Officers of Aberdeen City Licensing Board

Alcohol (Licensing, Public Health and Criminal Justice) (Scotland) Bill

It is important to note that the response set out below is provided by officers of Aberdeen City Licensing Board and must not be considered as reflecting the views of that Board.

Do you support the Bill as a whole?

The response has been made only to the part of the Bill relating to liquor licensing and which may affect the work of the Licensing Board.

Do you support particular provisions in the Bill?

Parts of the Bill relating to liquor licensing are not supported.

Do you have concerns about particular provisions in the Bill?

Yes. The proposal to amend the timetable for responses to applications and in particular to extend the period of neighbour notification gives concern.

How will the particular provisions in the Bill fit with your work, or the work of your organisation?

The neighbour notification proposal will result in a resource burden. Amendment to established time periods may lead to confusion.

Will the Bill have financial or resource implications for you or your organisation?

The neighbour notification proposal will result in increased resource expenditure.

Do you have any other comments or suggestions relevant to the Bill?

The responses below are restricted to the parts of the Bill relating to liquor licensing. It is respectfully suggested that, were the proposals considered important enough to be implemented, they could be incorporated into the draft of the current Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill currently being considered. When considering the Bill the Government should assess and consider all relevant supporting evidence and indeed commission its own evidence before reaching a final decision.

Whatever the eventual outcome of consideration of either Bill, given the various amendments already made to the 2005 Act to date, it is essential that the Act is consolidated to facilitate its understanding in practice.
Restrictions on the sale of alcohol

**Minimum price of packages containing more than one alcoholic product:**

**Response:** We are not aware of any particular concerns expressed to the Licensing Board regarding this method of sale. The Government will have to assess whether there is sufficient supporting evidence against this current practice and whether it is inconsistent with any of the licensing objectives. If the aim of the proposal is to close an existing loop-hole in the Act can this not be done by amending the current Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill?

**Alcoholic drinks containing caffeine**

**Response:** We are unaware of any issues addressed to the Board concerning alcoholic drinks containing its own caffeine. It is respectfully suggested that the Government may wish to seek its own medical advice on the issue before taking this forward if necessary. Again if the Government considers this proposal could it not be incorporated into the current Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill?

**Age Discrimination: off-sales**

**Response:** The Government can obtain its own evidence relating to the practicalities of amending the Act in terms of the proposal. Again the question is asked that if the Government considers this proposal to be important then why cannot it be incorporated into the current Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill?

**Container marking: off-sales**

**Response:** Police Scotland is the most appropriate consultee to comment on how successful this proposal may be to prevent or reduce under-age drinking. If supported it should be introduced throughout the country rather than by way of this piecemeal process.

**Applications for, or to vary, premises licence: consultation and publicity**

**Response:** The current provisions of the Act should not be amended. The proposal to extend the neighbouring land to 50 metres places a heavy administrative burden on Boards’ officials especially where the location of the proposed site is in an area of high density such as city centres. Given the many changes to the Act since its introduction, any interference with now established time periods should be avoided.

**Officers of Aberdeen City Licensing Board**