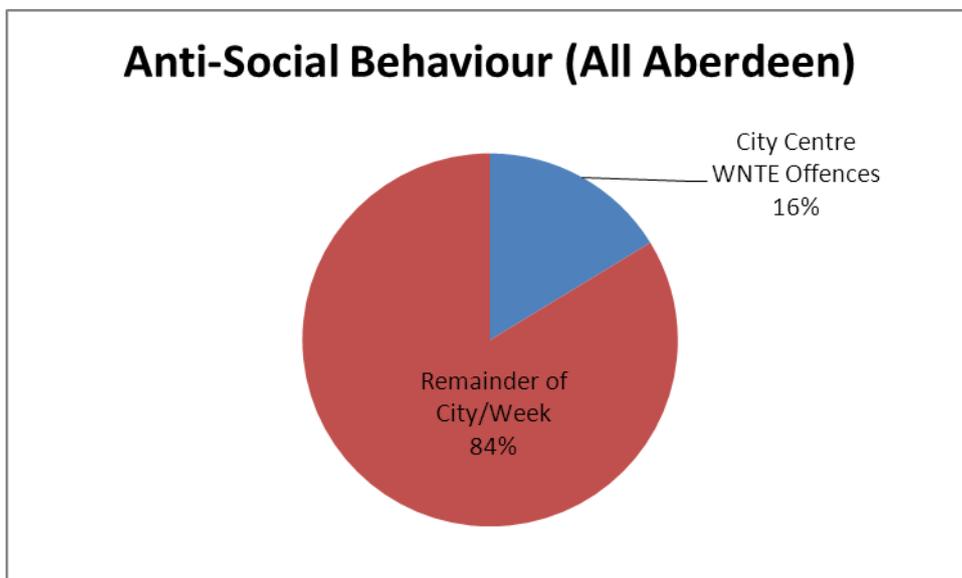
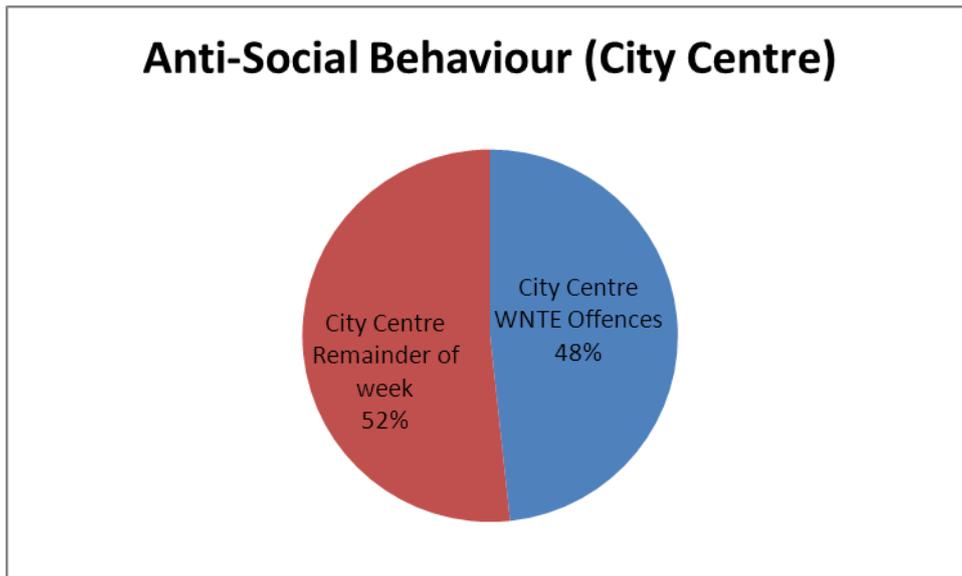


Anti-Social Behaviour	2200-2259	2300-2359	0000-0059	0100-0159	0200-0259	0300-0359	0400-0459	0500-0559
CC Weekly % (2 hour total)	2.4	4.6	7.5	9.2	9.3	12.1	2.5	0.6
AA Weekly % (2 hour total)	0.8	1.6	2.5	3.1	3.1	4.1	0.9	0.2

