

Date 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
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Our Ref 20191006  
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Ms Jenny Wilson  
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 Wilson

**Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – New Premises License  
Woodside Post Office, 429 Great Northern Road, Aberdeen**

We 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 objectives:

**Protecting and Improving Public Health**

In creating the new Statement of Licensing Policy, the Licensing Board recognised that excessive consumption of alcohol can cause or exacerbate a number of health problems. They set guidance within the policy to help address these concerns and included details within page 10 of the document that would assist applicants to comply with the Licensing Objective of Protecting and Improving Public Health.

Applicants are asked to consider a number of points when submitting their application for a license. We would be interested in comment on the following points:

- **Proactive layout of off-sales premises to discourage impulse buying** – The Woodside area has higher than average statistics for alcohol related issues. We are aware that many people in recovery find it difficult to avoid alcohol as it is so readily available and visible as they go about their daily living. We appreciate that the alcohol display will be limited to two specific areas within the shop; behind the counter and within the general shop provision area. In order to restrict the visibility of the alcohol we would suggest that the behind the counter display to placed to the furthest possible area from the till points so that it is not within immediate eye contact of customers approaching the post office counter. It is appreciated that the

behind the counter alcohol will not be immediately visible from the main service point for the shop and this will help to discourage impulse purchasing.

- **Availability of low/non alcoholic products and soft drinks** – The range of low and non alcoholic products is growing along with their popularity among customers. We would suggest that the shop stock a selection of these products to give customers the option of purchasing. A selection of brands and reviews can be found at:

[https://alcoholchange.org.uk/help-and-support/cut-down/low-and-no-alcohol-reviews/alcohol-free-beers?fbclid=IwAR12caNVN70UpUFgdgep2kpNLPQbkERS\\_QPb4zGAzSXC8k79Fhitnr2cV0g](https://alcoholchange.org.uk/help-and-support/cut-down/low-and-no-alcohol-reviews/alcohol-free-beers?fbclid=IwAR12caNVN70UpUFgdgep2kpNLPQbkERS_QPb4zGAzSXC8k79Fhitnr2cV0g)

Additional suggestions that would help address some of the harms created by alcohol would be to consider additional control measures that could be considered as conditions to the license such as:

- No single cans of alcohol displayed or sold at the premises (multi pack sales permitted)
- No beers or ciders will be sold with an ABV in excess of 6.5%

For this reason, and in terms of Section 22(1) (a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, the Public Health Directorate of NHS Grampian submits this letter of representation as the granting of the application 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

pp Heather Wilson  
Health Improvement Officer (Alcohol & Drug