

Central Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ

**This meeting
may be filmed.***



please ask for Leslie Manning
direct line 0300 300 5132
date 7 April 2015

NOTICE OF MEETING

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

Date & Time

Wednesday, 22 April 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

Venue at

**Committee Room 1, Watling House, High Street North,
Dunstable**

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

To: The Members of the LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE:

Cllrs R D Berry, D Bowater and K Janes

Named Substitutes:

[Cllrs P N Aldis, Mrs A Barker, Mrs B Coleman, I Dalgarno, A L Dodwell,
Mrs M Mustoe, I Shingler and N Warren]

All other Members of the Council - on request

***Please note that phones and other equipment may be used to film, audio record, tweet or blog from this meeting. No part of the meeting room is exempt from public filming.**

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AGENDA

1. **Election of Chairman**

To elect a Chairman for the meeting.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

3. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence and notification of substitute Members.

4. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations of interest.

5. **Procedure for the Hearing of Applications under the Licensing Act 2003**

To note the procedure for hearing applications under the Licensing Act 2003 (copy attached).

6. **The Four Licensing Objectives**

To note the four Licensing Objectives (copy attached).

7. **Premises Licence Review**

To note an extract from chapter 11 of the revised guidance (dated October 2014) issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 which provides advice relating to the review of premises licences (copy attached).

8. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

To consider whether to pass a resolution under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that the consideration of the item is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Exempt Report

Item	Subject	Exempt Para.	Page Nos.
9.	Application for Review of a Premises Licence under The Licensing Act 2003 at The Broadwalk Wine Bar, 18a Church Street, Dunstable, Beds	* 1, 2, 7	33 - 84

To determine an application for the review of a premises licence, made under the Licensing Act 2003, from the Police Licensing Officer.



Procedure for the hearing of applications The Licensing Act 2003

The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005

**Public Protection
Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands
Shefford
SG17 5TQ**

0300 300 8000

**Licensing Sub-Committee Procedure for
Determining applications under the Licensing Act 2003**

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Introduction

- 1.1. The Licensing Act 2003 has placed local authorities at the centre of the decision making process for regulating the sale and supply of alcohol, provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment.
- 1.2. This document and the procedures detailed herein are based upon the guidance issued by the Local Government Regulation Service and with regards to the provisions of:
 - the Licensing Act 2003;
 - the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on 7 July 2004 under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003; and
 - The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 (as amended).
- 1.3. This guidance is intended for all concerned in any way whatsoever with a hearing before a licensing panel (Licensing Sub-committee, the Licensing Committee or Council, as may be the case) in relation to the determination of applications under the Licensing Act 2003.

2. General Principles

- 2.1. All Members sitting on the determination of an application will always:
 - promote the right of all parties to have a fair hearing;
 - only have regard to such of the four licensing objectives that are subject to a relevant representation, namely:
 - the prevention of crime and disorder;
 - public safety;
 - the prevention of public nuisance; and
 - the protection of children from harm;
 - have regard to the Licensing Act 2003 and any relevant secondary legislation;
 - have regard to the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy;
 - have regard to the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003;
 - treat each application on its own merits; and
 - undertake its decision-making responsibilities honestly and fairly, in an open, transparent and accountable way.

PRE-HEARING

3. Licensing Panels

- 3.1. Generally, hearings will take place before a Licensing Sub-committee consisting of three Members of the Licensing Committee, although, to avoid unnecessary adjournments, a fourth Member may attend as a substitute Member.
- 3.2. If, for any reason whatsoever, it is not possible to have a matter determined by a Licensing Sub-Committee, the matter would be heard by the Licensing Committee. A Licensing Committee must consist of between ten and fifteen Members and at least one half of those Members must attend for a hearing to proceed before the Licensing Committee.
- 3.3. In the highly unlikely event of it not being possible, for any reason whatsoever, to have a matter determined by either a Licensing Sub-committee or the Licensing Committee, the matter would be heard by Council.

