

FOREWORD

As the Chief Constable of Police Scotland, it gives me great pleasure to provide my first annual licensing report, in accordance with section 12(A) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank you for the contribution and excellent work undertaken during the past year throughout the licensing area of business in Scotland, especially within our 32 Local Authorities.

Police Scotland together with our licensing partners have faced and continue to confront many challenges, not least our budget constraints. However, this will not detract from our commitment to continuing to provide the very best and sustainable policing service to our communities across the country.

I am especially keen to develop our local services to meet the varying licensing demands and expectations within our diverse local communities, by listening to people and developing opportunities to improve, including the sharing of best practise and influencing positive attitudes and behaviours to reduce alcohol related crimes and anti-social behaviour.

Police Scotland's licensing structure and function has recently underwent significant transition and now benefits from improved governance, flexibility and support, with a real emphasis on quality of service. These changes are further enhanced through our commitment to investing and implementing a national I.T. database, (Innkeeper), which has significantly improved our management and the administration of all liquor and civic licences. Police Scotland and our licensing partners now benefit from a consistent service with improved local delivery, decision making and reporting process.

With our licensing transition complete, we are now transforming our licensing service and central to this is our ability to continue to work closely with our Local Authorities, the licensed trade and other key partners, with a main focus on prevention and vulnerability.

We recognise that problem solving is essential in achieving our mutual aims of public safety and a healthy community environment, while enforcement should only be used as necessary. We will only achieve these aims together through consent and by legitimate means with the full support of all key licensing partners.

I look forward to the coming year where we will continue to improve licensing standards, reduce violence and continue to keep our communities and people safe.

Philip Gormley QPM
Chief Constable
Police Service of Scotland

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Police Scotland Licensing Overview

Following the inception of Police Scotland in 2013, a two tier structure for licensing was adopted to support both national and local priorities and service delivery.

A National Licensing Policy Unit (NLPU), which sits within Licensing and Violence Reduction Division, has overall responsibility for determining and delivering national licensing strategy and policy. The NLPU also provides advice, guidance and support to divisional licensing teams as well as undertaking other specialist functions.

Dedicated licensing teams are located in each of the 13 local divisions and are responsible for 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.

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 Stewart Carle	Partnerships
Chief Inspector David Pettigrew	Partnerships
Licensing Department;	
Inspector Susan Gillon	Licensing Inspector
Sergeant Craig Brady	Licensing Sergeant
Sergeant Scott Brown	Licensing Sergeant

The licensing department received a Divisional Commanders Award this year for its significant contribution to the overall performance of the division.

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Local Policing Priorities

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

1. Tackling Violence, Disorder and Antisocial behaviour
2. Protecting People
3. Increasing Public Confidence and Local Engagement
4. Tackling Serious Crime and Responding to National Events

Board Area

East Renfrewshire Council Licensing Board area regulate premises that sell alcohol within the areas of Giffnock, Newton Mearns, Clarkston, Eaglesham, Barrhead, Neilston, Uplawmoor and surrounding areas. Over 90,000 people live within this area.

OPERATION OF THE LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005

Greater Glasgow Divisional Licensing Department are 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 area. 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 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 parts 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 National 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

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intervention is a formal document, suggesting 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 National 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 request a review of a premises license by the licensing board. Due to the approach used and strong relationship between Police Scotland and the licensing trade, the number of requested reviews of licenses is very low.

BOARD DECISIONS

There have been no incidents that have resulted in a request from Police Scotland for East Renfrewshire Licensing Board to review a premises license. All incidents have been successfully resolved by good partnership working between Police Scotland, East Renfrewshire Licensing Standards Officers and the premise license holders.

Section 1 – Unlicensed sale or supply of alcohol

There were no recorded incidents in the East Renfrewshire Board area during the period of unlicensed sale or supply of alcohol.

Section 20 – Application for a new premises license

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 6 applications for new premises licenses during the relevant period, of these all 6 have been granted.

Section 36 – Application for review of a license

There have been no incidents of this over the reporting period.

Section 63 – Sale or Supply out with licensed hours

There have been no incidents of this over the reporting period.

Section 72 - Personal License applications

Over the reporting period there were 67 applications for personal licenses to East Renfrewshire Licensing Board. Of these all 67 were granted.

Section 84 – Personal License reviews Over the reporting period there have been no requests for reviews of personal licenses to East Renfrewshire Licensing Board.

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

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license premise, which is named on the order. This can last between 3 and 24 months. There have been no exclusion orders granted during the relevant period.

Section 97 –Closure Orders

There has been no requirement to request a closure order for any premises throughout the East Renfrewshire License Board area.

Sections 111 – 116 – Drunkenness / Disorder Offences

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

1 recorded crime of S.115 – Disorderly conduct on premises whilst drunk

1 recorded crime of S.116 – Disorderly conduct/refusal to leave licensed premises

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 will arrange test purchase operations. These utilise 16-17yr olds, who in a controlled situation 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 7 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.

Over the reporting period there have been no test purchase operations which resulted in alcohol being sold to an underage person throughout the East Renfrewshire Licensing Board area. Test purchase operations are a combination of intelligence led operations, and random compliance checks by Police Scotland.

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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.

With the introduction of the national 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 at a record 41 year low, whilst keeping the people of 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

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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 2016/17, 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 "Inn Keeper", 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.

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