- The chart shows offences steadily but sharply increasing from 2200 hours onward, plateauing between 0100 and 0259 hours prior to a sharp increase until 0400 hours where it falls to the level experienced up to 2300 hours.
- The disproportionate level of City Centre Anti-Social offending is demonstrated most clearly in the hours between 0100 and 0359 hours when each hourly period is at least double the total of the hourly period between 2300 and 2359 hours.
- The comparable total offences between 0100 and 0159 hours and in the following hour each represent at least 9.2% of the entire week's City Centre Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). As mentioned above, the 16 hours of the Weekend Night Time Economy represent 9.5% of a week this share of ASB is almost absorbed in these consecutive hourly periods alone.
- The hour between 0300 and 0359 hours is where ASB reaches its saturation point with 440 offences, 12.1% of the City Centre's total. This equates at just less than one in eight ASB offences having occurred between 0300 and 0359 hours on a Saturday or Sunday morning.
- Isolating the 0100-0359 hours period in the City Centre, its share of ASB across the whole of Aberdeen City equates at 10% during these six hours alone, highlighting the disproportionate scale of ASB during Weekend Night Time Economy hours.

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The charts below display the share of ASB offending in the City Centre during Night Time Economy hours relative to the City Centre and the whole of Aberdeen throughout the week.



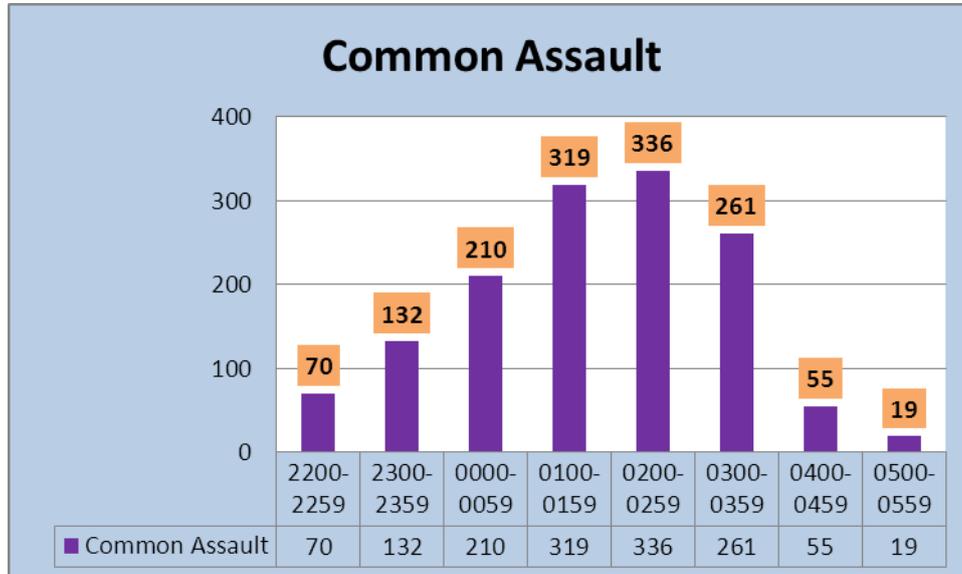
- Almost half (48%) of ASB offences in the City Centre occurred during Weekend Night Time Economy hours, which are less than a tenth of the week.
- 16% of all Aberdeen's ASB offences are concentrated within the City Centre during the sixteen hours specified.
- ASB offending in the City Centre during Weekend Night Time Economy hours is approximately five times higher than if it were proportionate across the week as a whole.
- This imbalance builds throughout the overnight period and is most unequal between 0300 and 0359 hours.

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Common Assault

The chart below shows a breakdown of offences per hour window on Friday/Saturday and Saturday/Sunday periods within the City Centre area. The table beneath shows a percentage breakdown of the share of City Centre Weekend Night Time Economy offending compared to the City Centre (CC) during all 168 hours of a week and the whole of Aberdeen (AA) during the same time period.



