



POLICE SCOTLAND

Keeping people safe

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT TO THE
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL LICENSING
BOARD
FOR THE PERIOD
1ST APRIL 2017 to 31ST MARCH 2018

Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to provide the Annual Licensing Report for 2017/18, in accordance with Section 12(A) Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions made to effective licensing regulation in the past year. Working in partnership is vital to ensure a fair and consistent approach to licensing whilst maintaining a focus on preventing alcohol fuelled violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour. Police Scotland is committed to continuing to work with partners in the 32 Local Authorities across Scotland to achieve positive outcomes.

Over the past year, Police Scotland has continued to achieve success with a focus on prevention, underpinned by early intervention and enforcement. This has only been possible with the support of the many active partnerships that exist in local areas. I will ensure that all officers and staff continue to work with the licensed trade and other key partners, utilising the range of options available to them to achieve improved licensing standards, reducing violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour across Scotland.

On 1st May 2018, Minimum Unit Pricing of Alcohol was introduced in Scotland. We will work through the Evaluation Advisory Group to assess the impact of this legislation. The coming year will present many challenges but I am confident that through collaborative working, we will meet these challenges and continue to improve licensing standards and deliver a service to the communities of Scotland.

Mr Iain Livingstone QPM

Deputy Chief Constable Designate

Police Service of Scotland

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Police Scotland Licensing Overview

The National Licensing Policy Unit (NLPU) sits within the Specialist Crime Division – Safer Communities based at Dalmarnock Police Office, Glasgow.

The NLPU is responsible for the two tier structure for licensing which supports both national and local priorities. They have overall responsibility for determining and delivering national licensing strategy and policy, by providing advice, guidance and support to divisional licensing teams.

Each of the 13 Local Policing divisions have locally based officers dedicated to 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.

Police Scotland Licensing is supported and governed by a National IT solution known as 'Innkeeper'.

The NLPU and Licensing practitioners within Police Scotland develop partnerships and identify best practice which assist in a better understanding of the challenges faced by the Licensed Trade. This approach enables us to continue to work with local communities and key partners to prevent alcohol related crime and offences.

The NLPU 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.

National Perspective

Our Priorities and Policing Plans continue to be shaped by the objectives contained within Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives and National Outcomes and the Strategic Policing Plans that are delivered locally through single outcome agreements.

Consultation and engagement is combined with our own analysis of the issues that impact on the safety of the public to provide a firm evidence base for local policing teams to prevent crime and disorder and Keep People Safe.

Our National Priorities are

- Violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour
- Serious organised crime
- Counter terrorism and domestic extremism
- Protecting people at risk of harm
- Road safety and road crime
- Acquisitive crime

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Licensing Board Area

The Licensing Board area is policed by Greater Glasgow Division.

Chief Superintendent Brian McNulty is the Local Police Commander who has the responsibility for all day-to-day policing functions.

Over 92,000 people live within this area and there are in excess 187 licensed premises that operate within East Renfrewshire Council area.

Local Policing Priorities

Following our public consultation process, the policing priorities for East Renfrewshire, as set out in our Local Policing Plan are as follows;

- Homes being broken into
- Antisocial behaviour and disorder
- Violent crime
- Drug dealing / drug misuse
- Child abuse including child sexual exploitation

Senior Officers

The senior officers who hold responsibility for licensing within the area of Greater Glasgow Division are as follows;

Superintendent Alan Murray	Operations and Justice
Chief Inspector Stevie Hazlett	Operations and Justice
Licensing Department:	
Inspector Shaun Ramsay	Licensing Inspector
Sergeant Scott Brown	Licensing Sergeant
Sergeant Marie Stewart	Licensing Sergeant

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Operation of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

Greater Glasgow Licensing Department is based at London Road Police Office and is led by Inspector Shaun Ramsay. The department is supported by two Sergeants, six Constables and eleven members of police staff.

In order to support the licensing objectives, together with the local and national policing objectives, officers and staff work closely with Problem Solving and Local policing teams and other partner agencies, ensuring that there is a proactive approach when dealing with licensed premises and the sale of alcohol.

On a daily basis, premises licences, personal licences and other liquor licensing applications received from East Renfrewshire Council are processed, with various background checks being carried out to ensure that the licensing objectives are met. During the period of this report, Greater Glasgow Licensing have processed 212 licensing enquiries for the East Renfrewshire Board area.

Officers within the department review all incidents occurring in and around licensed premises. Often minor issues are addressed by local policing teams during their proactive visits to licensed premises. These issues are highlighted to the licensing team by way of the Innkeeper database where all incidents and inspections are recorded. When there appears to be any shortcomings in relation to the premises, officers within the department will carry out enquiries and address the issue directly with premises management.

