

Date 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
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Our Ref 20171044  
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Ms Arlene Dunbar  
Team Lead  
Legal and Democratic Services  
Corporate Governance  
Aberdeen City Council  
Business Hub 6, Level 1 South,  
Marischal College, Broad Street  
Aberdeen AB10 1AB

Dear Ms Dunbar

**Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Application for a variation of Premises Licence  
Gilcomston Bar, 5 Gilcomston Steps, Aberdeen, AB25 1UW**

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

**Protecting and Improving Public Health.**

The NHS Grampian objection will focus on the following areas:

1. Aberdeen City Licensing Board, Statement of Licensing Policy
2. Integrated Alcohol Service Referral Rates for 2015
3. Scottish Health Observatory Data for post code area AB25 1
4. Comparison of alcohol related death rates for Aberdeen

**1. Aberdeen City Licensing Board, Statement of Licensing Policy**

The premises wish to extend their core on sales hours on Fridays and Saturdays to 01:00 hours.

The Aberdeen City Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy, 2013-2016 states at Section 20.7, paragraph 4:

*“Premises in the City that provide significant entertainment (to the satisfaction of the Board) may apply and be granted later hours..” “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.”*

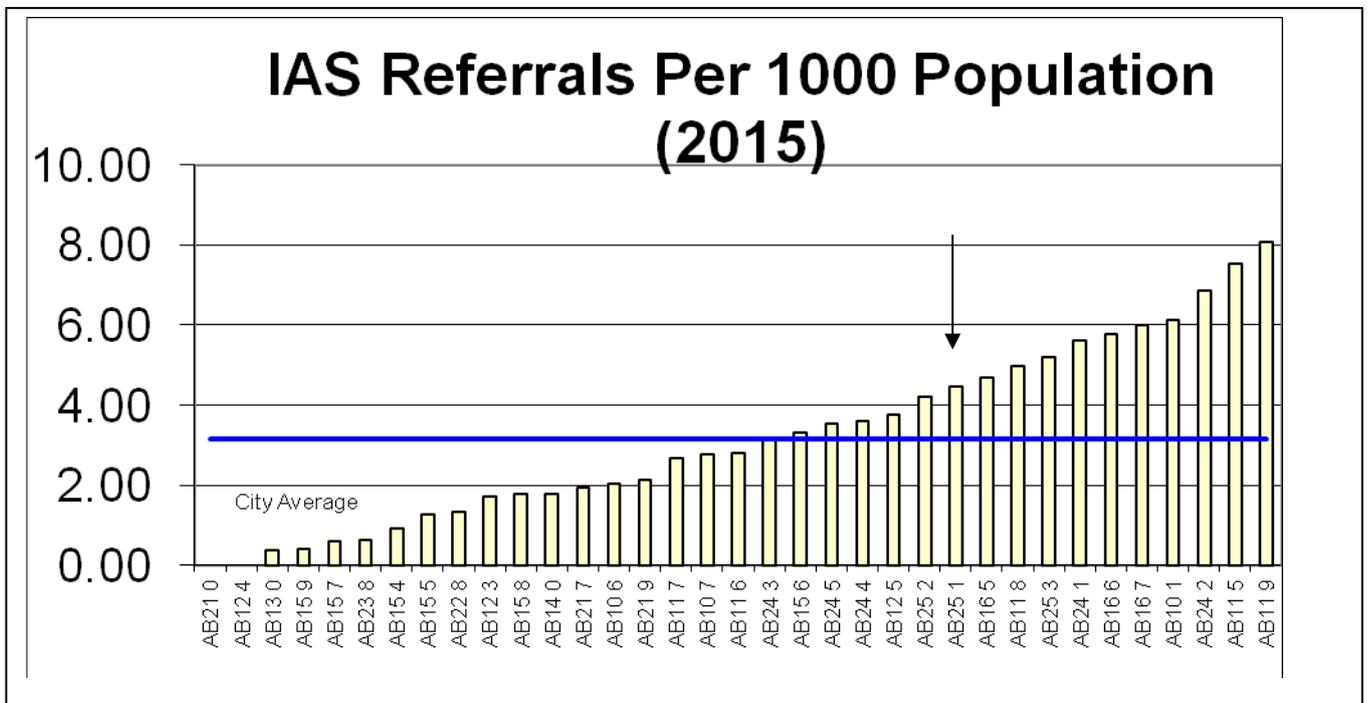
The Aberdeen City Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy, 2013 – 2016 also states at Section 20.3, paragraph 2:

*“The Board will not normally grant hours beyond 00:00 hours outwith the city centre. 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.”*

As the Gilcomston **Bar** is outwith the city centre boundary, has no designated private function suite facility I do not feel it meets the required criteria for a late opening extension. I am not convinced that the entertainment on offer can be deemed as the *“principal reason for patrons attending the licensed premises”*. Although a range of entertainment is quoted in the operating plan the regularity of appearance is not. I am unsure if this entertainment will be provided every Friday and Saturday night or sporadically throughout the year.

