

ARGYLL AND BUTE LICENSING BOARD

THE LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005

STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

2013 - 2016

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Section 1: Introduction

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) regulates the sale and supply of alcoholic liquor in Scotland and the licensed premises and other premises on which alcohol is sold.

The administration of liquor licensing is carried out by Licensing Boards and Section 6 of the 2005 Act requires all Licensing Boards to publish a statement of their licensing policy. It is intended that this policy will be applied by the Board in exercising its functions under the 2005 Act.

This is the second review of the licensing policy and it will be subject to further review every 3 years in addition to regular monitoring, in consultation with stakeholders. It is also open to the Board to publish a supplementary statement of their policy.

In preparing this revised policy statement, Argyll and Bute Licensing Board has consulted with a range of relevant organisations.

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Section 2: Context

Argyll and Bute Council covers a vast area on the west coast of Scotland with 2,700 miles of coastline, 25 inhabited islands and 6 towns. Argyll and Bute is the second largest local authority area in Scotland and covers a large area, including Helensburgh, Dunoon and the Isle of Bute on the Clyde estuary, Loch Lomond to the east, the Mull of Kintyre and the Atlantic Islands to the west and the Sound of Mull and Appin to the north. The population of 86,900 live mainly in the 6 bustling local towns but also in friendly rural communities and on some of the best known of Scotland's islands, each with its own unique culture and characteristics (population statistics for the main settlement areas and islands are attached as Appendix 1). Argyll's beautiful landscape and rich cultural heritage are major attractions for visitors, and tourism is a vital part of the Argyll and Bute economy, alongside the traditional industries of forestry, fishing and agriculture and the emerging renewable and fish-farming industries.

The health and well-being of a large number of people in Scotland is being harmed directly or indirectly, by excessive alcohol consumption and the extent of social harms related to alcohol is increasingly recognised.

At the same time, this needs to be seen in the context of an alcohol industry that contributes greatly to Scotland. The whisky industry, in particular, plays an important part in the well-being of the Argyll and Bute economy, providing much needed employment in some of our more rural and isolated communities but also through attracting visitors to Scotland.

Tourism activity links closely with food and drink, the retail sector and recreational activities.

Section 3: The Licensing Objectives

The provisions of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 are intended to work alongside other policies of the Scottish Government, including measures to tackle anti-social behaviour and the programme of work set out in the Plan for Action on Alcohol Abuse which seeks to tackle under-age drinking, binge drinking and the wider problems associated with alcohol misuse. The Act sets out five licensing objectives on which the licensing system is based and Licensing Boards must take these into consideration when carrying out their functions. Each has equal weighting and they are as follows :-

- a) Preventing Crime and Disorder
- b) Securing Public Safety
- c) Preventing Public Nuisance
- d) Protecting and Improving Public Health
- e) Protecting Children from Harm

Preventing Crime and Disorder

The Board wishes to see Argyll and Bute as a safe place to live in and to visit. It is committed to improving the quality of life for the people in the area by ensuring that licensed premises are run in such a way as not to contribute to crime and disorder. Applicants should be able to demonstrate, in relation to their premises, that they will address the problems of -

- 1) underage drinking;
- 2) drunkenness on premises;
- 3) public drunkenness;
- 4) illegal possession and/or use of drugs;
- 5) violent behaviour;
- 6) anti-social behaviour;

Securing Public Safety

The Board wishes to promote public safety so that any person visiting or working on or in the vicinity of licensed premises is not threatened.

Preventing Public Nuisance

The Board wishes to protect and maintain the amenity of residents and occupiers of businesses from the adverse consequences of the operation of licensed premises. In particular applicants should address litter and noise issues.

Protecting and Improving Public Health

The Board recognises the link between consumption of alcohol and public health and will collate information from the relevant authorities responsible for the protection and improvement of public health and will require annual reports from these bodies.

Operating plans must demonstrate that suitable and sufficient measures have been identified and will be implemented and maintained to protect public health. This will include such measures as making available information with regard to sensible drinking, the effects of the excess consumption of alcohol and contact points where assistance can be obtained for drink problems.

Protecting Children and Young Persons from Harm

The Board wishes to promote family friendly premises. Applicants who wish to operate such premises should appreciate the additional responsibilities upon them whilst at the same time recognising that parents and other adults accompanying children and young persons also have responsibilities. The issue of under-age drinking is taken very seriously by the Board and applicants and licensees are reminded that they and their staff must comply with all other legislation in relation to children and young persons including not selling or allowing the sale of alcohol to children and young persons.

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Section 4: Board Business

The aim of this Policy Statement is to promote consistency of decision-making and to provide applicants with an indication of how the Board is likely to approach certain matters and deal with and determine applications. There is a presumption that the Board will follow the terms of this Policy in its determination of individual applications. It remains open, however, for an applicant to seek the grant of an application which is contrary to the terms of this Policy Statement. In such circumstances, an applicant will be required to evidence/demonstrate to the Board good reasons why the Board's Policy Statement should not be followed.