4. Timescales for Convening a Hearing

- 4.1. Most hearings under the Licensing Act 2003 must normally take place within 20 working days from the last date in which representations can be made. There are exceptions to this rule.
- 4.2. Exceptions:
 - 4.2.1. A hearing must take place within 10 working days of the Authority receiving notification of a review of the premises following a closure order;
 - 4.2.2. A hearing must take place within 7 working days from the day after the end of the period within which the police can object to a temporary event notice;
 - 4.2.3. A hearing must take place within 5 working days beginning the day after the end of the last day for the police to object to an interim authority notice.
- 4.3. Hearings may be dispensed with where all relevant persons agree a hearing is unnecessary.

5. Notice of Hearing

- 5.1. Generally 10 clear days notice will be given of a hearing. There are exceptions to this rule.
- 5.2. Exceptions:
 - 5.2.1. 5 days notice will be given of a hearing for a review of a premises licence following a closure order;
 - 5.2.2. 2 days notice will be given of a hearing following police objection to an interim authority notice;
 - 5.2.3. 2 days notice will be given of a hearing following police objection to temporary events notice.

6. Persons to be Notified of a Hearing

- 6.1. The following persons must be notified of a hearing:
 - 6.1.1. Any applicant for any licence, provisional statement or review;
 - 6.1.2. Premises user who submitted a temporary event notice;
 - 6.1.3. Any person who has made relevant representations;
 - 6.1.4. Any Responsible Authority; and
 - 6.1.5. Where an application is made for a review, the holder of a premises licence or club premises certificate.

7. Contents of Notice

- 7.1. The notice of a hearing must contain:
 - 7.1.1. The date, time and place of the hearing;
 - 7.1.2. The procedure to be followed at the hearing;
 - 7.1.3. The right of a party to attend and to be assisted or represented by any person whether legally qualified or not;
 - 7.1.4. Any points upon which the authority considers that it will want clarification from a party at the hearing;
 - 7.1.5. The right of the party to provide additional information to provide any clarification sought by the Authority;
 - 7.1.6. The consequences of failing to attend the hearing or not being represented at the hearing;
 - 7.1.7. Any information the Licensing Authority has received in support or opposition of the application.

8. Hearings to be open to the public

- 8.1. Hearings will generally be open to the public as the Licensing Authority is committed to taking decisions in an honest, accountable and transparent way, but on occasions a licensing panel may find it necessary to exclude a party or parties, the public and press from all or any part of a hearing.
- 8.2. A panel will only pass an exclusion resolution where it considers that the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in the hearing, or that part of the hearing, taking place in public. Such decisions will be made on an individual basis.
- 8.3. The panel's deliberations, which do not form part of the hearing, will be conducted in private. The announcement of the panel's decision is part of the hearing and will generally be open to the public, subject to any exclusion resolution.

9. Failure to attend the hearing

- 9.1. No party is obliged to attend a hearing, although the Licensing Authority encourages all parties to attend hearings to make their application or representation, as may be the case.
- 9.2. Regardless of whether a party attends a hearing or not, the matter will generally be heard and determined by the licensing panel (the Council, the Licensing Committee or a Licensing Sub-committee). At the hearing, the panel will consider any application, representation or notice made by an absent party in the same way as it will of any application, representation or notice made by a party that attends the hearing.
- 9.3. If, however, the hearing is adjourned to a specified date, all parties will forthwith be notified of the date, time and place to which the hearing has been adjourned.

10. Disruptive behaviour

- 10.1. Any person who disrupts a hearing by the Council, the Licensing Committee or a Licensing Sub-committee of a matter under the Licensing Act 2003 may be required to leave the hearing.
- 10.2. It is for the panel hearing the matter to decide whether such person will be permitted to return to the hearing, but should they be allowed to do so, this may be on such conditions as the panel may specify.
- 10.3. If a disruptive person is a person who has a right to address the panel, then that person may, before the end of the hearing (i.e. before Stage 25 of the following procedure), put in writing any information they would have been entitled to give orally, had they not been required to leave the hearing.

