GLASGOW LICENSING REPORT 2023-2024



Item 6

3rd December 2024

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the Annual Licensing Report for 2023/24, in accordance with Section 12(A) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

Since taking up the position of Chief Constable of Police Scotland in October 2023 I have been committed to focusing on working closely with communities to solve problems through proactivity.

In respect of Licensing, this has been made possible with the continued support of the 32 local authorities across Scotland as well as many other associated national and local partnerships.

This collaborative working ensures a fair approach to licensing for the benefit of the licensed trade while simultaneously preventing alcohol fuelled violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour.

In the year ahead our approach will remain focused on prevention and collaboration to ensure high standards of service delivery. I will continue to encourage officers and staff to utilise the range of options available to them to maintain and improve licensing standards and to positively influence behaviour in and around all licensed premises throughout Scotland.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local partnerships for their contribution to maintaining high standards and driving improvement where necessary within the Licensed Trade for the benefit of the communities we all serve.

Chief Constable Jo Farrell

Police Service of Scotland

Police Scotland Licensing Overview –

The Violence Prevention and Licensing Co-ordination Unit (VPLCU) sits within Policing Together, based at Dalmarnock Police Station, Glasgow.

The VPLCU upholds the two tier structure for licensing which supports both national and local priorities through service delivery. They have overall responsibility for determining and delivering national licensing strategy and policy, by providing advice, guidance and support to divisional licensing teams as well as undertaking other specialist functions.

The Violence Prevention and Licensing Co-ordination Unit is a specialist department which consists of a small team of officers, based in Glasgow. The officers within the unit work with divisional licensing teams and partner agencies to help shape policy and strategy around the police licensing function. They provide practical and tactical advice to police licensing practitioners, operational officers, supervisors and policing commanders.

The VPLCU seek to ensure that legislation governing the sale and supply of alcohol is applied consistently across the country and all opportunities are taken to stop the illegal or irresponsible sale, supply, or consumption of alcohol with the intention of preventing and reducing crime and disorder.

During 2023/2024, from a licensing perspective, our particular focus was on the following.

- Scrutiny of the serious incidents of violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour linked to licensed premises.

- Governance and ongoing development of the National ICT Licensing System, known as “Inn Keeper,” to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of liquor and civic licensing administration and management. Police Scotland are currently working on upgrade to the National ICT system to ensure compliance with GDPR legislation.

Each of the 13 Local Policing Divisions have a licensing team responsible for the day-to-day management of licensing administration, complying with statutory requirements as well as addressing any issues that may arise within licensed premises in their local area.

LICENSING BOARD AREA

The Licensing Board area is policed by Greater Glasgow Division

Chief Superintendent Lynn Ratcliffe is the Local Police Commander who has the responsibility for all day-to-day policing functions.

Approximately 626,000 people reside within the council area making it the most populous city in Scotland and the fourth most populous city in the United Kingdom.

The Glasgow board area is served by more than 2000 Licensed Premises which play a major role in the city, local communities, and tourism.

Glasgow has in recent years developed a flourishing reputation for hosting international events along with iconic concerts and sport. Greater Glasgow is home to a number of Football Stadiums and other iconic venues, including the National Football Stadium at Hampden, Celtic Park, home of Celtic Football Club, Ibrox, home of Rangers Football Club, The Emirates arena and The SECC Hydro.

The area also encompasses several parks including Glasgow Green, Bellahouston Park and Kelvingrove Park.

The city also enjoys thriving daytime and night-time economies attracting businesses and visitors from around the world.

Local Policing Priorities

Following our public consultation process, the policing priorities for Greater Glasgow

Division, as set out in our Local Policing Plan are as follows.

- **Crime** – reducing crimes of greatest concern and detecting offenders.
- **Community Wellbeing** – working with partners and the most vulnerable to reduce risk.
- **Events** – ensuring the safety of participants and supporting operational policing.
- **Serious Organised Crime** – tackling organised criminality in our communities.

OPERATION OF THE LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005

Greater Glasgow Licensing Department continues to operate from London Road Police Station in the east end of Glasgow. The department is led by Inspector Gareth Griffiths, and is supported by two Sergeants, six Constables and nine members of police staff.

On a day-to-day basis officers within the department continue to review all incidents that have occurred either within or in the vicinity of licensed premises throughout the board area. These incidents are then acted upon depending on the nature and if any issues are found. Officers from the department will generally carry out further enquiry

with the attending officers, the premises licence holder, the designated premises manager and any staff involved in the incident.

From this it allows a broad picture of what actually occurred and allows officers to formulate an approach on how to solve the matter. There are range of measures that can be taken. In some cases, no further action to be taken if we are satisfied that from a licensing perspective there are no failings or issues identified.

If this is not appropriate, then other options are taken by officers within the department. The first being an '**Interaction**.' This generally takes place when minor incidents have occurred that don't constitute a breach of the licensing conditions. Officers will communicate or hold a meeting with the premises licence holder and or the designated premises manager to discuss the incident and how it can be resolved. This is recorded on the Innkeeper database and no further action is then required.

