

The Highland Licensing Board

Meeting – 4 February 2014

Agenda Item	7
Report No	HLB/005/14

Alcohol Licensing for Royal National MOD 2014.

Report by the Legal Manager

Summary

This Report provides Members with information in order to consider the potential for granting of extended licensing hours for Inverness city premises during the period of the National MOD, 10th to 17th October 2014.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Royal National MOD returns to Inverness for the period 10th to 17th October, 2014 and coincides with the year of Homecoming. An approach has been made to the Licensing Standards Officer by a sub-committee of the MOD to explore the options for securing extended licensed hours for Inverness licensed premises. Over the course of the week it is anticipated that in the region of 10,000 visitors will be attracted by this festival of Gaelic culture.

2.0 Licensing Objectives

2.1 A Sub-Group affiliated to the main MOD Committee headed by Mr Don Lawson and Mrs Ina Davies has a specific remit for licensing and accommodation. An initial approach from the Sub Group requests that the Board consider granting extended hours in line with those made available during the Festive Season, namely until 2am for those premises without late opening and 4am for those who do have a late hours entitlement. During the Festive period 2013/2014 such extensions, although fairly widely used, produced no adverse effect on the licensing objectives.

The last venue for the MOD was in Paisley. The LSO has made contact with the LSO of Renfrewshire Council who advised that no adverse issues arose during the MOD. The Renfrewshire Board did make it a condition in respect of claiming the late hours available that entertainment required to be offered on the premises.

3.0 Type Of Extension

3.1 The Board has the power where there is an occasion of local or national significance to make a determination under section 67 of the Licensing

(Scotland) Act 2005 extending licensed hours by such period as the Board may specify. Certainly the MOD is of a status that fits these criteria. If the Board is minded to make a determination under section 67 it will be necessary to determine the area that the extension should apply to. Certainly the Inverness city area is likely to be the busiest locus, with the MOD being based at Eden Court.

Alternatively the Board may wish to make it known that it will consider granting individual extended hours applications under section 68 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. This has been the template for recent Festive periods whereby the Board has publicised the extended hours it may permit and premises wishing those extended hours then make individual applications. This has the benefit of producing intelligence for agencies such as Police (Scotland) as to the number of premises which will be open.

4. Recommendation

Members are invited to consider the foregoing report with a view to determining the arrangements for any extension of licensed hours during the period of the forthcoming National MOD

Designation: Legal Manager

Officer Reference: Ian Cox. LSO

Date: 13th January 2014

Background Papers: Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.