The Board is committed to conducting its business in an open and transparent manner. Information and assistance will be made available to those who wish to apply for a licence, to make representations or to object to an application. It is also strongly recommended, however, that any applicant, objector or representor seeks independent legal advice. The Board also recognises the need to ensure that the licensing process is accessible to all. Assistance will be made available on request for those who require special arrangements to access any part of the process.

The authority to exercise certain functions in respect of some matters under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 has been delegated to the Clerk/Depute Clerk or the Chair/Vice-Chair of the Licensing Board. The Board's Scheme of Delegation can be accessed on Argyll and Bute Council's website under Licensing..

Also, a draft procedure has been drawn up setting out the process which will be followed at any hearing which requires to take place before the Licensing Board. A copy of the draft procedure is attached as Appendix 2.

Section 5: Premises Licences

5.1 Any premises that wishes to sell alcohol for consumption on or off the premises must have a premises licence. An application for a premises licence must be accompanied by an operating plan which will take account of the requirements of this Policy, an appropriate layout plan relevant to the scale of the business and the appropriate fee. Each licence will be tailored to the particular premises and will set out, amongst others, what activities can be undertaken on the premises and the licensing hours.

5.2 Liaison with Licensing Standards Officers.

The Board expects that applicants for a grant, transfer or variation of a premises licence will liaise with the Licensing Standards Officer for their area as part of the application process. The Licensing Standards Officer can assist with advice and information on Board policy and liaison with the Council's licensing team.

5.3 Operating Plans

The operating plan is a crucial document and applicants should pay particular attention to its completion. The plan must be in the prescribed form as set out in The Premises Licence (Scotland) Regulations 2007 and should contain, amongst others, the following information :-

- (1) A description of the activities to be carried on in the premises;
- (2) A statement of the times during which it is proposed that alcohol be sold on the premises;
- (3) A statement as to whether the alcohol is to be sold for consumption on the premises, off the premises, or both;
- (4) A statement of the times at which any other activities in addition to the sale of alcohol are to be carried on in the premises;
- (5) A statement as to whether children or young persons are to be allowed entry to the premises and, if so, a statement of the terms on which they are allowed entry, including, in particular –
 - (i) the ages of children or young persons to be allowed entry,
 - (ii) the times at which they are to be allowed entry, and
 - (iii) the parts of the premises to which they are to be allowed entry.
- (6) Information as to the proposed capacity of the premises, and
- (7) Information about the person who is to be the premises manager.

5.4 Other Matters

The Board expects licensed premises to be operated in a manner which will promote the five licensing objectives. In addition to the matters set out in 5.3 above, applicants should specifically describe the practical arrangements to be implemented in order to achieve each of the licensing objectives.

The Board expects applicants to have regard to the following issues in addressing the licensing objectives :-

(i) Preventing Crime and Disorder

- A written crime prevention strategy;
- Staff training in respect of the prevention of crime and disorder;
- Crime prevention measures such as security patrols, advice notices/signs and/or other material demonstrating anti-theft messages/strategies, regular toilet checks demonstrated by the existence and operation of these measures by way of documented check sheets;
- Carry out regular security briefings for staff and appropriate records kept for inspection. Periodic reviews of no less than every 18 months undertaken and amendments made as deemed necessary;
- Every licensed venue to demonstrate their commitment to prevent crime and disorder on a wider community basis, for example, PubWatch Scheme
- A written violence reduction strategy available for inspection. This could include matters such as a glassware policy, anti-violence awareness patrols by staff in premises, toilet supervision, dispersal policy at the end of core hours. Periodic reviews of no less than every 18 months undertaken and amendments made as deemed necessary;
- House Policy – Licensees are encouraged to have a policy which stipulates the standards to be adhered to and gives guidance to staff on how the business must be conducted. This could be included within the staff training manual;
- Operating Procedures Manual – Licensees are encouraged to have a Manual which stipulates the operating procedures staff must comply with to include aspects of being a responsible retailer of alcohol;
- The Board encourages the upkeep of an incident book or register which lists incidents where staff and management have dealt with a situation by preventing it escalating into a more serious incident;

- Conflict management training and appropriate records kept for inspection by appropriate officers of the Council/ Police Scotland;
- Adequate seating should be provided. The Board recognise that establishments unwilling to provide adequate seating are in effect promoting vertical drinking which is known to increase consumption of alcohol;
- Much public disorder and nuisance occurs at or immediately after the terminal hours for the supply of alcohol. Licensees should ensure that they and their staff have sufficient measures in place to minimise the impact of the terminal hour, and to ensure patrons exit the premises as quickly as possible in good order and as quietly as possible. Measures to be adopted may include;
 - a) limiting the amount of alcohol sold just before the terminal hour (eg. only permitting a group to purchase one round, not two);
 - b) making sure all patrons know well in advance the last time for purchasing alcohol is approaching;
 - c) covering bar taps once the terminal hour has passed;
 - d) raising the lighting level;
 - e) reducing the level of music noise and altering the type of music played (eg slow ballads), all of which will assist in reducing patron boisterousness; and
 - f) inspecting all parts of the premises for patrons (e.g. toilets).