For minor incidents, an “interaction” will take place. These interactions will involve communication with the Premises Licence Holder or Designated Premises Manager. This is an effective way of dealing with minor issues that don’t constitute a breach of the licensing conditions. The issues can often be resolved at the time through interaction with the police and with those involved in licensing trade and may also include partner agencies such as the Licensing Standards officers. An interaction is documented on the Innkeeper database and no further action is required.

Where an incident is regarded as more serious, or where previous interactions have failed with no improvement in the operation and running of the premises, then a more formal and structured approach may be required. This may be in the form of an “intervention”. A formal meeting will be arranged at either a Police Office or the licensed premise with the licensee or responsible person, police and often a Licensing Standards Officer. At this meeting an action plan will be put in place with various crime prevention measures recommended, to minimise the risk of similar incidents occurring again. A formal document is created detailing the incident, recommendations and timescales, which is signed by those present at the Intervention with a copy being provided to the license holder. This document is stored on the Innkeeper database. On conclusion of the agreed intervention period, if the identified issues have been resolved, no further action will be required.

Where an incident is deemed so serious in nature or where previous steps taken have been unsuccessful, the Licensing Department will request a review of a

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premises and / or personal license by the licensing board. A review would be requested where there is evidence of a licensed premises / personal licence holder, operating in a manner inconsistent with the licensing objectives or out with the conditions of a premises licence and where local Police intervention and support has failed or is unlikely to succeed in resolving the issues.

As a direct result of the licensing department's proactive approach and effective partnership working, the number of reviews submitted is extremely low. This can be attributed to the licensing department's proactive approach, working closely with our partners to support the licensing trade. Considering the number of Licensed Premises within East Renfrewshire, this is a significant achievement and is testament to the department efforts in supporting the Licensing trade.

Partnerships

Greater Glasgow Licensing Department has built up positive enduring working relationships with a number of partner agencies, all striving to ensure that licensed premises, within East Renfrewshire are safe places to visit and work within.

Officers within the licensing team work closely with the East Renfrewshire Licensing Standards Officer (L.S.O). Carrying out joint proactive visits to licensed premises within the Council area.

In an effort to reduce crimes against the person and protecting persons from harm, officers within the Licensing department have been working closely with the licensing and security trade, delivering the Bystander Input. This raises awareness of potential vulnerable persons and highlight the significant role that persons within the trade can have, to assist in the reduction of these crimes. Over 300 persons within the trade have received this input, which is still ongoing.

Alongside the L.S.O, officers attend and deliver Pub Watch meetings where joint discussions take place and information is shared. Crime Scene Preservation Inputs have been delivered at some of these meetings, ensuring that the trade are aware of their responsibilities, should an incident occur within their premise. This input is in its infancy and will continue to be delivered.

Officers within the department are providing ongoing presentations to the Local Policing and Problem Solving teams throughout Greater Glasgow Division on Licensing powers and policies. This has seen an upturn in the number of proactive visits to licensed premises and relationships being built between premises and their local officers. This positive impact will assist in the reduction in violence and anti-social behaviour relating to public drinking and drunkenness, all of which will have a massive impact on communities within the Board area.

Problem Solving

Throughout all aspects of Licensing enquiries there are a range of resources open to officers to ensure that we have the most relevant and up to date information available.

The main system the Licensing Department utilises is the Innkeeper Database, which is a computerised licensing database holding records and details of all premises and personal licence holders. All police incidents or inspections which have occurred within a licensed premise are recorded within the system, allowing Police to build an accurate picture and establish any issues or trends arising from any particular premise or licence holder. As a result of information gathered on this system, officers from the Licensing Department can focus on premises that are causing concern, offering guidance to ensure that the Licensing objectives are being met or intervene with some form of intervention if the premises are falling short of their responsibilities.

Other systems utilised by the Licensing department includes:

- STORM system which is a police system for recording incidents that either members of the public report, or where an officer identifies an occurrence that requires to be dealt with. This system is checked on a daily basis for incidents that occur at licensed premises, and if any action is required officers will be tasked accordingly.
- OMIS - A police system that affords officers to review previously reported incidents that may have been reported as crimes. This allows a greater 'one system' check basis than other systems held.
- Crime Management System - Similar to OMIS where officers can review or report crimes that have been reported. However, there is a notification function on this system, so where there is a licensing related offence the relevant department becomes aware more quickly.
- ICRS - A police system for reporting cases to the Procurator Fiscal. Again, this system can become invaluable where either a person or premises is being considered for a review of their license.
- PNC/CHS - The Police National Computer and Criminal History System allows checks to be carried out on relevant persons to identify if they would be deemed a suitable person to hold a license. All reporting from using these systems is in line with the guidelines from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- Licensing Admin [BIT] - Allows all incidents within a set distance of a licensed premise to be identified, with the opportunity to review. There are direct links to STORM and INNKEEPER through this database.