SUB - COMMITTEE AGENDA

11. Licensing Sub-Committee agenda

- 11.1. The Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing shall be commenced in accordance with the Licensing Sub-Committee agenda. Any Committee matters shall be addressed at this stage.
- 11.2. The Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing procedure shall take over at the point at which the agenda item is called to be heard.
- 11.3. The Sub-Committee agenda shall deal with the issue of exclusion of press and public for the Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing.

HEARING PROCEDURE

12. Opening the Hearing

- 12.1. The Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing shall be formally opened by the Chair.
- 12.2. The Chair shall introduce Members of the licensing panel (a Licensing Sub-committee, the Licensing Committee or Council), officers present and all other parties present.
- 12.3. The Chair shall explain the procedure to be followed at the meeting and the nature of the decision to be taken by the panel.

13. Licensing Officer's Report

- 13.1. The Licensing Officer presents his / her Report, including an outline of the application, the representation(s) and any points upon which the Licensing Authority has given notice that it required clarification; and identifies anything relevant in the legislation, the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.
- 13.2. Members of the panel may ask questions of the Licensing Officer with regards to the Report.

14. Licensing Authority's request(s) for clarification

- 14.1. If points of clarification have been asked for, the Chair invites the Licensing Officer or relevant party to provide necessary information.
- 14.2. Members of the panel may ask questions with regards to the further information provided.

15. Presentation of Case / Submissions from Parties

- 15.1. In the order of Applicant, Responsible Authority and Interested Party (or in the case of a review the relevant person), each party shall be invited to undertake the following:
 - 15.1.1. Set out their case;
 - 15.1.2. Call Witnesses in support of their case (provided notification of the witnesses has previously been given to the Council);
 - 15.1.3. Introduce documentary evidence in support of their case (provided notification of the documentary evidence has previously been given to the Council); and
 - 15.1.4. Respond to any questions asked of them by Members of the Licensing Panel.
- 15.2. At the Sub-Committee and Chair's discretion each party may ask questions of other parties by directing them through the Chair.

- 15.3. The Sub-Committee shall have the absolute discretion to restrict the number of witnesses and documents that any party can introduce, or the time spent on submissions or oral evidence, to ensure the proper running of the hearing.
- 15.4. Any witnesses that any party is seeking to call that have not previously been notified to the Council, in advance of the hearing, shall only be allowed with the consent of all other parties at the hearing. The Sub-Committee shall have the sole discretion to refuse to allow any witnesses to be heard, even where the consent of all parties has been given. In reaching the decision the Sub-Committee may consider any circumstances they believe to be relevant, and will have regard to the relevance of the evidence to the matters before the Committee.
- 15.5. Any documents that any party is seeking to adduce that have not previously been notified to the Council, in advance of the hearing, shall only be allowed with the consent of all other parties at the hearing. The Sub-Committee shall have the sole discretion to refuse to allow any documents to be adduced, even where the consent of all parties has been given. In reaching the decision the Sub-Committee may consider any circumstances they believe to be relevant, and will have regard to the relevance of the evidence to the matters before the Committee.

16. Modification or Withdrawal of Application or Representation

- 16.1. The Chair shall ask the applicant whether the applicant wishes to modify the application (e.g. by way of withdrawing a licensable activity and / or reducing the times asked for and / or volunteering additional steps to promote the licensing objectives).
- 16.2. The Chair shall ask each party making a representation whether such party would like to withdraw their representation.

17. Closing Submissions

- 17.1. The Chair shall invite each of the parties to present a closing submission to the Sub-Committee.
- 17.2. The Chair shall invite the Licensing Officer to make any final representations.
- 17.3. At the end of the Closing Submissions the Chairman may ask the Legal Advisor if there is any clarification or points they wish to make.

18. Legal Advice

- 18.1. The role of the Legal Advisor is to provide Members with advice on:
 - Questions of law;
 - Matters of practice and procedure;
 - The options available to the sub-committee in making their decision;
 - Whether information or evidence is relevant to the licensing objectives;
 - Any relevant case law or guidelines.

18.2. The hearing shall be directed by the Chair and assisted by the Legal Advisor as appropriate and necessary.

19. Committee Decision in Relation to Procedure

19.1. The Sub-Committee shall be entitled to vary the order and procedure for the hearing, at its absolute discretion.

20. Determination of the Application

20.1. After all representations have been heard, the Chair will inform all parties that the panel will retire in private to determine the matter.

