

Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-28 - Informal consultation - Response from Police Scotland

In terms of the informal consultation, I feel that the current Licensing Policy hasn't really been fully tested due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the licensing trade. This is similar in all local authority areas. Therefore, CI Menzies and I haven't found too many requirement for change, as per below.

Licensing Hours - it is felt that licensing hours remain appropriate for the area.

Description of Licensed Premises - it is understood that this subject has caused much debate within the licensed trade, particularly when 'entertainment' venues can technically operate similar or even longer hours than actual dedicated licensed premises. However, I don't believe at this time that the number of entertainment premises within the local authority area is particularly problematic and a separate description is not necessary at this time.

Licensing Conditions for Alcohol Delivery - It is noted that delivery is prohibited between the hours of midnight and 0600hrs. However, it may be more appropriate to amend delivery times to coincide with Off-Sales. I appreciate that this may be more problematic for restaurants that include alcohol delivery with food but this could be resolved by adding delivery conditions to coincide with their permitted trading hours.

Overprovision - it is noted that the current overprovision areas are considered "place" areas, or continue to be areas of deprivation. Police Scotland are happy for them to remain and have no other areas for consideration at this time. However, the ADP submission may provide health data and other figures that could recommend other areas and if so, Police Scotland will consider this in line with crime data.

Supplementary Statement - as discussed at the recent Licensing Board when the Chief Constable's Annual Report was considered, Police Scotland will support any condition that could improve the safety of customers and staff using or working within the licensing trade. This includes the policy of late-night premises being responsible for the safe transportation of staff following their working hours. Wider discussion would have to take place as to how such a condition would be implemented and how it would be managed but the principle is supported by Police Scotland.

I would be happy to meet and discuss this further with you at any time, particularly as we move towards the full consultation.

Many thanks,

Gareth

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