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Summary

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 sets out the five licensing objectives which must be linked to the sale and supply of alcohol and there are a number of crimes and offences contained within the act.

When crimes or offences relating to licensing are established, Greater Glasgow Licensing Department carry out full enquiries and take the most appropriate action.

As previously stated, the Police have a number of options open to them to assist in working with the premises and rectifying any issues.

An “Interaction” with the Personal Licence Holder, Designated Premises Manager or any other staff to provide advice, guidance and support or assistance in dealing with an issue, is an effective way to resolve minor issues.

An “Intervention” where a formal meeting is carried out for more serious incidents or reoccurring issues, where crime prevention measures and timescales are given to rectify the issues.

If an incident is of such a serious nature or where previous interventions have failed, then a “Review” of a premises may be required.

Since April 2017, the following actions have been taken within the Licensing Board area by the Greater Glasgow Licensing Department:

Interventions	2
Review (Premises)	1
Review (Personal)	1

As can be seen, only one premise and one personal licence have been submitted to the Licensing Board for consideration of a review, over the reporting period.

Both refer to the same premises and relates to the serious concerns that the Glasgow Licensing department had in relation to the premises operating in a manner inconsistent with the licensing objectives and where a number of serious incidents occurred within the premises.

Both the premises licence and personal licence were surrendered prior to the review being heard at the Board.

Given the number of licensed premises within East Renfrewshire area, offending in relation to the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 is relatively low and as previously stated is testament to the department’s efforts and good working relationship with the L.S.O., Licensees, door stewards, security staff and all partner agencies.

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Over the reporting period, Police Scotland have recorded the following common licensing offences in the East Renfrewshire Board area. These statistics have been collated from the Police Scotland Crime Management System and refer to crimes where the offender has been detected:

Section 52 – Duty to keep, display and produce premises licence.

- 1 person has been reported for the above offence.

Preventing the Sale or Supply of Alcohol to Children or Young People

In relation to the Licensing objective of protecting children and young persons from harm, Police Scotland have a multi-agency approach in tackling the issue, working with our partners from the Council, Health Board and other Support Services.

Where a premise is highlighted to the Greater Glasgow Licensing Department, showing that children and young persons are accessing alcohol through various means, officers from the Licensing Department will carry out inspections of the premises and remind owners of their responsibilities and consequences of failing to support the objective. Where there is sufficient evidence, persons will be charged.

Over the reporting period, Police Scotland have no reported incidents in the East Renfrewshire Board area.

Following a successful campaign in the North Lanarkshire area, officers within Greater Glasgow Licensing Department are running the “You're Asking for It” campaign. This campaign was developed by Police Scotland, The Scottish Alcohol Industry Partnership (SAIP), and North Lanarkshire Council. The main aim of the campaign is to raise awareness of the consequences of proxy purchase and:

- reduce the number of proxy purchases of alcohol for under 18's
- reduce crime and antisocial behaviour
- make our communities safer
- protect children and under 18's from harm

There are two target audiences for the campaign:

- Adults: anyone over the age of 18 including parents, older siblings, friends and members of the public, who under 18's may approach to buy alcohol for them
- Under 18's: children need to understand that not only are there serious consequences for adults they ask to make a purchase for them. Their actions may inadvertently place them in dangerous or vulnerable situations.

This campaign is in its infancy, however through analytical data, areas identified as being problematic in relation to alcohol and youth related disorder, will be the focus for the department.

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and Organised Crime Groups continually use or attempt to use legitimate businesses to front their criminal activity and some of these businesses involve the licensing trade.

Greater Glasgow Licensing Department closely scrutinise all licensing applications. Extensive checks are carried out, including background and intelligence checks on those named on the applications. When deemed necessary, personal interviews are carried out with the applicants and the premises are visited by the Licensing Department, in an effort to thwart any persons using the Licensing Business as a front for illegal activity.

Legitimate licensed premises are targets for criminals involved in drugs, fraud amongst other crimes and will often be used as a means of laundering money.

Greater Glasgow Licensing Department work closely with the Police Scotland Interventions department, who monitor all known persons linked to Serious and Organised Crime.

Serious and organised crime is a National priority for Police Scotland and the Licensing Department will use all means at its disposal to disrupt, deter and assist in detecting those involved in such activity.

Proposed Activity for the Year Ahead

Greater Glasgow Licensing Department will continue to work closely with its partners to deliver National and Local Priorities through the operation and monitoring of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

Officers and staff will continue to deliver training and guidance to the Licensing trade and partners as well as Police Scotland staff to achieve the best possible opportunities for those involved to meet the Acts objectives.

Initiatives such as “Bystander” and “You’re Asking for It” campaign will grow and develop this coming period and should see positive outcomes as a result.