If a more serious incident occurs, then officers will carry out an '**Intervention**.' This is a more formal approach. A meeting will occur with the premises licence holder, the designated premises manager and potentially staff members involved in the particular incident. This usually takes place at a police station or the premises itself. This quite often involves an LSO being in attendance also. A formal document known as a 'Licensed Premises Incident / Intervention Control Form' is prepared by licensing officers outlining the incident. A list of crime prevention / risk reduction recommendations are made in order to avoid a repeat of any further incidents or how better to manage a particular incident if it does occur. A specific timescale for the implementation will be agreed with the responsible person. This will be signed by all parties. Once the timescale is up and licensing officer have carried out a review update then the Intervention is filed, and no further action is required.

If a serious incident occurs or evidence exists of a premises operating in a manner inconsistent with the licensing objectives or out with the conditions of their licence, then licensing officers will apply for a '**Review**' of the premises licence and or a personal licence of any person involved. With early indication or identification of any issues or trends with a premises or licence holder, licensing officers are able to take early effective measures and steps through interventions and interactions. This generally results in issues being resolved and rectified without the need for a review.

All actions and decisions taken by licensing officers including inspections and incidents involving licensed premises are stored on the 'Innkeeper' database. Applications received are also logged on this system. It is the core function of the department and continues to allow trend patterns to be identified with any particular premises. This also allows the department to focus and monitor any areas of concern.

From April 2023, the following measures have been taken by Greater Glasgow Licensing Department within the board area;

- *Interactions – 44*
- *Interventions – 8*

- *Review (Premises) - 2*
- *Review (Personal) – 0*

Over the same period for the Glasgow board area, Police Scotland have recorded the following common licensing offences under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. These statistics have been collated from the Police Scotland Crime Management system and refer to crimes where the offender has been detected;

- *Section 1 – Unlicensed sale or supply of alcohol*
    - *2 persons has been charged*

- *Section 52 – Failure to display summary of licence or certified copy*
    - *1 person has been charged*

- *Section 63 – Sale of alcohol out with licenced hours*
    - *1 person has been charged*

- *Section 77 (LSA 1967) – Licence holder drunk whilst within premises*
    - *0 person has been charged*

- *Section 78 (LSA 1967) – Disorderly conduct whilst within premises*
    - *0 persons have been charged*

- *Section 79 (LSA 1967) – Refusal to leave a licenced premises*
    - *1 person has been charged*

- *Section 102 – Sale of alcohol to a child or young person*
    - *2 persons have been charged*

- *Section 103 – Allowing the sale of alcohol to a child or young person*
    - *0 persons have been charged*

- *Section 104 – Supply of alcohol to a child or young person*
    - *5 persons have been charged*

- *Section 105 – Purchase of alcohol by a child or young person*
    - *2 persons have been charged*

- *Section 106 – Consumption of alcohol by a young person or child on a premises*
    - *1 person has been charged*

- *Section 110 – Person under 18 years old purchasing alcohol*
    - *0 persons have been charged*

- *Section 113 – sale of alcohol to a drunk person*

- *0 persons have been charged*

- *Section 111 – Drunk persons entering or in premises on which alcohol is sold*
  - *4 persons have been charged*

- *Section 114 – Responsible person drunk whilst on premises*
  - *0 persons have been charged*

- *Section 115 – Disorderly conduct*
  - *17 persons have been charged*

- *Section 116 – Refusal of leave premises*
  - *82 persons have been charged*

On a day-to-day basis officers from across Police Scotland continually carried out inspections to off and on sales premises in the board area. These totalled 4132.

Incidents responded to by Police officers within licensed premises within the board area totalled 1394.

Officers within the department continue to work closely with partner agencies, in particular Glasgow Licensing Standards Officers and the Security Industry Authority (SIA). Officers routinely attend premises with partner agencies, where joint visits and action plans are undertaken, and advice is given.

On a day-to-day basis licensing officers continually provide advice and assistance to Local Policing Teams and Local Problem-Solving Teams who are based within the board area, in an effort to give these officers more confidence when it comes to visits and inspections to licensed premises. This includes participating in action plans and local initiatives.

Training to local officers across the board area was also delivered, introducing Licensing Champions, increasing awareness and knowledge surrounding licensing legislation.

Due to a rise in the number of reports of alleged spiking within the board area, Police Scotland made all attempts to support the core licensing objectives by increasing awareness of spiking to the public and licensing trade. Licensing officers carried out bystander training to the trade to prevent crime and disorder, securing public safety and protecting and improving public health.

2023-2024 saw an increase in the number of large-scale events in the area. The licensing department supported such events in both preparatory and advisory roles. A close relationship was developed between the event organisers and Police licensing ensuring the safety of the public.