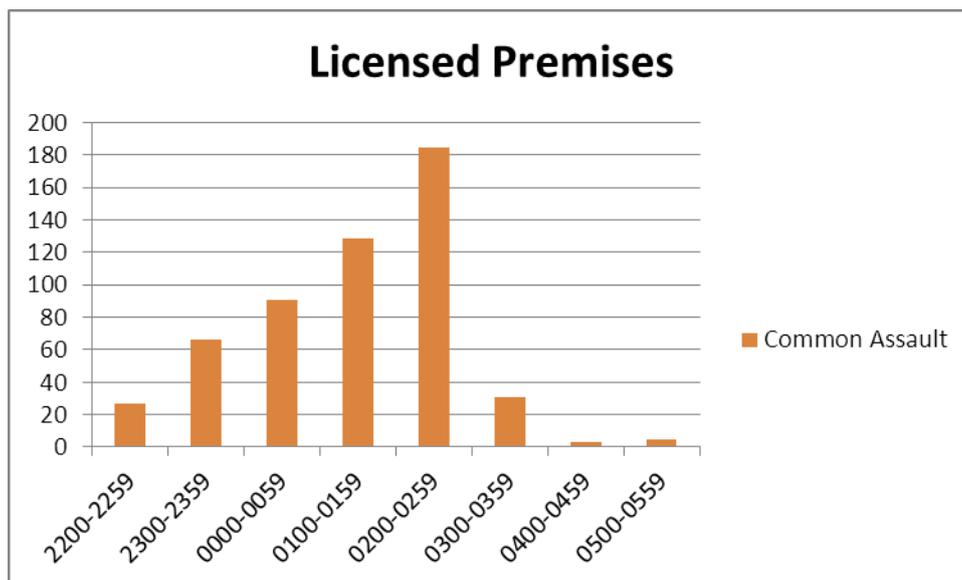
Common Assault	2200-2259	2300-2359	0000-0059	0100-0159	0200-0259	0300-0359	0400-0459	0500-0559
CC Weekly % (2 hour total)	2.2	4.2	6.7	10.1	10.7	8.3	1.7	0.6
AA Weekly % (2 hour total)	0.6	1.2	1.8	2.8	3.0	2.3	0.5	0.2

- The chart shows an increase of Common Assault throughout the overnight period with a peak between 0200 and 0259 hours. The 336 offences recorded at that time equals 11% of Common Assaults in the City Centre in 1.2% of the time.
- In the period between midnight and 0359 hours, there were an average 281 Common Assaults. According to Scottish Government figures, the estimated unit cost of a Common Assault is £6,700.¹ Were trading hours to be extended, and if the average number of Common Assaults from preceding hours followed similarly, the result would be an additional 73 Common Assaults per year. This would incur a potential increase in estimated financial costs of £489,100 per annum.
- Over one third (35.8%) of all City Centre Common Assaults occurred between midnight and 0359 hours on Saturday and Sunday mornings. One tenth (9.9%) of Common Assaults across Aberdeen took place in the City Centre during these eight hours, underscoring the scale of Common Assaults within the City Centre during Weekend Night Time Economy hours.

¹ Economic and Social Cost of Crime (PowerPoint presentation), Available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/scotstatcrime/invite/Session1> Accessed 30th September 2016

Licensed Premises

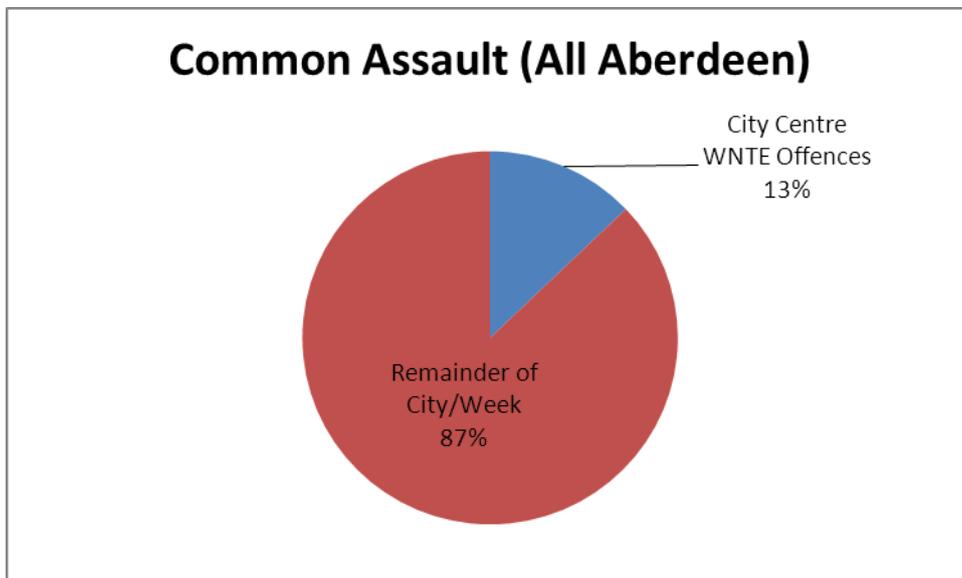
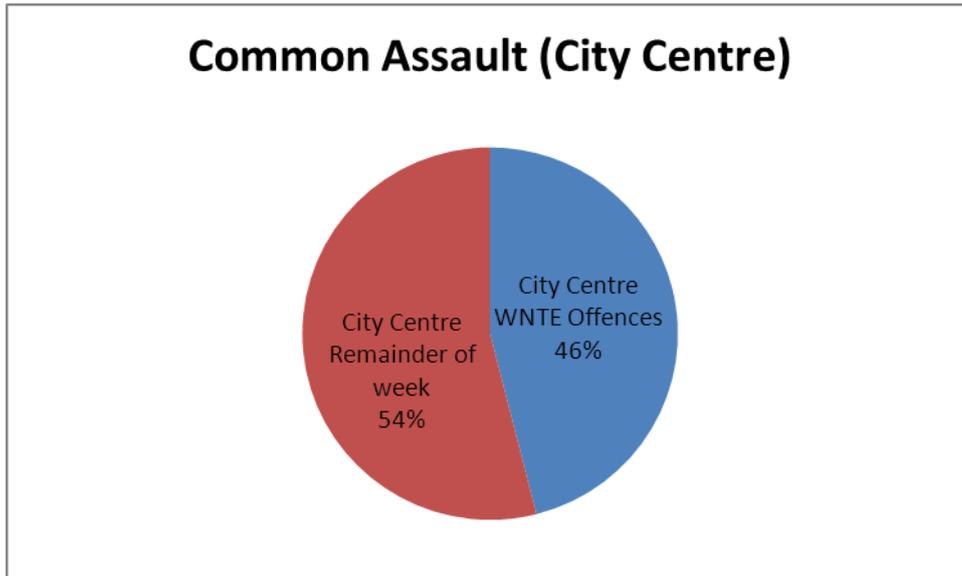
The chart below shows the number of Common Assaults in the City Centre recorded as having occurred on licensed premises. It clearly displays rising hourly totals in the overnight period up until the terminal hour.