(ii) Securing Public Safety

- Details as to how occupancy will be managed at any given time - having regard to maximum capacity;
- All licensed venues other than premises open for the main purpose of providing a meal - a weapons and drugs search policy;
- All licensed venues, other than those premises open for the main purpose of providing a meal, to have an effective glass management policy, which will include the use of toughened or plastic glasses to reduce the possibility of injury; regular clearing of all glassware; and, with the exception of premises which have dedicated outside drinking areas, prohibition of patrons taking glassware outside the premises.
- A written policy on how to deal with customers who may become incapacitated or vulnerable due to drink or drugs;

- The provision of first aid facilities and an area in which incapacitated persons can be placed pending the attendance of emergency services.
- A written fire evacuation policy and be able to demonstrate training and test evacuations;
- A written accident recording system;
- The Board supports the use of CCTV systems and encourages licensees to use these wherever possible.

(iii) Preventing Public Nuisance

- All licensed premises open after 11 pm should have a policy on minimising noise pollution, which should include having all servicing and deliveries undertaken at times suitable to the local community;
- All licensed premises providing live or amplified music must have effective arrangements in place to overcome disturbance to other properties out with the licensed premises from excessive noise emissions
- All licensed premises should demonstrate their commitment to a cleaner environment in and around their premises.

(iv) Protecting and Improving Public Health

- All licensed premises should display anti-drunkenness materials, if appropriate to their premises along with information on units of alcohol in the context of recommended guidelines.
Free materials are available at:-
www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk; www.noidnosale.com
www.infoscotland.com/alcohol; www.drinkaware.co.uk
www.saferscotland.co.uk
- All licensed premises should have in place a workplace alcohol policy in order to raise awareness, minimise harm and ensure that staff are able to access help without fear of losing their job if a problem arises
- In relation to smoking outside licensed premises, licensees should have measures in place to address issues such as noise nuisance, litter, disorder and smoke drifting into neighbouring premises.

(v) Protecting Children from Harm

- A written policy in regard to preventing sales of alcohol to persons under the legal age;
- All premises and occasional licence holders must have an age verification policy in relation to the sale of alcohol on their premises. The law has set a minimum age of 25 years for the policy where it appears to the person selling the alcohol that the customer may be under the age of 25 years. As a result, customers in any premises licensed for the sale of alcohol, including pubs, clubs, restaurants, supermarkets, shops and any licensed community venue should be asked to produce proof of age identification where they appear under the age of twenty five to prove that they are over the age of eighteen and can lawfully purchase alcohol.
- The Board encourages the use of a refusals register where all refusals of service are recorded;

Section 6: Overprovision

- 6.1 Section 7 of the 2005 Act requires the Licensing Board to include a statement on overprovision within this policy.
- 6.2 The Licensing Board must state the extent to which it considers there to be overprovision of:
 - (a) Licensed premises; or
 - (b) Licensed premises of a particular description.
in any locality within the Board's area
- 6.3 Having consulted with the Chief Constable of Police Scotland and the Local Licensing Forum, the Board has reached the view over previous years that there were not any particular areas which should be regarded as separate localities for the purpose of assessing possible overprovision.
- 6.4 Further, the Board did not consider that there was any evidence of a saturation point having been reached in respect of licensed premises generally or in respect of any particular type of licensed premises which would indicate a current difficulty with overprovision.
- 6.5 The Board does recognise, however, that there is a need to keep this matter under review and therefore an information and evidence gathering exercise has been commenced in conjunction with the Local Licensing Forum with a view to considering the matter of overprovision. The outcome of this exercise will be the subject of separate public consultation in due course.

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Section 7: Capacity of Premises

For the purposes of the overprovision assessment, the operating capacity of licensed premises will be particularly important. The definition of operating capacity for off-sales and on-sales is set out in the 2005 Act -

Off-Sales

The amount of space given over to the display of alcohol for sale.

On-Sales

The maximum number of customers who can be accommodated in the premises at any one time.

Determining Capacity: The Board will determine the capacity in accordance with Building Standards Regulations, Applicants are advised to consult with Argyll and Bute Council's Building Standards Service if they are in any doubt as to the capacity of their premises.

The Board will also have discretion to impose capacity limits on specific areas within the licensed premises (e.g. function rooms) as appropriate, in consultation with Argyll and Bute Council's Building Standards Service.

Licence holders are expected to have arrangements in place to monitor the number of persons present at any point to ensure that the occupancy capacity is not exceeded.

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Section 8: Licensing Hours

8.1 General Issues

Whilst each application will be considered on its merits, the following sets out the Board's policy on licensing hours. Applications for hours at times outwith the Board's policy will require to demonstrate that the additional requested hours are appropriate in the circumstances.

8.2 Off-Sale Premises

The licensing hours for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises (off-sales hours) are 10 am to 10 pm each day. The Board has no discretion to permit licensed hours outwith these times, but may restrict the opening hours. In determining applications and licensed hours within these times, the Board will have particular regard to the promotion of the licensing objectives.