20.2. Either the panel will retire alone to a private room or all parties, officers and members of the public will be required to leave the room, although the panel may invite their legal adviser to join them for the purpose of providing only legal advice - the details of which will be disclosed upon the hearing reconvening.

20.3. Should the sub-committee need to ask any further questions of any party, all parties shall be invited to return for the purposes of asking and answering questions.

20.4. Where the hearing is for:

- a review of a premises licence following a closure order;
- a personal licence by holder of a justices licence; or
- a counter notice following police objection to a temporary event notice.

The Sub-Committee must make its determination at the conclusion of the meeting.

20.5. For all other hearings the determination must be made within 5 working days of the hearing. The Sub-Committee will generally announce the determination at the end of the hearing.

20.6. The Sub-Committee may consider adding any conditions necessary in order to promote one or more of the four licensing objectives:

- the prevention of crime and disorder;
- public safety;
- the prevention of public nuisance; and
- the protection of children from harm.

20.7. All decisions shall be made in line with the general principles as detailed in Appendix A, the range of options available for determining each type of application.

20.8. The Sub-Committee shall complete the decision notice as shown at Appendix B.

20.9. The hearing will reconvene and the Chair will either:

- announce the Sub-Committee determination including reasons for the determination; or
- advise those persons present that the Sub-Committee has not reached a decision, but will make a determination as soon as it can and, in any event, within five working days. All parties will then be notified forthwith of the decision.

POST HEARING

21. Record of Proceedings

- 21.1. The authority shall ensure that a record is taken of the hearing.
- 21.2. The record shall be kept for a period of six years from the date of the final action on the matter.

22. Irregularities

- 22.1. Proceedings shall be rendered void due to a failure to comply with the procedures set out in this document.
- 22.2. Any failure to comply with the Hearing Regulations shall not render the process or the decision void.
- 22.3. Where the Authority considers any person to have been prejudiced from the irregularity it shall take such steps as it considers fit to remedy the irregularity, before reaching its determination.
- 22.4. Clerical mistakes may be corrected by the Authority.

23. Decision Notices

- 23.1. The Authority shall provide a written notice of its determination as soon as practicable after the hearing and within 5 working days.

24. Appeals

- 24.1. An appeal against the determination of the Authority must be made to the appropriate Magistrates Court within 21 days of the date of delivery of the decision.

25. Closing the Hearing

- 25.1. The Chair shall thank all parties for attending and draw the hearing to a close.
- 25.2. Should there be another hearing to be heard the Sub-Committee shall begin the procedure again.

Licensing Sub-Committee Checklist
Procedure for determining applications under the Licensing Act 2003

Item				
1.	Chair to introduce Sub-Committee, Committee Administrator, other Officers and all Parties present.			
2.	Chair to explain procedure for hearing to all parties.			
3.	Licensing Officer to introduce application, including details of the premises, application, objections, references to the Licensing Objectives and Policy and Statutory Obligations.			
4.	Chair to invite Sub-Committee to ask any questions of the Licensing Officer, in relation to the report provided.			
5.	Chair to ask Licensing Officer whether there are any points requiring Clarification.			
Steps 6 to 9 to be completed for each party in the order of Applicant (A), Responsible Authority (RA) and Interested Party (IP) or Relevant Person (RP). The chair will invite each party to:		A	RA	IP/ RP
6.	Set out their case			
7.	Call Witnesses in support of their case (provided notification of the witnesses has previously been given to the Council);			
8.	Introduce documentary evidence in support of their case (provided notification of the documentary evidence has previously been given to the Council); and			
9.	Respond to any questions asked of them by Members of the Licensing Panel.			
Repeat steps 6 to 9 for each party				
10.	At the Sub-Committee and Chair's discretion each party may ask questions of other parties by directing them through the Chair.			
11.	Chair asks Applicant if they wish to modify or withdraw their application in any way.			
12.	Chair to invite closing submissions from applicant, responsible authorities and interested parties.			
13.	The Sub-Committee will retire into private to consider its decision.			
14.	Chair will announce the decision of the Sub-Committee and the reasons for the decision. The Chair will advise all parties of their right of appeal.			

