

LICENSING BOARD INFORMATION SHEET

TYPE OF APPLICATION: VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE
PREMISES: THE SPIRITUALIST, 67 LANGSTANE PLACE. ABERDEEN. AB11
6EN

DESCRIPTION

Major variation to amend:

- Q5 - To add receptions, club meetings, recorded music and outdoor drinking facilities, as an activity within and outwith core hours.
- Q5 - To add indoor/outdoor sports as an activity within and outwith core hours.
- Q5 - To add wording, "The premises may open prior to core hours to provide receptions and club meetings, no alcohol will be sold at these times. Recorded music may be provided for the benefit of staff and customers.
- The external area may be used outwith core hours for the provision of teas, coffees, soft drinks and snacks.
- Q5(f) - To add wording, "Table tennis, pool, juke box, charity nights, quiz nights, community events, music, magicians, auctions, themed events, wine/beer tastings, samplings, promotional evenings, cabaret, live entertainment, comedy, darts playing, including electronic darts and other variations of the game of darts.
- Click and collect of alcohol and food, licensed point of dispatch.

OBJECTIONS/REPRESENTATIONS

- Public Objections x 7

The applicant has not accepted the External Areas Conditions

POLICY

Supplementary Policy – Licensed Hours

Whilst all applications will be dealt with on their own merits the Board considers it necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives to set parameters with respect to licensed hours. Any application seeking hours outwith those detailed below will be expected to satisfy the Board that there are legitimate grounds for departing from policy and demonstrate that the granting of such hours would not be contrary to the licensing objectives.

On-Sale Premises

The Board considers it appropriate to distinguish hours within the city centre from outlying areas. The city centre area is that shown delineated on the undernoted map.

The hours stated below are the earliest acceptable opening hour and latest acceptable terminal hour, and not the maximum permissible hours. The terminal hours stated below are the latest permissible and will not be appropriate for all premises. It will be the responsibility of the licence holder or applicant to demonstrate that the premises is suitable for the hours sought. Additional conditions will normally be added to all premises seeking licensed hours after 1am including but not limited to CCTV, door stewards and radiolink. A link to examples of the standard local conditions can be found in the Supplementary Policy on General Licensing Matters.

The Board considers 15 hours continuous trading to be reasonable within any 24-hour period and so the opening or terminal hour should be adjusted accordingly to comply with this requirement.

The opening hours for casinos remains in line with the statutory hours in terms of the Gambling Act 2005, namely 1200 – 0600 daily.

Outwith City Centre	Earliest Opening Hour	Latest Terminal Hour
Sunday to Thursday	1000	0000
Friday & Saturday	1000	0100
City Centre	Earliest Opening Hour	Latest Terminal Hour
Sunday to Thursday	1000	0200
Friday & Saturday	1000	0300

Off-Sale Premises

Maximum trading hours for off-sale premises are set by statute. The Board have no power to grant off-sales hours prior to 1000 or after 2200 hours. It should be noted that these are the maximum permitted hours and the Board may restrict these hours if it can be shown to be necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Earliest Opening Hour	Latest Terminal Hour	
All off-sales premises	1000	2200

Preventing Public Nuisance

The Board believes that licensed premises have the potential to have a significant impact on communities. It wishes to maintain and protect the amenity of the surrounding neighbourhoods whilst recognising the valuable cultural and social aspects of such premises.

Whilst licensing powers are not the main statutory mechanism for dealing with public nuisance in general the Board will interpret public nuisance in a wider sense where it relates to the operation of licensed premises, and in particular issues such as noise and litter.

Again, a number of factors should be considered including, but not limited to:

- Location of premises. In particular the proximity to residential or noise sensitive premises such as medical facilities, sheltered housing, schools, places of worship, nurseries and suchlike.
- Hours of operation. Closely related to the location of the premises, the hours of operation should reflect what is appropriate for the surrounding neighbourhood. The terminal hours indicated in the Supplementary Policy on Licensed Hours are the maximum available and will not be suitable for all premises.
- Nature of activities. Any activities carried on in the licensed premises should not be detrimental to the ambience of the locality.
- Outdoor areas. The Board will include a Supplementary Policy on this issue, but applicants will require to ensure that the inclusion of an outdoor licensed area in any premises is appropriate and will not contravene the licensing objective of preventing public nuisance.
- Smoking areas. These should be designed to minimise public nuisance and regularly monitored to cut down on noise and litter.