- Just over one in three (27 of 70) Common Assaults occurred in Licensed Premises between 2200 and 2359 hours.
- Half of all Common Assaults (66 of 132) in the hour up to midnight occurred on Licensed Premises.
- In the two hours after midnight, approximately two fifths of Common Assaults in each respective hour window occurred on Licensed Premises.
- Between 0200 and 0259 hours, 185 of 336 Common Assaults (55%) occurred on Licensed Premises.

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The charts below display the share of Common Assault offences in the City Centre during Night Time Economy hours relative to the City Centre and the whole of Aberdeen throughout the week.



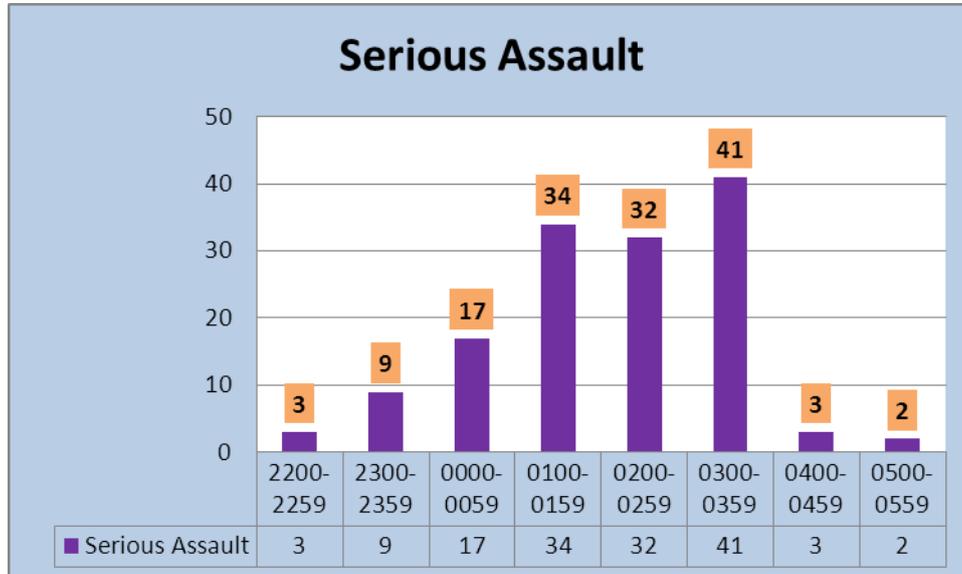
- Just under half (46%) of Common Assaults within the City Centre occurred during Weekend Night Time Economy hours with, as mentioned earlier, a significant concentration during 0000-0359 hours on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- Over one in eight (13%) of Common Assaults anywhere in Aberdeen since 1st April 2013 took place within the City Centre and during the Weekend Night Time Economy hours specified.