8.3 On-Sale Premises

For applications relating to premises licences including extensions of hours, the licensed hours for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises shall generally be no earlier than 11 am. Applicants need to demonstrate a clear operational need for opening prior to 11.00am.

Licensed hours for on-sales premises in particular can have an impact not only within the individual premises but also within the locality in which the premises are situated. Taking into account the five licensing objectives, the presumption against 24 hour drinking and the guidance for Licensing Boards and Local Authorities issued by the Scottish Executive and that mandatory conditions specified by Regulation apply to those premises opening after 1 am, the Board considers the following to be appropriate for the terminal hour beyond which alcohol must not be sold on the premises or parts of the premises:-

Sunday to Thursday	12 midnight
Friday & Saturday	1 am

Premises that wish to be open outwith standard hours must demonstrate measures that promote the licensing objectives.

- 8.4 Applicants should be aware that premises are expected to remain open for the licensed hours they apply for and which are granted by the Board. The Board recognises, however, that at certain times of the year demand may diminish to the point where it is no longer economically viable for premises to remain open, particularly on weekday evenings. The Board expects that any premises licence applicants ensure that if they anticipate being affected by this and wish to close early, for example during the winter months, that this is specifically referred to in their operating plan.

Licence holders of existing premises licences who may wish to close early or open later should make application for the appropriate variation to their operating plan.

8.5 In determining applications where more than one activity takes place in the premises, the Board will have regard to when the activities take place and the principal activity taking place. The Board may impose further conditions to ensure other activities do not take place or remain ancillary to the principal activity for those licensed hours.

8.6 Premises operating as hotels should note that if they wish to serve alcohol to residents beyond the ordinary licensed hours, they must specify the hours during which they wish to do so in their operating plan.

8.7 The Board is aware that there is a strong view against allowing later opening of licensed premises particularly in mixed residential and commercial neighbourhoods. In this regard operating plans must consider the impact their patrons may have after leaving their premises:-

- the effect of the grant of a licence for later or earlier hours on crime and disorder, public safety, public nuisance, public health and children;
- the proposed hours when any music, including incidental music will be played;
- the hours when customers will be allowed to take food or drink outside the premises or be within open areas which form part of the premises;
- the existing hours of licensable activities and the past operation of the premises if any;
- the capacity of the premises;
- the type of use, recognising that premises which sell alcohol, play music for dancing, provide late night refreshment or takeaway food, are more likely to be associated with crime and disorder and public nuisance than restaurants, cinemas or other performance venues.

8.8 Restricted licensing hours may be appropriate in cases where licensed premises are situated in the vicinity of residential property. Additionally where the trading hours of licensed premises and other businesses in the area may lead to additional public nuisance, disorder or anti-social behaviour, then restricted licensing hours may be appropriate.

8.9 Extended Hours Applications

8.10 In order to allow sufficient time for processing the application and to ensure timescales are met for the requisite consultations, an application for extended hours should be submitted at least 35 days prior to the date of the proposed event. Where an application is submitted within 35 days of the date of the proposed event then no guarantee will be given that the application will be processed and determined in sufficient time.

8.11 Upon submission of an application, the Board may extend the licensed hours in respect of premises by such period as is specified in the application or such other period as it considers appropriate; but in either case the period must **not** exceed one month. The Board will normally only do so in connection with -

a special event or occasion to be catered for on the premises, or

a special event of local or national significance.

Where the hours sought fall outwith the on-sales hours specified above, the applicant will have to demonstrate the hours requested are appropriate in the circumstances. The applicant should provide to the Board sufficient detailed information to enable a decision to be made.

This will include :-

- a) the hours sought;
- b) a description of the special event or occasion;
- c) what activities are proposed to take place during the hours sought;
- d) when each activity will take place;
- e) why the event or occasion is considered to be special, and
- f) why the event or occasion cannot take place within the on-sales hours specified above.

8.12 Festive Hours

The Board will agree annually the specific dates over the Christmas and New Year period, between which it will consider applications to extend on-sales licensed hours. These dates will normally cover a period of approximately three weeks over the festive period. The Board will aim to notify the dates and policy approach for the next festive period to licensees and to Police Scotland prior to the end of September.

8.13 Urgent applications

There is now provision within the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 which enables the Board to reduce the length of time required to receive comments from the Chief Constable and the Licensing Standards Officer in respect of an application for an extended hours application. The period may be reduced from 21 days to a period of not less than 24 hours where the Licensing Board is satisfied that the application requires to be dealt with as a matter of urgency (e.g. catering for a funeral).