Appendix 'A'

Options for determining applications

Determination of application for premises licence

- To grant the licence
- To grant with the addition of conditions necessary to promote any of the licensing objectives
- To exclude from the scope of the licence any of the licensable activities to which the application relates
- To refuse to specify a person in the licence as the premises supervisor
- To reject the application

Determination of application for variation of a premises licence

- To grant the variation
- To modify the conditions of the licence – this includes altering or omitting any existing condition or adding any new conditions
- To reject the whole or part of the application

Determination of application for review of a premises licence

- To modify the conditions of the licence – this includes altering or omitting any existing condition or adding any new conditions
- To exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence
- To remove the designated premises supervisor
- To suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months
- To revoke the licence

Appendix 'B'



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

DECISION NOTICE

LICENSING ACT 2003

DECISION OF THE LICENSING SUB – COMMITTEE

<u>Date of Hearing</u>	
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<u>Applicant's Name:</u>	
<u>Premises Address:</u>	

<u>Application for:</u>	
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<u>Reasons for Hearing:</u>	
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<u>Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee:</u>	
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<u>Applicant:</u>	
<u>Person(s) Appearing on Behalf of the Applicant:</u>	

<u>Objector(s):</u>	
<u>Person(s) Appearing on Behalf of Objector(s):</u>	

<u>Other Persons Present:</u>	
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If appropriate:

<u>COMMENCEMENT DATE</u>
<u>This licence will come into effect from:</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>The date of this decision</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>The end of the period for appeal.</u>

FINDINGS OF FACT
The Sub-Committee made the following findings of fact:

DECISION
The Sub-Committee have decided that the application should be:

Granted (as set out in the application)

Refused

Amended to include the following conditions:

1.

2.

- The Sub- Committee considers the additional conditions necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- All Licences are granted subject to the mandatory conditions imposed by the Licensing Act, 2003.
- In coming to its decision, the Sub-Committee has taken into account:
 - The Licensing Act Section 18, which states that it must take such steps it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives;
 - The Secretary of State’s Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003; and
 - Central Bedfordshire Council’s Licensing Policy
 - The merits of the application and the representations (including supporting information) presented by all parties.

REASONS FOR DECISION
The reasons for the Committee’s decision are as follows:

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Public Safety

Prevention of Public Nuisance

Protection of Children from Harm

General – all four licensing objectives

<u>Irrelevant Representations</u>	
<u>The Sub-Committee determined that the following representations were irrelevant: Not applicable.</u>	
<u>Representation</u>	<u>Reason Representation was Considered Irrelevant</u>
1.	
2.	

<u>Right of Review</u>
<u>At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence, a responsible authority, such as the Police or an interested party, such as a resident living in the vicinity of the premises may ask the licensing authority to review the licence because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives. The review is a request for the Council to look at the existing licence and decide whether its conditions are adequate to meet the four licensing objectives defined under the Licensing Act 2003.</u>

<u>Effect of Failing to Comply with Conditions (Explained to Applicant)</u>
<u>The Sub-Committee has explained to the applicant the effect of failure to comply with any of the conditions attached to the licence or certificate is a criminal offence, which upon conviction, would result in a fine of up to £20,000 or up to six months imprisonment or both.</u>

<u>Right of Appeal</u>
<u>Applicants or any person who has made a relevant representation who is dissatisfied with this decision or the imposition of any condition or restriction has the right of appeal to the Magistrates Court within 21 days of the date on which they are notified of the decision.</u>

Signed: _____
[Name]
Chair of Licensing Sub-Committee

Date: _____

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The Four Licensing Objectives

To promote the following Licensing Objectives:

- 1. Prevention of crime and disorder**
- 2. Public safety**
- 3. Prevention of public nuisance**
- 4. Protection of children from harm**

