



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT TO THE
EAST RENFREWSHIRE LICENSING BOARD
FOR THE PERIOD
1ST APRIL 2016 to 31ST MARCH 2017

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to provide my second annual licensing report, in accordance with section 12(A) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

This report outlines what activity has been undertaken over the last twelve months for East Renfrewshire which provides me with the opportunity to outline how our services will be delivered over the coming year.

Police Scotland continues to face an increasing range of demands against the backdrop of a challenging financial environment, however we will continue to work in partnership at local and national level to ensure that our communities are safe. I cannot understate the importance of empowering our people to work with others, to innovate and solve problems.

Over the last year we have seen success in our preventative problem solving approach, with officers and staff resolving issues proportionately and at the earliest opportunity. This has been possible due to the active partnerships which exist across the licensing sector, which have led to an increase in positive outcomes.

In the year ahead our approach will continue to be based on prevention and collaboration to ensure the most efficient and effective service delivery. I will encourage officers and staff to utilise the range of options available to ensure improved licensing standards, reduced violence and to positively influence behaviour and cultural attitudes across Scotland.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to all who work towards the shared aim of effective licensing regulation and I am sure that with the continued hard work and dedication of all staff, Police Scotland will continue to deliver a service that our communities can be proud of.

Mr Philip Gormley QPM

Chief Constable

Police Service of Scotland

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 upholds the two tier structure for licensing which supports both national and local priorities through service delivery. They have overall responsibility for determining and delivering national licensing strategy and policy, by providing advice, guidance and support to divisional licensing teams.

Each 13 Local Policing divisions, have a licensing team wholly committed 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 within their local area.

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

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.

The senior officers who hold responsibility for licensing with Greater Glasgow Division are as follows;

Superintendent Alan Murray	Partnerships
Chief Inspector Simon Jeacocke	Partnerships

Licensing Department;

Inspector Susan Gillon	Licensing Inspector
Sergeant Marie Stewart	Licensing Sergeant
Sergeant Scott Brown	Licensing Sergeant

Staff attached to the Greater Glasgow Licensing Department have recently undertaken, and passed their Personal Licence course, which will further enhance their expertise and knowledge with regards to liquor licensing.

Local Policing Priorities

Following our public consultation process, the policing priorities for Greater Glasgow Division, which encompasses East Renfrewshire Council, as set out in our Local Policing Plan are as follows;

- Tackling Violence, Disorder and Antisocial behaviour
- Protecting People
- Increasing Public Confidence and Local Engagement
- Tackling Serious Crime and Responding to National Events

Board Area

East Renfrewshire Council Licensing Board regulate premises that sell alcohol, there are over 200 licensed premises that operate within this area.

There are in excess of 92,000 residents living within the East Renfrewshire Council area.

This area is home to both urban and rural residents, from Giffnock and Newton Mearns to Eaglesham and Uplawmoor.

OPERATION OF THE LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005

Greater Glasgow Divisional Licensing Department is based at London Road Police Office. It is headed by Inspector Susan Gillon, supported by two Sergeants, six Constables and eleven members of police staff.

The Licensing Team work closely with Licensing Standards Officers (LSO's) from the Licensing Board area. There are frequent joint visits and inspections of licensed premises within the Board areas. Following any incidents connected to licensed premises, LSO's regularly attend meetings between Police Scotland and license holders, ensuring a collaborative approach to minimise the risk of future incidents.

Greater Glasgow Licensing Department operate in conjunction with several other internal departments and external agencies, to work alongside license premises to minimise the risk of incidents occurring. When incidents do occur, Greater Glasgow Licensing use a pragmatic approach, working with all partners and premises to prevent any reoccurrence, taking a three step approach to incidents where there are identified areas for improvement by premises.

For minor incidents, police and license holders will meet and an "interaction" will take place. Interactions are undertaken where it is found that minor aspects of how an incident has been dealt with by staff could be improved and do not involve any breach of the licensing conditions. An interaction is documented on the premises file, which is stored on our Innkeeper system, and no further action is required.

For more serious incidents, or where there have been a number of interactions carried out with no improvement in the premises operation, an "intervention" will take

place between police and license holders and any other interested partner agency. These are for more serious incidents, when the incident should have been dealt with better by staff, or prevented by improved training of staff, or premises policies. An intervention is a formal document, recommending that premises management will put various measures in place to minimise the risk of a similar incident happening again. The document is agreed then signed by all parties involved and is stored on our Innkeeper system.

Where all other steps have been taken, and are unsuccessful, or when an incident occurs that is so serious, the Licensing Department can and will request a review of a premises and / or personal license by the licensing board. Due to the current developed practices, and the enhanced working relationship with the trade the number of submitted reviews of licenses is very low.

BOARD DECISIONS

Section 1 – Unlicensed sale or supply of alcohol

There have been no reported incidents in the East Renfrewshire Board area during the period of unlicensed sale or supply of alcohol.

Section 20 – Application for a new premises licence

All applications for licenses received are scrutinised by police licensing administrators in consultation with the local area commanders for the area the premises wish to operate in. Any police representation or objection to applications are made with reference to the five licensing objectives.

There have been 9 applications for new premises licenses during the relevant period, with none being refused.

Section 36 – Application for Review of Licence

Within this reporting period there have only been 2 interventions undertaken, with no premise reviews being submitted to the Licensing Board.

In April 2016 there was an incident at a premise where a male was heavily under the influence of alcohol and was shouting sectarian abuse. When challenged about his conduct this male assaulted a patron. Staff at the premise were aware of the incident but chose not to contact the police. Through an intervention management were reminded with regards to their responsibilities under the licencing objectives to ensure that all incidents are subsequently reported.