- Noise from patrons entering and exiting the premises.

What the Board Will Do:

- Consider the proximity of proposed licensed premises to noise sensitive premises when considering applications.
- Ensure that licensed hours and activities are appropriate for the type of premises and locality. The terminal hours indicated in the Supplementary Policy on Licensed Hours are the maximum available and will not be suitable for all premises.
- Improve communication between the trade, partners and local communities.
- Impose additional licence conditions where appropriate to prevent public nuisance.
- Highlight best practice where available and increase awareness and education on potential areas of risk.

What the Board Will Expect of Licence Holders/Applicants:

- Take a proactive approach to public nuisance with a risk-based approach.
- Be mindful of the location of the premises, hours of operation and activities.
- Comply with all conditions of the premises licence.
- Ensure appropriate control measures are in place and staff training is up to date and relevant.
- Consider public nuisance when establishing the design and layout of the premises.
- Adequate supervision of any outdoor area, smoking area and patrons entering/exiting the premises.
- Sharing of best practice via trade groups.
- Participation in communication to resolve any issues that may arise.
- Co-operation with Police Scotland and Licensing Standards Officers including access to all relevant policies and procedures such as dispersal policies and incident management.

PREVENTING CRIME & DISORDER

The Board is committed to improving the quality of life for the people of the city by adopting and enforcing policies designed to increase community safety and reduce the threats of crime and disorder.

In terms of this licensing objective the Board considers there to be a number of factors including, but not limited to:

- Underage drinking
- Drunkenness
- Illegal substances
- Violent behaviour
- Anti-social behaviour
- Vulnerability

In order to combat the risks inherent with the sale of alcohol the Board will seek to operate a partnership approach with licence holders, applicants and partner agencies.

What the Board Will Do:

- Apply appropriate conditions to licences to mitigate the risk of potential crime or disorder, including but not limited to a local condition on duty of care on all on-sales premises.
- Ensure all policies are up to date and fit for purpose.
- Work closely with all stakeholders to ensure all relevant information is kept up to date and accessible.
- Endorse initiatives designed to prevent crime and disorder.
- Consider the review of licences where a breach of the licensing objective cannot be rectified by other means.

What the Board Will Expect of Licence Holders

- Effective and responsible management of premises including evidence of written

procedures for managing incidents.

- Up to date training and supervision of staff.
- Provision of effective CCTV in and around premises.
- Provision of external lighting and security measures.
- Employment of SIA registered door supervisors when appropriate.
- Use of radiolink or other such scheme.
- Adherence to the Board's Drugs Policy.
- Enforcement of Challenge 25.
- Adoption of best practice guidance where available.
- Evidence of a relevant dispersal policy where appropriate.
- Co-operation with police and Licensing Standards Officers.

What the Board Will Expect of Partner Agencies

- Provision of all relevant up to date information as the Board requires.
- Involvement in mediation/intervention procedures to rectify any problem areas.
- Involvement in Premises Licence Review as a last resort

SECURING PUBLIC SAFETY

The Board is committed to ensuring the safety of persons within licensed premises as well as those in the surrounding areas.

When considering this licensing objective, a number of factors should be considered including, but not limited to:

- Capacity – this will be assessed by the Council's Building Standards department to establish a maximum safe capacity figure in terms of the regulations. Please note the safe maximum operating figure may be smaller than the technical figure.

- Maintenance of premises.

- Fire safety.
- Suitability of glassware or alternatives to glass.
- Disabled access and facilities.
- Nature of activities to be carried out on the premises.
- Vulnerability of patrons.

Again, the Board will look to operate a partnership approach with all stakeholders in order to ensure that public safety is not compromised by the operation of licensed premises.

What the Board Will Do:

- Promote education and awareness of potential risks.
- Apply additional licence conditions where appropriate for the purposes of this licensing objective.
- Facilitate effective communication between all relevant parties.
- Disseminate relevant information from partner agencies as widely as possible.
- Review licences as a last resort.