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11. Reviews

The review process

- 11.1 The proceedings set out in the 2003 Act for reviewing premises licences and club premises certificates represent a key protection for the community where problems associated with the licensing objectives occur after the grant or variation of a premises licence or club premises certificate.
- 11.2 At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence or club premises certificate, a responsible authority, or any other person, may ask the licensing authority to review the licence or certificate because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives.
- 11.3 An application for review may be made electronically, provided the licensing authority agrees and the applicant submits a subsequent written application. The licensing authority may also agree in advance that the application need not be given in writing. However, these applications are outside the formal electronic application process and may not be submitted via GOV.UK or the licensing authority's electronic facility.
- 11.4 In addition, the licensing authority must review a licence if the premises to which it relates was made the subject of a closure order by the police based on nuisance or disorder and the magistrates' court has sent the authority the relevant notice of its determination, or if the police have made an application for summary review on the basis that premises are associated with serious crime and/or disorder.
- 11.5 Any responsible authority under the 2003 Act may apply for a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate. Therefore, the relevant licensing authority may apply for a review if it is concerned about licensed activities at premises and wants to intervene early without waiting for representations from other persons. However, it is not expected that licensing authorities should normally act as responsible authorities in applying for reviews on behalf of other persons, such as local residents or community groups. These individuals or groups are entitled to apply for a review for a licence or certificate in their own right if they have grounds to do so. It is also reasonable for licensing authorities to expect other responsible authorities to intervene where the basis for the intervention falls within the remit of that other authority. For example, the police should take appropriate steps where the basis for the review is concern about crime and disorder. Likewise, where

there are concerns about noise nuisance, it is reasonable to expect the local authority exercising environmental health functions for the area in which the premises are situated to make the application for review.

- 11.6 Where the relevant licensing authority does act as a responsible authority and applies for a review, it is important that a separation of responsibilities is still achieved in this process to ensure procedural fairness and eliminate conflicts of interest. As outlined previously in Chapter 9 of this Guidance, the distinct functions of acting as licensing authority and responsible authority should be exercised by different officials to ensure a separation of responsibilities. Further information on how licensing authorities should achieve this separation of responsibilities can be found in Chapter 9, paragraphs 9.13 to 9.19 of this Guidance.
- 11.7 In every case, any application for a review must relate to particular premises in respect of which there is a premises licence or club premises certificate and must be relevant to the promotion of one or more of the licensing objectives. Following the grant or variation of a licence or certificate, a complaint regarding a general issue in the local area relating to the licensing objectives, such as a general (crime and disorder) situation in a town centre, should generally not be regarded as a relevant representation unless it can be positively tied or linked by a causal connection to particular premises, which would allow for a proper review of the licence or certificate. For instance, a geographic cluster of complaints, including along transport routes related to an individual public house and its closing time, could give grounds for a review of an existing licence as well as direct incidents of crime and disorder around a particular public house.
- 11.8 Where a licensing authority receives a geographic cluster of complaints, the authority may consider whether these issues are the result of the cumulative impact of licensed premises within the area concerned. In such circumstances, the authority may also consider whether it would be appropriate to include a special policy relating to cumulative impact within its licensing policy statement. Further guidance on cumulative impact policies can be found in Chapter 13 of this Guidance.
- 11.9 Representations must be made in writing and may be amplified at the subsequent hearing or may stand in their own right. Additional representations which do not amount to an amplification of the original representation may not be made at the hearing. Representations may be made electronically, provided the licensing authority agrees and the applicant submits a subsequent written representation. The licensing authority may also agree in advance that the representation need not be given in writing.

- 11.10 Where authorised persons and responsible authorities have concerns about problems identified at premises, it is good practice for them to give licence holders early warning of their concerns and the need for improvement, and where possible they should advise the licence or certificate holder of the steps they need to take to address those concerns. A failure by the holder to respond to such warnings is expected to lead to a decision to apply for a review. Co-operation at a local level in promoting the licensing objectives should be encouraged and reviews should not be used to undermine this co-operation.
- 11.11 If the application for a review has been made by a person other than a responsible authority (for example, a local resident, residents' association, local business or trade association), before taking action the licensing authority must first consider whether the complaint being made is relevant, frivolous, vexatious or repetitious. Further guidance on determining whether a representation is frivolous or vexatious can be found in Chapter 9 of this Guidance (paragraphs 9.4 to 9.10).