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Serious Assault

The chart below shows a breakdown of offences per hour window on Friday/Saturday and Saturday/Sunday periods within the City Centre area. The table beneath shows a percentage breakdown of the share of City Centre Weekend Night Time Economy offending compared to the City Centre (CC) during all 168 hours of a week and the whole of Aberdeen (AA) during the same time period.



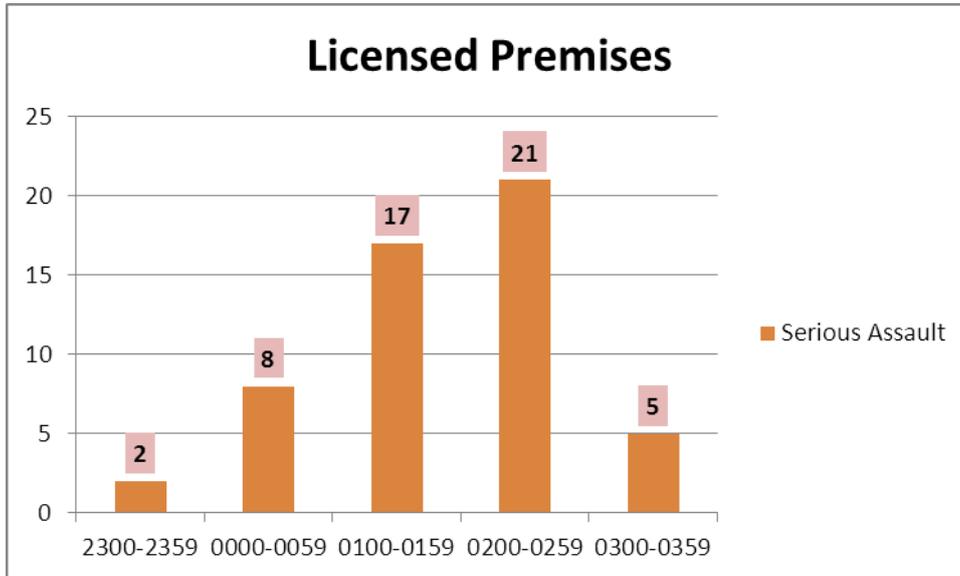
Serious Assault	2200-2259	2300-2359	0000-0059	0100-0159	0200-0259	0300-0359	0400-0459	0500-0559
CC Weekly % (2 hour total)	1.3	3.9	7.4	14.8	14.0	17.9	1.3	0.9
AA Weekly % (2 hour total)	0.5	1.4	2.7	5.4	5.1	6.5	0.5	0.3

- Having risen steadily throughout the overnight period, Serious Assaults peak in the hour between 0300 and 0359 hours when 41 occurred. The totals in the two preceding hour windows are, or are almost, double the 17 recorded in the hour immediately after midnight. This evinces the link between prolonged drinking hours and greater propensity to violence.
- One in five Serious Assaults anywhere in Aberdeen during 1st April 2013 to 31st January 2017 took place between 0000 and 0359 hours on Saturday and Sunday within the City Centre.
- Extrapolating the calculation above concerning Common Assaults to Serious Assaults yields an average of 31 Serious Assaults per hour on average between midnight and 0359 hours in the City Centre during the 46 months analysed. A Serious Assault has a unit cost of £24,719². Extending licensing hours by one hour would at a conservative estimate, given the discrepancy between the hour after midnight and the hour after 0300 hours, likely result in an additional eight Serious Assaults annually in the City Centre, with £197,752 costs incurred for these extra offences alone.