Section 9: Occasional Licences

- 9.1 It is possible to make an application for an occasional licence authorising the sale of alcohol on premises which are not licensed premises. This may be made by :-
- (i) the holder of a premises licence;
 - (ii) the holder of a personal licence;
 - (iii) a representative of any voluntary organisation.
- 9.2 The 2005 Act does not provide a definition of what constitutes a voluntary organisation. In assessing whether an organisation is a voluntary organisation, the Board will have regard to the tests set out in the guidance available from the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations. A copy of the relevant guidance is attached as Appendix 3. A copy of the organisations constitution will require to be submitted along with the application for an occasional licence.
- 9.3 The holders of premises or personal licences may make unlimited applications. However, there are restrictions on the number of applications a voluntary organisation can make. In any twelve month period, the Board may not issue more than four licences each lasting four days or more, and not more than twelve licences each lasting less than four days; and during that period the total number of days on which occasional licences have effect must not exceed fifty-six.
- 9.4 The Board expects that an occasional licence will be operated in such a manner as to be consistent with the five licensing objectives. With this in mind, an application for an occasional licence will require to include a brief statement by the applicant of what measures they intend to have in place to address each of the licensing objectives. Further guidance will be provided in relation to this matter along with the application process but it is intended to cover matters such as an ID scheme, provision of a soft drinks area for young persons, a dispersal policy, regular toilet checks and so on.
- 9.5 In order to allow sufficient time for processing the application and to ensure time scales are met for the requisite statutory consultation and advertising, an application for an occasional licence should be submitted at least 35 days prior to the date of the proposed event. Where an application is submitted within 35 days of the date of the proposed event then no guarantee can be given that the application will be processed and determined within sufficient time.
- 9.6 The Board considers that activities such as dances, discos and dinner dances, wedding receptions and parties where a disco or band is provided are generally acceptable for the granting of an occasional licence. Annual events or competitions may also be acceptable; however, darts, domino or pool competitions, karaoke evenings, quiz nights or private parties where there is no significant entertainment are not considered acceptable activities. Where live entertainment is not an

integral part of the function then this would also not be acceptable - eg. background piano music.

The Board considers the commencement of the sale of alcohol should normally be no earlier than 11 am.

For the terminal hour beyond which alcohol must not be sold on the premises, the Board considers the following to be appropriate:-

Where there is no specific entertainment –

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	11 pm
Thursday, Friday and Saturday	12 midnight
Sunday	11 pm

Where there is specific entertainment -

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	11pm
Thursday, Friday and Saturday	1 am
Sunday	12 midnight

- 9.7 Where an application seeks licensed hours which are outwith the Board's policy, then the applicant will require to provide clear and detailed justification as to why the additional requested hours are appropriate and necessary in the particular circumstances..
- 9.8 Every occasional licence is subject to the mandatory conditions prescribed by the 2005 Act. These cover matters such as:-
- A written age verification policy in regard to preventing sales of alcohol to persons under the legal age; ;
 - All premises and occasional licence holders must have an age verification policy in relation to the sale of alcohol on their premises.
 - The law has set a minimum age of 25 years for the policy where it appears to the person selling the alcohol that the customer may be under 25 years, should result, customers in any premises licensed for the sale of alcohol should be asked to produce proof of age identification where they appear under the age of 25 years to prove that they are over the age of eighteen and can lawfully purchase alcohol.
 - Tap water to be available free of charge;
 - An occasional licence issued to a voluntary organisation must be in relation to an event in connection with that organisation's activities.
- 9.9 In addition to the foregoing, the Board will also consider whether it is necessary to impose additional local conditions to promote the licensing objectives. The following are proposed as standard core local conditions, some or all of which may be attached to an occasional licence:-

1. All children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible adult who must be at least 18 years of age.
2. No admission to the event after midnight.
3. Where young persons are to be admitted to the event, there must be a separate area for the sale of soft drinks.
4. Children under 16 years of age may only remain at the event until 10pm.
5. The licence holder must be familiar with the legal requirements of selling alcohol under the occasional licence and shall ensure that all persons selling or serving alcohol are aware of their duties and responsibilities.
6. Stewards must clearly be identified by badges, armbands or a recognisable uniform.
7. The number of persons permitted entry to the premises shall not exceed the approved capacity limit for the premises.
8. Any music or live performance must cease at least fifteen minutes prior to the terminal hour.
9. No-one will be permitted entry to the event with alcohol in a glass container.

9.10 The Board is aware that the 2005 Act does not require the office bearers of voluntary organisations who apply for occasional licences to obtain an appropriate training qualification. The Board is conscious, however, that such persons are in charge of events where alcohol is being dispensed and sold and may be running a number of such events during the course of a year. Having regard to the licensing objectives, the Board believes that such training is desirable and would encourage voluntary organisations to ensure that at least one member present at the event to which the occasional licence relates is trained at least to a standard prescribed in the Licensing (Training of Staff) (Scotland) Regulations 2007.

9.11 Urgent applications: There is a provision within the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 which enables the Board to reduce the length of time required to receive comments from the Chief Constable and the Licensing Standards Officer in respect of an application for an occasional licence. The period is reduced from 21 days to a period of not less than 24 hours where the Licensing Board is satisfied that the application requires to be dealt with quickly (e.g. catering for a funeral).