Repetitious grounds of review

- 11.12 A repetitious ground is one that is identical or substantially similar to:
- a ground for review specified in an earlier application for review made in relation to the same premises licence or certificate which has already been determined; or
 - representations considered by the licensing authority when the premises licence or certificate was granted; or
 - representations which would have been made when the application for the premises licence was first made and which were excluded then by reason of the prior issue of a provisional statement; and, in addition to the above grounds, a reasonable interval has not elapsed since that earlier review or grant.
- 11.13 Licensing authorities are expected to be aware of the need to prevent attempts to review licences merely as a further means of challenging the grant of the licence following the failure of representations to persuade the licensing authority on an earlier occasion. It is for licensing authorities themselves to judge what should be regarded as a reasonable interval in these circumstances. However, it is recommended that more than one review originating from a person other than a responsible authority in relation to a particular premises should not be permitted within a 12 month period on similar grounds save in compelling circumstances or where it arises following a closure order.

- 11.14 The exclusion of a complaint on the grounds that it is repetitious does not apply to responsible authorities which may make more than one application for a review of a licence or certificate within a 12 month period.
- 11.15 When a licensing authority receives an application for a review from a responsible authority or any other person, or in accordance with the closure procedures described in Part 8 of the 2003 Act (for example, closure orders), it must arrange a hearing. The arrangements for the hearing must follow the provisions set out in regulations. These regulations are published on the Government's legislation website (www.legislation.gov.uk). It is particularly important that the premises licence holder is made fully aware of any representations made in respect of the premises, any evidence supporting the representations and that the holder or the holder's legal representative has therefore been able to prepare a response.

Powers of a licensing authority on the determination of a review

- 11.16 The 2003 Act provides a range of powers for the licensing authority which it may exercise on determining a review where it considers them appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 11.17 The licensing authority may decide that the review does not require it to take any further steps appropriate to promote the licensing objectives. In addition, there is nothing to prevent a licensing authority issuing an informal warning to the licence holder and/or to recommend improvement within a particular period of time. It is expected that licensing authorities will regard such informal warnings as an important mechanism for ensuring that the licensing objectives are effectively promoted and that warnings should be issued in writing to the licence holder.
- 11.18 However, where responsible authorities such as the police or environmental health officers have already issued warnings requiring improvement – either orally or in writing – that have failed as part of their own stepped approach to address concerns, licensing authorities should not merely repeat that approach and should take this into account when considering what further action is appropriate.
- 11.19 Where the licensing authority considers that action under its statutory powers is appropriate, it may take any of the following steps:
- modify the conditions of the premises licence (which includes adding new conditions or any alteration or omission of an existing condition), for example, by reducing the hours of opening or by requiring door supervisors at particular times;

- exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence, for example, to exclude the performance of live music or playing of recorded music (where it is not within the incidental live and recorded music exemption);
- remove the designated premises supervisor, for example, because they consider that the problems are the result of poor management;
- suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;
- revoke the licence.

11.20 In deciding which of these powers to invoke, it is expected that licensing authorities should so far as possible seek to establish the cause or causes of the concerns that the representations identify. The remedial action taken should generally be directed at these causes and should always be no more than an appropriate and proportionate response.

11.21 For example, licensing authorities should be alive to the possibility that the removal and replacement of the designated premises supervisor may be sufficient to remedy a problem where the cause of the identified problem directly relates to poor management decisions made by that individual.

11.22 Equally, it may emerge that poor management is a direct reflection of poor company practice or policy and the mere removal of the designated premises supervisor may be an inadequate response to the problems presented. Indeed, where subsequent review hearings are generated by representations, it should be rare merely to remove a succession of designated premises supervisors as this would be a clear indication of deeper problems that impact upon the licensing objectives.