This would appear to be a local bar that would attract patrons from the local area. The following paragraphs illustrate some of the local health related data.

## 2. Integrated Alcohol Service Rates for 2015



### 3. Scottish Health Observatory Data for post code area AB25 1

The post code sector of AB25 1 comprises three areas; City Centre (7.4%), Rosemount (25.7%) and George Street (66.9%).

Scottish Health Observatory Data has been used to compile The Health Traffic Lights document for Aberdeen City<sup>1</sup>. Data from this document is illustrated below using health indicator areas for this community:

Key	Description
	5% higher than the Scottish average
	Within +/- 5% of the Scottish average
	5% lower than the Scottish average

Area	Alcohol related/attributable hospital patients	Alcohol related deaths	Early deaths from Coronary Heart Disease	Psychiatric Hospital Patients	Deaths from suicide	Early deaths from cancer
City Centre (7.4%)						
Rosemount (25.7%)						
George Street (66.9%)						

It is clear to see that alcohol related ill health is impacting on these citizens' health and wellbeing already. This data illustrates the current health status. Regularly drinking alcohol raises blood pressure and significantly increases the chance of people developing heart disease in the future<sup>2</sup>.

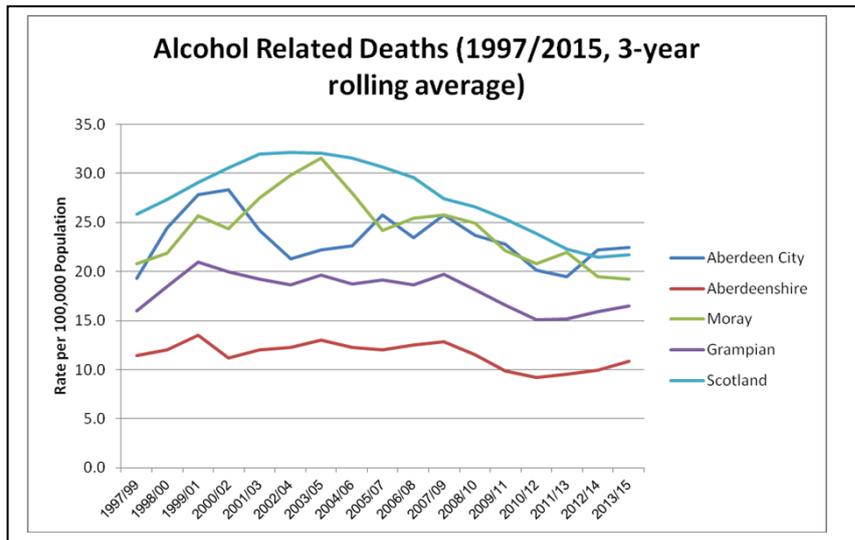
Depression shares a complex, mutually reinforcing relationship with excessive alcohol consumption<sup>2</sup>. Regardless of whether heavy alcohol consumption or mental health issues came first, having one condition increases the chances of developing and likely complexity of the other.

Harmful alcohol consumption is the third most common preventable cause of cancer in the UK<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [http://foi.nhsgrampian.org/globalassets/foidocument/dispublicdocuments---all-documents/ABERDEENCITYTraffic\\_Lights\\_Pack\\_2016.pdf](http://foi.nhsgrampian.org/globalassets/foidocument/dispublicdocuments---all-documents/ABERDEENCITYTraffic_Lights_Pack_2016.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/factsheets>

#### 4. Comparison of alcohol related death rates for Aberdeen city



The chart above illustrates the three year rolling average for alcohol related deaths with the most recent period shown being 2013 - 2015. This shows that after a fall during the early 2000s we have seen an increase in Aberdeen City alcohol related deaths that are now slightly higher than the Scottish figure.

Since 1997, a five fold increase in the rates of hospital stays as a result of the harmful use of alcohol has been recorded for Aberdeen City Council residents. This category includes conditions such as alcohol induced irritation of the stomach, chronic disease of the heart muscle due to alcohol, mental and behavioural disorder that occur as a result of alcohol (such as depression, anxiety etc). Over this time period, there has been a steady increase in the number of admissions due to alcoholic liver disease.

The Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) Health & Wellbeing Profiles for Aberdeen City identify Alcohol related hospital stays as being “statistically significantly worse” than the National average<sup>3</sup>.

I am not aware that this application has identified sufficient activity that would indicate “significant entertainment” and when consideration is also given to the harmful use of alcohol for these local residents I would therefore request that this application is not granted.

<sup>3</sup> <https://scotpho.nhs.uk/scotpho/homeAction.do>

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 objection 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

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Consultant in Public Health

Heather Wilson  
Health Improvement Officer (Alcohol & Drugs)