Section 10: Mandatory Conditions

10.1 The 2005 Act recognises that Licensing Boards must have the flexibility to deal with local circumstances but this must be balanced with a clear and effective national framework within which Boards must operate. Accordingly, there is a requirement that all premises licences issued will be subject to certain mandatory conditions which are set out in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act. These conditions include the following :-

- No alcohol is to be sold on the premises where
 - there is no premises manager for the premises;
 - the premises manager does not hold a personal licence or it has been suspended;
 - the licensing qualification held by the premises manager is not appropriate.
- Every sale of alcohol made on the premises must be authorised (whether generally or specifically) by the premises manager or another personal licence holder. The Licensing Board expects the alcohol authorisation to be in a written format so that the premises manager or other personal licence holder (or member of staff so authorised) can evidence the authorisation if needs be. Further information on alcohol authorisation can be obtained from the Licensing Standards Officer.
- Pricing of Alcohol
 - variation of prices (the price of drinks cannot be varied within 72 hours, starting at the start of the day);
 - an irresponsible drinks promotion must not be carried on or in connection with the premises. This will include promotions aimed at persons under 18, supply of free alcoholic drinks (eg. buy 1 get 1 free), supply of unlimited amounts of alcohol for a fixed price, rewarding or encouraging patrons to drink alcohol quickly or being offered as a reward or prize (unless in a sealed container and consumed off the premises);
- Water fit for drinking must be provided free of charge on request.
- Any premises which operate after 1 am on any occasion must have a person trained to the satisfaction of the Licensing Board in administering first aid on the premises from 1 am until the premises close.

10.2 Mandatory Conditions – Certain Premises

There are certain conditions which must be imposed in respect of premises operating after 1 am and which have a capacity of at least 250 people and which -

- (a) will regularly provide at any time in the period between 1 am and 5 am -
 - (i) live or recorded music with a decibel level exceeding 85 dB;
 - (ii) facilities for dancing, or
 - (iii) adult entertainment, or
- (b) when fully occupied are likely to have more customers standing than seated.

The conditions to be imposed are :-

- (1) There must be a personal licence holder present on the premises from 1 am until the premises close.
- (2) There must be written policies in place in relation to the evacuation of the premises and the prevention of the misuse of drugs on the premises.
- (3) A CCTV system must be installed on the premises.
- (4) There must be persons responsible for checking on the safety and wellbeing of persons using any toilet facilities on the premises, and
- (5) A licensed door steward must be positioned at every entrance to the premises, from 1 am until the premises close.

Section 11: Discretionary Conditions

The Board can also impose such other conditions as they consider necessary or expedient to promote the licensing objectives or to give effect to the provisions of this Policy Statement. The decision whether to impose a condition will be made on an objective basis, taking account of any representations and any other relevant information available to the Board.

Section 12: Public Awareness Materials

SAFE LIMITS AND DRINK-DRIVING - Licensees are encouraged to use materials such as posters, beer mats etc which promote moderate consumption of alcohol along with awareness of units of alcohol and the recommended guidelines – eg, a wine list would state how many units in a small, large glass and bottle and relate that to the daily/weekly recommended limits. Most of these materials are available from health boards and connected associations free of charge.

Drink-driving can have a catastrophic effect on families and licensed establishments can play a part in prevention by displaying anti drink-driving materials, supplying reasonably priced soft drinks, promoting awareness of campaigns such as designated driver schemes and offering free soft drinks to designated drivers.

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Section 13: Access by Children & Young Persons to Licensed Premises

13.1 The Board wishes to encourage family friendly licensed premises where there is an environment where families can socialise safely together. The Board will therefore generally welcome applications from those who wish to operate licensed premises which accommodate children and young persons. However, in doing so, the Board recognises that some activities associated with premises that sell alcohol for consumption on the premises may, in certain circumstances, give rise to concerns for the health and welfare of children and young persons.

The Board is committed to protecting children and young persons from harm. Licensees making applications for premises licenses or variations to the terms on which children and young persons are permitted access to premises, will therefore need to demonstrate to the Board how they will promote this particular licensing objective.

13.2 Licensees must include within an operating plan consideration as to whether the premises are suitable for children and young persons. Children are defined in the Act as a person under the age of 16 years and young persons are defined as being 16 and 17 years old. If children and young persons are to be admitted, adequate standards need to be in place to ensure the venue provides a safe and suitable environment. The Board would expect an applicant to demonstrate an understanding of the additional responsibilities placed on them when children and young persons are on the premises and to demonstrate that suitable and sufficient measures are in place to protect children and young persons from harm.

13.3 The Board will not normally grant a premises licence or occasional licence where children and young persons could have unsupervised access to pool tables, darts boards or gaming machines. The parts of the premises to which children and young persons are allowed entry will require to have a suitable character and atmosphere. Premises or parts of premises which are very small and enclosed are unlikely to be able to provide an appropriate environment. In addition, premises which have very few facilities are unlikely to comply with the Board's requirements.

13.4 The terminal hour for children and young persons on licensed premises will generally be 9pm provided they are accompanied by an appropriate responsible adult over the age of 18 years and they are on the premises for the purposes of taking a meal. It may be that young persons can remain on the premises beyond this hour but that will be a matter for the Board to determine on an individual basis having regard to factors such as the nature of the establishment and the type of facilities provided. Similarly the default terminal hour for children and young persons in outside seating areas will be 8 p.m. unless otherwise agreed by the Board (see section 15 below).