11.23 Licensing authorities should also note that modifications of conditions and exclusions of licensable activities may be imposed either permanently or for a temporary period of up to three months. Temporary changes or suspension of the licence for up to three months could impact on the business holding the licence financially and would only be expected to be pursued as an appropriate means of promoting the licensing objectives. So, for instance, a licence could be suspended for a weekend as a means of deterring the holder from allowing the problems that gave rise to the review to happen again. However, it will always be important that any detrimental financial impact that may result from a licensing authority's decision is appropriate and proportionate to the promotion of the licensing objectives. But where premises are found to be trading irresponsibly, the licensing authority should not hesitate, where appropriate to do so, to take tough action to tackle the problems at the premises and, where other measures are deemed insufficient, to revoke the licence.

Reviews arising in connection with crime

- 11.24 A number of reviews may arise in connection with crime that is not directly connected with licensable activities. For example, reviews may arise because of drugs problems at the premises; money laundering by criminal gangs, the sale of contraband or stolen goods, or the sale of firearms. Licensing authorities do not have the power to judge the criminality or otherwise of any issue. This is a matter for the courts. The licensing authority's role when determining such a review is not therefore to establish the guilt or innocence of any individual but to ensure the promotion of the crime prevention objective.
- 11.25 Reviews are part of the regulatory process introduced by the 2003 Act and they are not part of criminal law and procedure. There is, therefore, no reason why representations giving rise to a review of a premises licence need be delayed pending the outcome of any criminal proceedings. Some reviews will arise after the conviction in the criminal courts of certain individuals, but not all. In any case, it is for the licensing authority to determine whether the problems associated with the alleged crimes are taking place on the premises and affecting the promotion of the licensing objectives. Where a review follows a conviction, it would also not be for the licensing authority to attempt to go beyond any finding by the courts, which should be treated as a matter of undisputed evidence before them.
- 11.26 Where the licensing authority is conducting a review on the grounds that the premises have been used for criminal purposes, its role is solely to determine what steps should be taken in connection with the premises licence, for the promotion of the crime prevention objective. It is important to recognise that certain criminal activity or associated problems may be taking place or have taken place despite the best efforts of the licence holder and the staff working at the premises and despite full compliance with the conditions attached to the licence. In such circumstances, the licensing authority is still empowered to take any appropriate steps to remedy the problems. The licensing authority's duty is to take steps with a view to the promotion of the licensing objectives in the interests of the wider community and not those of the individual licence holder.
- 11.27 There is certain criminal activity that may arise in connection with licensed premises which should be treated particularly seriously. These are the use of the licensed premises:
- for the sale and distribution of drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the laundering of the proceeds of drugs crime;
 - for the sale and distribution of illegal firearms;

- for the evasion of copyright in respect of pirated or unlicensed films and music, which does considerable damage to the industries affected;
- for the illegal purchase and consumption of alcohol by minors which impacts on the health, educational attainment, employment prospects and propensity for crime of young people;
- for prostitution or the sale of unlawful pornography;
- by organised groups of paedophiles to groom children;
- as the base for the organisation of criminal activity, particularly by gangs;
- for the organisation of racist activity or the promotion of racist attacks;
- for knowingly employing a person who is unlawfully in the UK or who cannot lawfully be employed as a result of a condition on that person's leave to enter;
- for unlawful gambling; and
- for the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and alcohol.

11.28 It is envisaged that licensing authorities, the police and other law enforcement agencies, which are responsible authorities, will use the review procedures effectively to deter such activities and crime. Where reviews arise and the licensing authority determines that the crime prevention objective is being undermined through the premises being used to further crimes, it is expected that revocation of the licence – even in the first instance – should be seriously considered.

Review of a premises licence following closure order

11.29 Licensing authorities are subject to certain timescales, set out in the legislation, for the review of a premises licence following a closure order. The relevant time periods run concurrently and are as follows:

- when the licensing authority receives notice that a magistrates' court has made a closure order it has 28 days to determine the licence review – the determination must be made before the expiry of the 28th day after the day on which the notice is received;
- the hearing must be held within ten working days, the first of which is the day after the day the notice from the magistrates' court is received;
- day (there must be five clear working days between the giving of the notice and the start of the hearing).

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