² Ibid

Licensed Premises

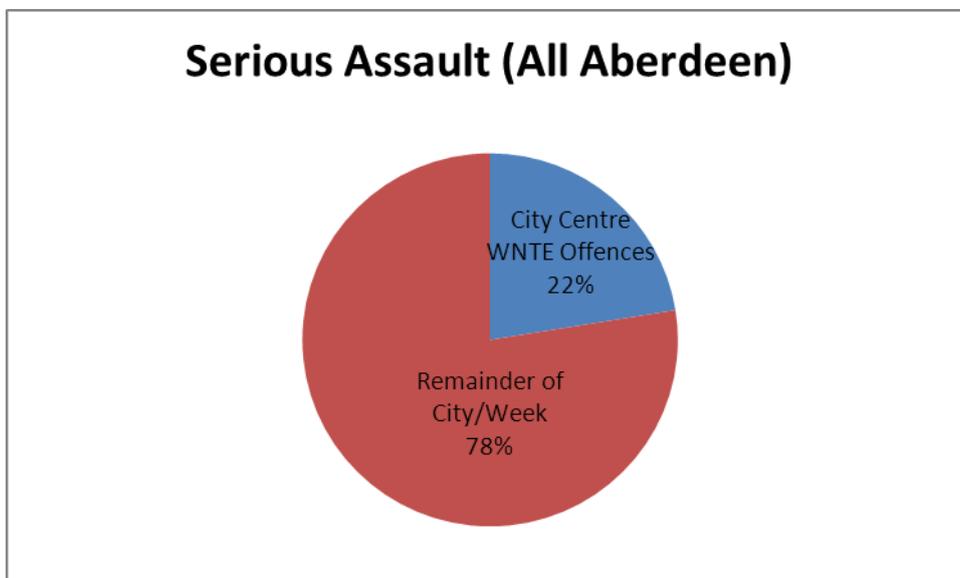
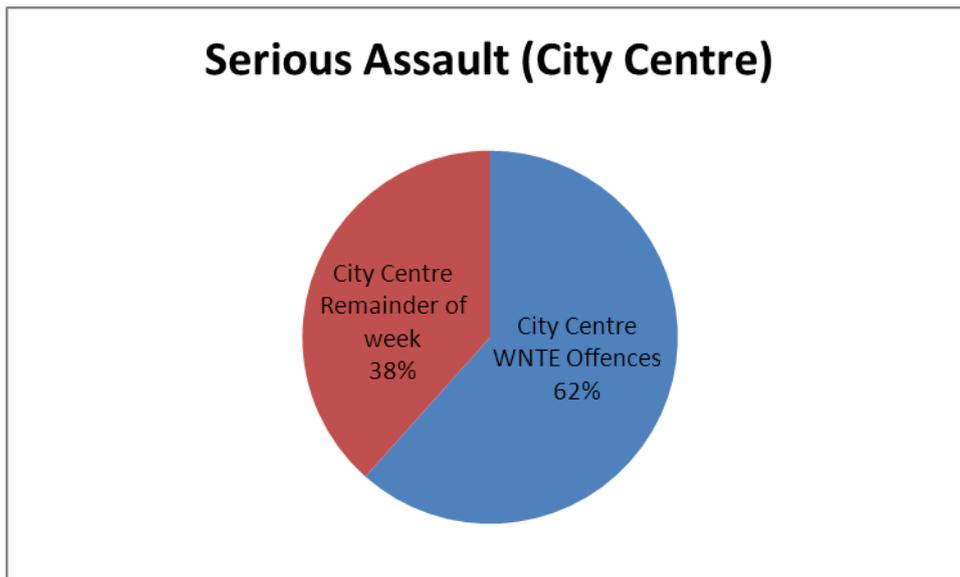
The chart below shows the number of Serious Assaults in the City Centre recorded as having occurred on licensed premises. It clearly displays rising hourly totals in the overnight period up until the terminal hour. There were no Serious Assaults recorded in Weekend Night Time Economy Hours prior to 2300 hours or after 0400 hours.



- Two of nine Serious Assaults in the hour after 11pm occurred on Licensed Premises.
- Eight of 17 Serious Assaults in the following hour occurred on Licensed Premises.
- Exactly half (17 of 34) Serious Assaults between 0100 and 0159 hours occurred on Licensed Premises.
- Almost two thirds of Serious Assaults (21 of 32) between 0200 and 0259 hours were recorded on Licenses Premises.
- Just fewer than one in eight Serious Assaults between 0300 and 0359 hours were recorded on Licensed Premises.

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The charts below display the share of Serious Assault offences in the City Centre during Night Time Economy hours relative to the City Centre and the whole of Aberdeen throughout the week.



- Over three in five of all Serious Assaults in the City Centre occurred during Weekend Night Time Economy hours.
- Over one in five Serious Assaults anywhere in Aberdeen and at any time took place within the City Centre during Weekend Night Time Economy hours. As the charts and table on the previous page show, the greatest concentration of these offences is in the hour after the existing terminal hour of 0300 hours.

*Prepared by
Community Safety Analyst
Aberdeen City Council
Completed: 27th February 2017*

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