- 13.5 Where children and young persons are permitted entry to premises, the Board may place a limit on the hours when they can be present. In relation to premises which are family – orientated and operate principally for the provision of food (where 75% or more of the floor area is given over to dedicated restaurant facilities), the Board is of the view, that, with the exception of any bar area, responsibility for determining the appropriate terminal hour for children should be that of the licence holder. In such cases the Board will generally only look to review, restrict or enforce the terminal hour set out in the Operating Plan where there is a concern that the protecting children from harm objective is not being met.
- 13.6 Where a private function (eg wedding, golden wedding celebration, christening, special birthday celebration) is being held on a licensed premises and children and young persons are to be attending the function then the Board is of the view that it is generally permissible for children and young persons to remain for the duration of the private function provided due regard is had to the licensing objective of protecting children from harm.
- 13.7 The Board will impose appropriate conditions on a premises licence or in granting an occasional licence where children and young persons are to be allowed entry. Conditions will seek to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young persons on the premises.

Section 14: Off-Sales Premises

In respect of premises which sell alcohol solely for consumption off the premises, it will be a condition that displays of alcohol on those premises is confined to a single area. The applicant must clearly identify the alcohol display area on the layout plan and delineate the alcohol display in the layout plan and it will then be for the Licensing Board and the applicant to agree on the defined area. The only exception to the foregoing is that the Board may agree to alcohol being displayed in other areas provided they are inaccessible to the public – eg. behind the counter, locked display cabinet.

In relation to the opening hours of such premises, the Board may impose a terminal hour prior to the 10 pm limit defined in the 2005 Act. Each case will be taken on its merits but the Board is concerned to ensure that the licensing objectives relating to crime, children, public health and public nuisance, in particular, are promoted in this area and will consider carefully whether later opening hours, up to 10 p.m. can be justified.

Section 15: Outside Seating Areas

Where applicants propose to provide outside seating, tables and other facilities in any outdoor area (covered or otherwise), regard should be had to the need to ensure that the use of such areas will not cause disturbance or nuisance to the occupiers of premises in the vicinity.

The default terminal hour for outside seating areas will be 10 p.m. but for children and young persons will be 8 p.m.

The Board expects an operating plan to include or exclude the use of an outside seating area. If included, effective management controls, supervision and other measures to ensure that the use of the area by patrons does not have a negative impact on the vicinity should be incorporated within the operating plan.

Depending on the location of the premises, the outside area may require to be delineated by some means such as a wall, bollards, markers or so on. Conditions as determined by the Board relating to the specific circumstances of the premises will be attached to any grant; this may include the exclusion of the use of glassware within the area after a specified time each evening.

Section 16: Procedures for Applications, Objections, Hearings

The Board must give notice of a premises licence application to -

- (a) each person defined to be a neighbour;
- (b) any Community Council within whose area the premises are situated;
- (c) Argyll and Bute Council;
- (d) the Fire and Police authorities
- (e) the Health Board

Any person may submit an objection or representation to the Board. The objection must relate to one of the five licensing objectives and relate to specific premises. An objection lodged on the general basis of opposing the use of alcohol or to licensed hours on a Sunday will be considered to be frivolous and will be rejected without consideration.

The Board has developed a leaflet entitled "How to object to a liquor licence application" and this is available free of charge from the Clerk's office or it can be downloaded from the Licensing Board's pages on the website maintained by Argyll and Bute Council.

When considering an application for premises which have been previously licensed or in any review of an existing licence, the Board will take into account any relevant evidence, especially the impact on local residents and businesses and will also look at the measures proposed by the applicant to mitigate any adverse impact.

Section 17: Attempts to Influence Board Members

It is an offence for an applicant to attempt to influence a member of the Board; this will include approaches from a third party on behalf of an applicant.

If this situation arises the Board Member will immediately report the matter to the Clerk to the Board. The Clerk will in turn notify Police Scotland and if proceedings are brought for the offence the Board will not determine the application until after the proceedings are concluded. If the applicant is convicted of the offence, the Board may refuse to consider the application.

The Board's Clerk will maintain a Register which contains information in relation to premises licences, personal licences and occasional licences issued by the Board. The Register also contains information in relation to decisions of the Board .

The Register is available for perusal on Argyll and Bute Council's website or can be made available during normal working hours at the Clerk's office, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Section 18 : Licensing Register

The Board's Clerk will maintain a Register which contains information in relation to premises licences, personal licences and occasional licences issued by the Board. The Register also contains information in relation to decisions of the Board .

The Register is available for perusal on Argyll and Bute Council's website or can be made available during normal working hours at the Clerk's office, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Section 19: Local Licensing Forum

The Board recognises the importance of the establishment of the Local Licensing Forum in Argyll and Bute and will endeavour to work closely with it. The Board will

- (i) take account of the advice or recommendations made by the Forum;
- (ii) where after consideration the Board decides not to follow the advice or recommendations made by the Forum, reasons for the decision will be given in writing to the Forum;
- (iii) provide the Forum with any relevant statistical information provided it is easily available within the Clerk's office;
- (iv) meet with the Forum at least once per calendar year.

