Thank you for responding to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee’s Call for Evidence on the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill. All submissions will be examined and considered as part of the Committee’s scrutiny of the Bill.

Please be aware that questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer before you can submit the form.

Follow the Local Government and Regeneration Committee’s Twitter feed - all Committee tweets on this Bill will have the hashtag #aw&lbill.

*1. Please supply your name and contact details:

Name: Rosie Kendall
Organisation: Midlothian Licensing Forum
Address 1: 
Address 2: 
City/Town: 
Postcode: 
Country: Scotland
Email address (if no email leave blank): 
Phone Number: 
2. Please confirm that you have read and understood the Scottish Parliaments “Policy on the treatment of written evidence by subject and mandatory committees”:

✔ Yes

3 Please confirm whether you are content for your name to be published with your submission:

✔ Yes

☐ No

4. Which of the three categories below best describes your interest in the Bill (please tick only one)?

☐ Personal

✔ Professional

☐ Commercial

5. Do you wish your email to be added to the Committee’s distribution list for updates on progress of the Bill:

✔ Yes

☐ No
6. Invitations to give oral evidence to the Committee on the Bill will be based on the submissions received. If you wish your submission to be included amongst those considered for possible invitation to give oral evidence, please indicate here.

☐ Yes
☐ No

* 7. You may answer questions on the entire Bill, or on any part of the Bill. Please indicate which parts of the Bill you are responding to? (You may select as many options that apply).

☐ All of the Bill
☐ Equalities, climate change and other Scottish Government objectives
☐ Air Weapons
☐ General licensing issues
☐ Alcohol licensing
☐ Civic licensing – taxi/private hire car licensing
☐ Civic licensing – scrap metal dealers
☐ Civic licensing – theatre licensing
☐ Civic licensing – sexual entertainment venues
Name/Organisation: Midlothian Licensing Forum

4. Alcohol Licensing

You may respond to all questions or only those you have a specific interest in. (Text boxes have no word limit, they will increase in size accordingly).

28. In what ways will the Bill’s provisions on alcohol licensing allow for reductions in crime and the preservation of public order?

The creation of new offences of giving, or making available, alcohol to a child or young person for consumption in a public place is welcomed by the Forum and will be a useful tool in ensuring alcohol is consumed in a responsible and appropriate manner.

It is foreseen that this change will increase public reassurance and will have a positive effect on younger generations.

29. Are there any other measures which should be taken to assist in the reduction of crime and the preservation of public order?

Currently anyone can apply for a license in Midlothian even if they have no link to the area. This created challenges for crime and disorder as the Council granting the license application doesn’t necessarily have an interest in the area in which the license will be used. For example individuals from Edinburgh may apply for a license in Midlothian to speed up the process.

It is suggested that a different approach should be put in place to ensure local ownership and responsibility. Which would assist Licensing Board’s across Scotland to ensure only “fit and proper” people are granted licences. One method of this would be for a local licensing Board to only accept applications from those who live or work in the area.

30. In what ways will the provisions in the Bill enhance the licensing objectives set out in the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005?
Amendment of the duration of a licensing policy statement to align with the term of Local Government elections is a positive change. This will allow the Council’s licensing Policy to align with the Single Midlothian Plan ensuring greater streamlining of key objectives.

31. In what ways will the re-introduction of the “fit and proper person” test assist with the implementation of the licensing objectives set out in the 2005 act?

Ensuring those who are granted licenses are ‘fit and proper persons’ will impact positively on the way premises are run. This will assist with achieving community safety objectives and support economic development; both have relevance to crime and antisocial behaviour through cost of crime to local economy.

32. Have there been any unintended consequences arising from the 2005 Act, for example, in rural areas or the economic regeneration of areas?

There have been discussions in relation to the level of local supply and demand for more licensed premises and the economic impact this has. This has to be demonstrated.

33. Which, if any, types of spent relevant offences should be required to be disclosed and what do you think the benefits of disclosure will be?
34. Do you have any other comments to make on the alcohol licensing aspects of the Bill?