Item 6

29th November 2022



GLASGOW Licensing Report 2021-2022

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to provide the Annual Licensing Report for 2021/22, in accordance with Section 12(A) Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. Throughout this year Local Authorities and Police Scotland worked hard to support licensed premises in their road to recovery as Covid-19 restrictions were being lifted.

Collaboration is vital to ensure these businesses can flourish, providing much needed employment for our communities as well as a safe environments for people to socialise. Police Scotland will continue to work closely with Local Authorities, as well as other stakeholders, to ensure there is a fair and consistent approach across all 32 Local Authorities throughout Scotland to aid this recovery. Preventing alcohol fuelled violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour remains a priority for Police Scotland and I believe that working together we can reduce this through early intervention and enforcement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local partnerships and the good work they carry out. With their support Police Scotland and partners can continue to drive improvements in licensing. I will continue to ensure that all officers and staff recognise the importance of working together with key partners, including the Licensing Trade, in an effort to improve licensing standards nationally.

Mr Iain Livingstone QPM

Chief Constable

Police Service of Scotland

Police Scotland Licensing Overview –

The Violence Prevention and Licensing Co-ordination Unit (VPLCU) sits within Safer Communities 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 2021/2022, 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.

- Working closely with Licenced Premises and Scottish Government to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic through the 4Es approach by engaging, explaining, educating and enforcing.

- 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 Mark Sutherland 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 Stadia 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 day-time 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.
- **Protecting Vulnerable People** – 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. Reviews have risen slightly in the last year, as highlighted later in this report however still remain low in number for the number of premises within the board area. With early indication or identification of any issue or trend with a premise 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.

Another tactic which can be explored by the department and was used on an occasion within the board area is to explore Tenancy Agreements with a premises licence holder. A particular premises was characterised as problematic. An intervention had been carried due to an incident however a second similar incident occurred shortly after of a similar nature, due to this the premise was to be subject of a premises review application. It was apparent that the licence holder was letting out the premises to a tenant. Discussion took place with the premises licence holder prior to a review being submitted and it was established that they had a clause in the tenancy agreement to terminate the agreement due to the premises licence being jeopardised by the tenant. The premises licence holder activated this clause therefore ending the tenancy. This action provided an immediate solution to the issue and there have been no further issues.

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 are 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 allows the department to focus and monitor any areas of concern.

From April 2021, the following measures have been taken by Greater Glasgow Licensing Department within the board area;

- *Interactions – 35*
- *Interventions – 8*
- *Review (Premises) - 1*

- *Review (Personal) – 1*

As can be seen one premises review has been submitted to the board for review, whereby grounds for review were not established

The one personal licence review is currently live and remains ongoing.

This year again shows a low amount of reviews being submitted to the Board in relation to the number of personal licence holders and premises within the area. This is testament to a good working relationship with the licensing trade and partner agencies. With effective action at an early stage of any incident or issue means that reviews will continue to be a measure used in times when all other avenues have been exhausted.

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*
  - *1 person has been charged*
- *Section 102 – Sale of alcohol to a child or young person*
  - *0 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*
  - *1 person has been charged*
- *Section 105 – Purchase of alcohol by a child or young person*
  - *2 persons have been charged*
- *Section 111 – Drunk persons entering or in premises on which alcohol is sold*
  - *1 person has been charged*
- *Section 115 – Disorderly conduct*
  - *15 persons have been charged*
- *Section 116 – Refusal of leave premises*
  - *44 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 2216.

Incidents responded to by Police officers within licensed premises within the board area totalled 935.

Officers within the department continue to work closely with partner agencies, in particular Glasgow Licensing Standards Officers and the Security Industry Authority (SIA). 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.

The department receives a number of applications from Glasgow City Council. These are processed in a timeous manner with a number of 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 1995 licensing enquires for the Glasgow Board area. They are broken down below;

- ***64*** *Premises applications*
- ***99*** *Major Variations*
- ***60*** *Minor Variations*
- ***119*** *Transfers*
- ***38*** *Personal Licence Renewals*
- ***502*** *New Personal Licence*
- ***148*** *Extended hours*
- ***965*** *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 continued operated a campaign known as ***"Don't Ask For It"*** 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 and posters were distributed throughout the board area to off-sales along with advice provided by licensing officers.

From April 2021, 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*
  - *1 person has been charged*

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

TACKLING SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

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 such all licensing applications that are received to the department are subject to extensive background and intelligence checks on any individuals or companies

named. If required 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 were links to serious and organised crime have been identified.

The department also 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 2022/203 we will undoubtedly see a busier period for the licensing department with many large scale events now taking place again.

A previous campaign known as "*Don't Ask for It"* which ran within the board area that tackled underage drinking by targeting the adults making proxy purchases has been rebranded and will be rolled out this year in conjunction with the Scottish Alcohol Industry Partnership. It will be known as "*It'll Cost You"*. The previous campaign achieved some excellent results in reducing anti-social behaviour and public nuisance along with reducing the harm to children.

Officers from the department will be aiming to deliver the 'Bystander' input to members of the licensed trade. This input provides awareness of vulnerable persons and raises awareness of rape and sexual assault with the aim of prevention through early warning signs. This was delivered extensively this year.

Officers from the licensing department will conduct inputs to Local Policing Teams and Local Problem Solving Teams who are based with the board area in an effort to give these officers more confidence when it comes to visits and inspections to licensed premises.

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 2022/2023.