Letter to NHS Boards

Dear Chief Executive

The Local Government and Regeneration Committee is currently taking evidence at stage 1 of the Air Weapons and Licensing Bill. In particular they have been considering the alcohol licensing provisions contained at Part 2 of the Bill.

At the Committee meeting on 17 December the committee heard from health professionals, a member of a drug and alcohol partnership as well as a licensing board solicitor. There was some debate during the meeting around the extent to which Health Boards seek to interact with licensing boards when the latter are considering applications. This relates in particular to the provision of information to licensing boards on local health concerns which links into the licensing objections and potential overprovision within areas.

The Committee have asked that all Health Boards be contacted to advise the extent of their relationship with their local licensing boards, how much information they provide license boards and the extent to which local health concerns linked to alcohol are brought to the attention of the licensing board.

I would be grateful if you could provide this information for each license board within your Health Board area. The Committee would also welcome any comment you might wish to make on the extent to which the information you provide, if any, is in your opinion influencing licensing decisions.

I am afraid the Committee require this information no later than 31 January to allow them to complete scrutiny of the provisions in the Bill.

Many thanks

David Cullum
Clerk
Local Government and Regeneration Committee
Education and Culture Committee