What the Board Will Expect of Licence Holders/Applicants:

- High standards of maintenance of premises.
- Membership of schemes to secure public safety such as radiolink and pubwatch.
- Glassware or alternatives to glassware including toughened or safety glass frequently cleared
- Accurate disability access statements. Although these are only required for new applications the Board would encourage all existing premises to consider the preparation of an appropriate statement for publication.
- Clear and accurate signage in and around premises.
- Fully completed risk assessments where appropriate, for both premises and proposed

activities to be carried out.

- Policies on crowd management and dispersal, both in the ordinary course of operation

and in an emergency.

- Regular maintenance and testing of security and operating systems.
- Designation of a “safe space” within the premises in which vulnerable persons can be provided with assistance.
- Co-operation with Police Scotland and Licensing Standards Officers including access to all relevant policies and procedures such as dispersal policies and incident management.

What the Board Will Expect of Partner Agencies:

- Co-operative approach.
- Effective communication and the sharing of up to date relevant information.
- Involvement in a licence review as a last resort.

Protecting Children and Young Persons from Harm

The Board recognises that the question of access to licensed premises by children and young persons is not one that can be answered with a one size fits all type of approach. The suitability of premises will depend on a number of factors including layout of the premises, activities or services available, and typical customer demographic.

Applicants and licence holders should also be aware that access for children and young persons will bring with it additional responsibilities and may result in additional conditions being attached to the licence.

What the Board Will Do:

- Assess all applications for suitability of access for children and young persons.
- Impose additional conditions where necessary to protect children and young persons from harm.
- Limit the hours during which children and young persons have access if appropriate.

- Limit activities which may take place on the licensed premises during hours in which children and young persons have access if appropriate.

What the Board Will Expect of Licence Holders/Applicants

- Consider the ambience of premises and what is appropriate in terms of children and young persons' access.
- Ensure facilities are appropriate to the areas of the premises to which children and young persons are to be afforded access.
- Vigilance against underage drinking and proxy purchasing.
- Strict enforcement of Challenge 25.
- Comprehensive and up to date staff training.
- Restrict access for children and young persons to appropriate hours and parts of the premises.

Supplementary Policy – External Drinking Areas

The Board recognises that the incorporation of outdoor areas within the licensed footprint of premises can enhance the operation of such premises but considers that it also attracts additional responsibilities on the part of the licence holder to uphold the licensing objectives.

Before an application to licence an outdoor area will be considered the area in question must benefit from the necessary planning permission and, if required, a pavement permit from the Roads Department of Aberdeen City Council.

All outdoor areas must be delineated on the layout plan forming part of the premises licence and outdoor drinking should be included as an activity within the body of the licence.

The Board will expect premises who currently utilise unlicensed outdoor areas to incorporate such areas within the premises licence by way of variation.

Applicants and licence holders must demonstrate that the areas will not contravene the licensing objectives, in particular with regard to noise, litter and antisocial behaviour. The areas must be regularly monitored, and glassware removed.

The Board will routinely attach additional conditions where an outdoor area is licensed including but not restricted to:

- Outdoor area to be clearly demarcated onsite.
- Use of the area to cease at 2200 hours.

- No amplified music or entertainment to take place in the outdoor area.

The terminal hour may be further restricted, and drinks may be required to be decanted into alternatives to glassware if appropriate.

6 CONDITIONS ATTACHING TO LICENCES

6.5 The Board has devised a number of local conditions which may be attached to premises licences.

Duty of Care - It is a condition that the licence holder must have in place a duty of care policy to ensure a standard approach is taken when any patron appears to be displaying signs of excessive intoxication. The purpose of this policy is to reduce vulnerability through intoxication, however attained. All staff must have training in identifying signs of excessive intoxication and an enhanced awareness of vulnerability through intoxication. This should include use of material such as the 'Who are You' video (whoareyou.nz) or similar. All related training should be recorded and such records available for inspection by Police and Licensing Standards Officers.

Drugs Policy - It is a condition that the licence holder has in place and enforces the drugs policy formulated by Police and attached hereto and displays a notice to the effect that such a drugs policy is in operation at the premises.

Radio Link - It is a condition that the licence holder is a member of the local Radio link Scheme