Section 20: Members Clubs

- 20.1 The Licensing (Clubs) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, by virtue of section 125 of The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, now regulate the sale of alcohol in licensed members clubs in Scotland and each club is required to operate under the grant of a premises licence. Each club should be non-profit-making with a constitution and limited access by members of the public, the club in submitting an application for a premises licence should submit a copy of its current constitution.
- 20.2 The Board expects clubs to reflect certain operational requirements in their constitution and may impose conditions on a premises licence to that effect on the following matters (though not limited to) :-

Clubs must keep their constitutions updated and, when revised, submit a copy of the revised constitution to the Clerk's office. Clubs must also ensure their constitution, accounts and entry book are available for inspection by a Licensing Standards Officer and officers of Police Scotland at all reasonable times.

- 20.3 Section 125 of the 2005 Act allows for exemptions in relation to the licensing of members clubs. These exemptions are:
- inclusion in assessments for overprovision in the Board's area;
 - ground of refusal of premises licence application relating to overprovision;
 - ground of refusal of premises licence variation application relating to overprovision;
 - requirement for operating plan to contain information as to the premises manager;
 - requirement for the name and address of premises manager to be specified in the premises licence;
 - requirement for there to be a premises manager for the premises; and
 - requirement for sales of alcohol under the premises licence to be authorised by a personal licence holder.

20.4 An additional development brought about by the 2005 Act is the inclusion of members clubs in the occasional licence provisions. The Licensing (Clubs) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 now permit members clubs to apply for occasional licences on similar terms as voluntary organisations, and the fact that a premises licence is in effect in respect of premises used wholly or mainly for the purposes of a club, is not to prevent an occasional licence being issued in respect of those premises.

A Licensing Board may issue in respect of those club premises in any period of 12 months –

- a) not more than 4 occasional licences each having effect for a period of 4 days or more, and
- b) not more than 12 occasional licences each having effect for a period of less than 4 days,

provided that, in any period of 12 months, the total number of days on which occasional licences issued in respect of the premises have effect does not exceed 56 days.

20.5 Section 9 – Occasional Licences above details the Board's policy in relation to occasional licence applications which will be applied to members clubs.

Section 21: Excluded Premises- Garages

- 21.1 The Act stipulates that certain premises are excluded from authorising the sale or supply of alcohol. This includes motorway service stations and premises or parts of premises used as a garage. Premises are used as a garage if they are used for one or more of the following :-
- a) the retailing of petrol;
 - b) the retailing of diesel;
 - c) the sale of motor vehicles; and
 - d) the maintenance of motor vehicles
- 21.2 Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, if a premises (or parts of a premises) are used as a garage they will be able to apply for an alcohol licence if the local community is (or is likely to become) reliant to a significant extent on the premises as a principal source of either fuel or groceries. The effect of this exemption is not limited to rural areas, as there may be instances in urban or other areas where the community is reliant on the premises as their local shop.
- 21.3 In determining an application for such a premises licence, the Licensing Board expects the applicant to provide sufficient information to enable the Board to consider :-
- (i) the locality in which the premises are situated,
 - (ii) what other sources of (a) fuel and/or (b) groceries are in that locality, and
 - (iii) the extent to which persons resident in that locality are, or are likely to become, reliant on the premises as the principal source of (a) fuel, or (b) groceries.
- 21.4 Factors the Licensing Board may consider include :-
- the number of, and distance to other licensed premises
 - the number of premises selling fuel or groceries in the locality;
 - the distance to the nearest other premises selling fuel or groceries;
 - the opening hours of other premises selling fuel or groceries in the locality;
 - the number and/or percentage of persons resident in the locality who are, or are likely to become, reliant on the premises, and
 - to what extent, as the principal source of (a) fuel or (b) groceries, with particular reference to weekly groceries rather than convenience goods.
- 21.5 The Board will have regard to the five licensing objectives when determining such applications and in determining what, if any, conditions

it may impose – eg, it may be considered appropriate to restrict the display of alcohol to a particular area within the premises.

Section 22: Licensing Standards Officers

- 22.1 There are two Licensing Standards Officers employed by Argyll and Bute Council. These officers are separate from the Licensing Board and their role is to provide guidance to interested parties; ensure compliance by the holders of premises licences and occasional licences; and to provide mediation to avoid or resolve disputes. They will also participate in the Argyll and Bute Local Licensing Forum.
- 22.2 The Licensing Standards Officers will work with the public, the Council's Partners, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and the business community in seeking to promote the five licensing objectives and ensuring compliance with the law.

Section 23: Duplication

The Board is committed to avoiding duplication with other regulatory regimes and agencies so far as possible, such as Health and Safety at Work and Fire Safety.

Section 24: Relationship With Other Strategies

The Board will endeavour to secure proper integration with local crime prevention, alcohol and drugs strategy, community safety, health, planning, transport, tourism, race equality and cultural strategies.