In May 2016 there was an incident in a premise which resulted in disorder. This followed on from an 18th birthday party. Due to the nature of the incident the premise operating plan was checked where it was found that it was not allowed to hold such a function. Management attended at London Road Police Office, and an intervention took place highlighting this aspect of the operating plan. The management appeared to be unaware that they could not host 18th birthday celebrations and agreed to cancel three that had already been booked.

Section 63 – Sale or Supply out with licensed hours

There have been no reports of sale or supply of alcohol out with licensed hours.

Section 72 - Personal License applications

Over the reporting period there have been 75 applications for personal licenses to East Renfrewshire Licensing Board. None of these applications have been refused.

Section 84 – Personal License reviews

There have been no personal license reviews submitted to East Renfrewshire board over the reporting period.

Section 94 – Exclusion Orders

When an individual is convicted with a violent offence on a licensed premise, an exclusion order can be sought. This prohibits the person from entering a specific license premise, which is named on the order. This can last between 3 and 24 months. There has been no exclusion orders granted during the relevant period for the East Renfrewshire area.

Section 97 – Closure Orders

There has been no closure orders requested or granted.

Sections 111 – 116 – Drunkenness / Disorder Offences

Over the reporting period there have been no reported offences where the case would have been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal in the East Renfrewshire board area.

PREVENTING THE SALE OR SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL TO CHILDREN OR YOUNG PEOPLE

To support the licensing objective of protecting children from harm, numerous multi agency approaches are used to educate both young persons and license holders. When information is received by Police Scotland regarding premises potentially supplying alcohol to children or young people, Greater Glasgow Licensing department conduct inspections at the premises, reminding owners of their responsibilities.

Additionally this will also be tasked to local officers, who have the opportunity to arrange test purchase operations. These operations utilise 16-17yr olds, who, in a controlled environment, attempt to purchase alcohol from these licensed premises. If asked their age, the purchasers must state they are underage. If a premises fails a test purchase operation then it they are charged and informed of their failings, and the licensing department will work with the premises to raise their standards and comply with legislation. The premises will be retested within 14 days, a second fail of a test purchase operation will result in a request for the premises license to be reviewed by the Licensing Board.

These test purchase operations are intelligence led.

Section 102 – There have been no persons reported.

Section 103 – There have been no persons reported.

Section 105 – There have been no persons reported.

TACKLING SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

As many licensed activities are predominantly cash businesses, these naturally attract persons involved in serious and organised crime. The processes and procedures used by Greater Glasgow Licensing seek to minimise the possibility of organised crime groups infiltrating licensed activities. Stringent financial checks are completed on all applications, preventing these groups utilising licensed premises as a veneer for other criminal activity, such as money laundering and tax evasion.

Divisional Licensing staff work closely with the Police Interventions department, who monitor all known organised crime groups within Scotland, to prevent them gathering a foothold within the board area. There are in excess of 40 Serious and Organised Crime Groups in the Greater Glasgow area, several of which are located within the East Renfrewshire area.

With the introduction of the Innkeeper system, information on all persons and partnerships, who apply for, or hold licenses in all board areas can now easily be shared throughout Scotland.

When appropriate and proportionate, Police Scotland will submit intelligence to the Licensing Board when commenting on applications. All intelligence submitted is vetted by the national Interventions department, ensuring it has been appropriately sanitised and would not compromise any ongoing police activity. This is used to support any comment, showing the lifestyle or associations of the applicant or connected persons.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Over the coming year Greater Glasgow Licensing Department will endeavour to continue to work in collaboration with Licensing Standards Officers, management of licensed premises and other partners to build on the existing strong relationships.

Through this partnership working we hope to contribute to keeping crime rate low, whilst keeping the people visiting and living in East Renfrewshire safe.

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 Police Plan that are delivered locally through single outcome agreements.

Consultation and engagement is combined with our own analysis of the issues likely to impact on the safety of the public to inform our local and national Strategic Assessments that identify our priorities and provide a firm evidence base for local policing teams across Scotland to deliver operational plans to prevent crime and disorder and Keep People Safe.

Our National Priorities are:

- **Violence Disorder and Anti-social Behaviour**
- **Serious Organised Crime**
- **Road Safety and Road Crime**
- **Protecting People at Risk of Harm**
- **Counter Terrorism**

The National Licensing Policy Unit (NLPU) is a specialist department which consists of a small team of officers, based in Glasgow. The officers within the unit work in conjunction with licensing colleagues, from local policing divisions. Together, they seek to ensure that legislation governing the sale and supply of alcohol and other civic licensed activity is applied and reported consistently across the country to licensing boards, in accordance with the Licensing Objectives.

During 2017/18, from a licensing perspective, our particular focus will be on the following;

- Scrutiny of the serious incidents of violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour linked to licensed premises.
- Continuous professional development training and guidance for staff to harmonise licensing practice across the country.
- Working closely with statutory partners to introduce a National Licensing Trade Forum to identify licensing related issues and prevent/reduce associated crimes.
- The implementation and ongoing development of a National ICT Licensing System, known as "InnKeeper", to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of liquor and civic licensing administration and management.

The assistance obtained from the local authority to ensure that "Innkeeper" was implemented successfully during March 2016 is very much appreciated by Police Scotland. It is anticipated that this effective collaboration between the parties will continue to ensure that this valuable national resource remains fit for purpose and significantly improves the management of liquor and civic licensing records, documentation and information.