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## Items of Interest to Aberdeen City Licensing Forum – November 2017

### Alcohol labels failing to inform consumers

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A review of 315 alcohol labels across 27 UK locations by the Alcohol Health Alliance (AHA) found only one product informed the public of the current low-risk drinking guideline (14 units a week). Some products contained out of date information, while others carried the Republic of Ireland guideline. No labels provided health warnings, advice to spread drinking across the week, or recommended alcohol-free days - all of which are contained in the UK Chief Medical Officer's guidelines. The AHA says the findings make the case for mandatory labelling like the example below. [Read the report](#)



### Concern over baby boomers' substance misuse

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The number of people aged over 50 experiencing problems from alcohol and drugs is growing rapidly, with the numbers receiving treatment expected to double in Europe by 2020. With alcohol being the most common substance of misuse among older people, under-detection of alcohol problems is of immediate concern - and may increase further as baby boomers get older because of their more liberal views of, and higher use of alcohol.

### Latest alcohol licensing stats published

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The Scottish Government has published the annual liquor licensing statistics for 2016/17 which show there are 16,678 licences in force in Scotland. Seventy per cent of these (11,587) are for on-sales premises i.e. pubs, clubs and

restaurants. In addition, around 24,000 occasional licences were granted by boards across the country. Just 14 applications for premises licences were refused.

## [Liquor licensing statistics Scotland 2016-17](#)

Part of:

### [Law and order](#)

Scotland's Chief Statistician has today released [Liquor licensing statistics Scotland 2016-17](#). This is being released as a web table showing information on premises and personal licences in force, applications and reviews, as well as numbers of licensing standards officers (LSOs) employed and the number of occasional licences issued.

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 came fully into force in September 2009 and this release reflects the seventh full year of operation under the new licensing arrangements.

The overall number of premises licences in force on 31 March 2017, at just under 16,700, has shown a very slight upward trend over the last seven years, increasing by 2 per cent since March 2011.

Some of the other main findings from the data are:

- Just under 70 per cent of premises licenses in force at March 2017 related to licenses which allowed for on sales transactions, with the remaining 31 per cent related to off-sales only
- Forty-one per cent of applications received for new premises licenses in 2016-17 were for off-sale only
- Three per cent of applications for premises licences under section 23 of the 2005 Act in 2016-17 were refused
- After falling sharply in 2015 due to the revocation of licences where people failed to undertake refresher training, the number of personal licences in force has risen by 12 per cent in the two years since then
- Scottish local authorities employed a full-time equivalent of 57 licensing standards officers at March 2017, the same as in 2016
- There were around 24,000 occasional licences granted by local authorities during 2016-17, similar to the levels in both 2014-15 and 2015-16.

## **Background**

The web table can be accessed at [here](#).

Key changes introduced by the Licensing (Scotland) 2005 Act include:

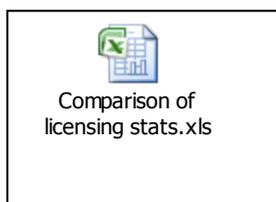
- Introducing [five Licensing Objectives](#) which underlie the Act and all decisions relating to it
- Replacing all previous licence categories with a single premises licence and a personal licence and occasional licence
- Inclusion of premises operating plans and layout plans with licence applications
- Personal licensees must hold an accredited licensing qualification
- Mandatory training for staff who sell or serve alcohol.

Under Section 23 of the 2005 Act, a licensing board is required to hold a hearing for the purposes of considering and determining an application for a premises licence.

This is a National Statistics release for Scotland. Official and National Statistics are produced to professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs and are produced free from political interference. More information on the standards of official statistics in Scotland can be accessed [here](#).

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Licensing statistics for Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray for the past 5 years are detailed below.



AFS has published a [Licensing Resource Pack](#) aimed at professionals involving in Scotland's licensing system. It covers using evidence to support policy and decision-making, statements of licensing policy, developing an effective overprovision policy, and useful resources. The pack is available to download in full or in 5 separate sections on the AFS website.

Is this something that the Licensing Forum would like to discuss further with AFS?

### [Call for crackdown on airport alcohol sales](#)

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Ryanair has called for a crackdown on alcohol sales at British airports after claiming that airlines are saddled with the consequences of passengers getting drunk before flights. They have proposed a ban on early morning sales of alcohol in bars and restaurants, and limiting the number of drinks sold per boarding pass. The call comes after figures showed a spike in alcohol-related arrests at airports and in the air, while a survey of cabin crew found most had witnessed drunken and disruptive behaviour on board. [Read more](#)

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## UK children anxious about parents' drinking

Report finds low-level parental drinking can leave children feeling worried, embarrassed and facing more arguments. A new report published today by the Institute of Alcohol Studies (IAS) in partnership with the Alcohol and Families Alliance and Alcohol Focus Scotland explores the impact of nondependent parental drinking on children and families. Findings show parents do not have to regularly drink large amounts of alcohol for their children to notice changes in their behaviour and experience negative impacts. Whilst much evidence exists on the negative effects of alcohol dependence, this is the first study to look at how lower level alcohol consumption impacts families in the UK.

Download the report - [Like sugar for adults. The effect of non-dependent parental drinking on children and families \(pdf\)](#)

### Key findings

- Having seen a parent tipsy or drunk was associated with children feeling worried as well as experiencing at least one of a range of negative impacts including, feeling less comforted than usual, facing more arguments, unpredictable parental behaviour and disrupted bedtime routines.
- Whilst many parents strive to set a good example with their alcohol use, 15% children had asked their parents to drink less and 16% of parents reported feeling guilty or ashamed of their parenting as a result of their drinking.
- More than half (51%) of parents reported being tipsy, and 29% being drunk, in front of their child.
- Children surveyed who had seen their parent tipsy or drunk were less likely to consider the way their parent drinks alcohol as providing a positive role model for them.
- Children whose parents were in higher socio-economic groups were more likely to report that their parent hides their drinking from them, and that their parent has argued with them more than normal as a result of their drinking.
- Children showed an astute awareness of their parents' drinking, with reports of how much their parents drank matching up accurately with parental responses in the majority of cases.
- Children described their views on why their parents drank, with 11 and 12 year olds describing alcohol as "like sugar for adults" with parents drinking to "solve their problems".

## Quarter of Scots drink above the recommended guidelines

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Key alcohol findings from the Scottish Health Survey 2016 report:

- 26% of adults drink above the recommended maximum of 14 units per week.
- Male drinkers were twice as likely to drink more than 14 units than female drinkers.
- More adults reported not drinking alcohol in the most deprived areas (26%) than the least deprived areas (11%).
- Female drinkers in the least deprived areas had higher weekly consumption than female drinkers in other areas.
- Drinkers aged 75 and over consumed less alcohol at one time but drank with greater frequency, on average, than younger drinkers who tended to consume greater volumes in fewer drinking sessions.

Download [Scottish Health Survey \(2016\) main report](#)

### **Alcohol briefing for elected members**

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AFS has published a briefing with the [Improvement Service](#) to increase understanding amongst elected members of how alcohol consumption and harm impacts on local communities and across different areas of local authorities' work. It examines the role elected members can play in tackling the harms caused in their communities and improving local outcomes. [Read the briefing](#)