The department receives a number of applications from Glasgow City Council. These are processed in a timeous manner with various background checks being carried out to ensure public safety and the licensing objectives are met.

In the period of this report the department has processed 3077 licensing enquires for the Glasgow Board area. They are broken down below;

- **43** *Premises applications*
- ***26*** *Major Variations*
- **511** *Minor Variations*
- **129** *Transfers*
- ***22*** *Personal Licence Renewals*
- ***646*** *New Personal Licence*
- ***235*** *Extended hours*
- ***1465*** *Occasional Licenses*

PREVENTING THE SALE OR SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL TO CHILDREN OR YOUNG PEOPLE

Police Scotland continually strives to maintain one of the core licensing objectives of protecting children and young persons from harm. Underage alcohol sales can lead to serious health risks in children, criminality, and anti-social behaviour. It can further leave children vulnerable and susceptible to harm. Therefore, it is imperative that any premises found to be engaging in underage sales, whether purposefully or not, are dealt with robustly and promptly. Along with this the trend of proxy purchases of alcohol by adults on behalf of children was emerging.

Asking an adult to buy alcohol for them is one of the most common tactics used by under 18s.

To deal with this, officers operated a campaign known as ***"It'll Cost You"*** in partnership with the Scottish Alcohol Industry Partnership and the Community Alcohol Partnerships. The aim of the campaign was to raise the awareness that proxy purchase is a criminal offence which carries a fine of up to £5000 or up to 3 months imprisonment, or both.

By raising awareness of the consequences of proxy purchase, we hope to reduce the number of attempted purchases of alcohol for under 18s, reduce crime in the area and reduce anti-social behaviour and noise in the area.

Large volumes of leaflets, information packs and posters were distributed throughout the board area to off-sales along with advice provided by licensing and local officers.

Licensing officers also worked closely with the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers where they attended chain supermarkets and engaged with the local community, providing education surrounding the issues and dangers of proxy purchase.

From April 2023, Police Scotland have also recorded on the Crime Management System the following offences relating to sale and supply of alcohol to children or young persons;

- *Section 104 – Supply of alcohol to a child or young person*
  - *5 persons have been charged*

- *Section 105 – Purchase of alcohol by a child or young person*
  - *2 persons have been charged*

TACKLING SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

Examples of Serious and Organised Crime (SAOC) Activity in the Board area -

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime remains one of the local priorities for Greater Glasgow as outlined in our Local Policing Plan 2020-2023. As per previous reports to the board we recognise that the majority of licensed premises operate in a completely legitimate manner and undertake the sale and supply of alcohol in a safe and regulated environment. However, a number of Serious and Organised Crime Groups (SOCGs) often make attempts to become involved in the running or ownership of legitimate business or by seeking to intimidate or influence legitimate operators. Police Scotland data shows that around 70% of SOCGs are operating in the west of Scotland and around 65% are involved in the use of seemingly legitimate businesses. Some of the most common business types are licensed premises and stewarding companies.

As a result, all licensing applications received to the department are subject to extensive background and intelligence checks on any individuals or companies named. On a regular basis, officers from the department may interview applicants along with carrying out visits to the premises.

During this time period officers from the licensing department have attended alongside colleagues from the Serious and Organised Crime Disruptions and Interventions Unit to a small number of licensed premises to conduct joint visits and searches.

These premises will be monitored by the licensing department with increased visits and inspections being carried out in order to build up an intelligence picture and deter the potential for any organised crime from occurring. The use of monitoring premises has been in use for several years by the department. These are any premises that the area commander, in consultation with the licensing department, considers requiring additional support or supervision. One example of what might be categorised as a monitored premises would be where links to serious and organised crime have been identified.

Over the last year, the licensing department continues to work closely with its partner agency SIA in relation to stewarding agencies and companies being involved in organised crime at licensed premises. Joint visits to premises employing stewards through companies and agencies are carried out to ensure all door stewards are SIA licensed and are performing the duties they are trained for.

We continue to focus on the four objectives of divert, deter, detect, and disrupt.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Looking ahead into 2024/2025 the licensing department will continue to assist with large scale events.

The previous campaign *"It'll Cost You"* will run into next year focusing on underage drinking by targeting the adults making proxy purchases. Last year's campaign was a success whereby anti-social behaviour and public nuisance was reduced, resulting in less harm to children.

Licensing officers will continue to deliver the 'Bystander' input to members of the licensing trade when required, providing awareness of vulnerable people and the benefits of early intervention.

Officers from the licensing department will liaise and provide inputs to Local Policing Teams and Local Problem-Solving Teams to improve licensing awareness. We will work closely with "Licensing Champions" building relationships and knowledge.

The department will continue to work closely with its partner agencies in order to meet its objectives and deliver on the national and local priorities.

To conclude we would like to thank you for your continued support during what has been a challenging year for all. We have all had to adapt to a new way of working and ever-changing circumstances which has been embraced by all.

We look forward to a safe and healthy 2024/2025.