Written response from NHS Borders

1. Extent of relationship with local licensing boards:

NHS Borders is represented on the Local Licensing Forum which has responsibility to:

- review the operation of the Act in their area and the exercise of the Licensing Board’s functions, and
- advise and make recommendations on matters they see appropriate

It is also a requirement for Licensing Boards to notify Health Boards of all applications and major variations (excluding occasional licences). The Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) Support Team on behalf of NHS Borders scrutinises the application and variations making comments on applications where applicable. Representatives from Public Health (Director of Public Health/ADP Support Team) will then make representations concerning any application put before it. This can include the requesting the Board to consider applying certain conditions to the licence.

NHS Borders are also a consultee on the Licensing Board Policy Statement including the overprovision statement and work with the ADP to provide commentary.

2. How much information is provided to Licensing Boards: NHS Borders provides data to the ADP who drafted on behalf of the Local Licensing Forum the ‘Alcohol Profile’ (2013/14 update has recently been circulated to Licensing Board members). This aims to collectively present information from a range of stakeholders including NHS on alcohol both locally and nationally to help support policy development and decision making. The Licensing Board chair is also a member of the ADP.

3. Extent to which local health concerns linked to alcohol are brought to the attention of the licensing board: recent formal agreement of processes to scrutinise applications and variations alongside available data through the Alcohol Profile has allowed a representation to be made to the Licensing Board on the 19th December 2014. This included recommendations which were taken on board by Licensing Board and a requirement put in place for this to be implemented.