

Forum submission in respect of the Highland Licensing Board Policy Statement.

1/. Children and Young Persons access.

It has become noticeable through a number of recent applications to the Board that Children's access to many Premises which are primarily food led is being requested in Operating Plans to be unaccompanied. This seems to reflect that Children of secondary school age are of sufficient maturity to enter Premises to purchase food and soft beverages without an accompanying adult.

Premises which do not have a wet sales bar but serve customers by way of table service only seem particularly suited to this, Pizza Hut, Nando's Frankie and Benny's and others to name but a few of a growing trend of family and youth friendly restaurants. It seems a perfectly safe environment for children of secondary school age(12 years and above) to access unaccompanied and preserve the ethos of the fifth Licensing Objective of Protecting Children and Young Persons from harm.

It is suggested that the Board may wish to produce guidance within their Policy Statement allowing persons aged 12 and above to access premises unaccompanied which are food led and have no bar counter which provides a drinking location for customers particularly up until a cut off time of say 21.00hrs. Criteria for consideration would be food led, no bar counter, and whether there was a designated seating area for children /young persons.

2/. Premises holding a Provisional Licence opening prior to Confirmation of Premises Licence.

It is requested that the Board give consideration to developing a policy in circumstances where Operators who have secured a Provisional Premises Licence but are not quite ready to Confirm their Licence can apply for Occasional Licences. Due cognisance requires to be given to the Licensing Objectives particularly Objective 2 concerning Public Safety; the condition of the Premises requires to be suitable for use in respect of the sale of alcohol(section 59(6)(d)(ii)).

Applications for early opening are commonly made by way of an Occasional Licence Application it is suggested that any policy should require submission by the Applicant a Section 50 certificate from Building Standards, or a permission for the temporary occupation or use of the premises under section 21(3) of the Building(Scotland)Act 2003 as sufficient evidence of the premises suitability to be open for business.

3/. Best Practice Voluntary Organisations .

Many Voluntary Organisations utilise Occasional Licences as a way on assisting fund generation from events. Several of these are on a repeat basis. The Forum would wish the Highland Licensing Board to consider recommending within the Licensing Policy Statement that those Voluntary Organisations who yearly use their full quota or a substantial part of their quota of Occasional Licences should either get a designated person to undertake a Personal Licence holders course and thereafter

training volunteers who will regularly run the bar at functions, or alternatively the Voluntary Organisation should arrange for the 2 hour Licensing Training required by staff working in licensed premises be given to a cadre of volunteers who will service bars on behalf of the Organisation.

Such best practice should hopefully ensure regular bars run by Voluntary Organisations are run in accord with the Licensing Objectives and to a standard in line with the general licensed trade.

4/. Staff Training Records at Outdoor events.

In the Highlands many outside events are held under the Authority of Occasional Licences in respect of bar provision. A current Local Licensing Condition Q can be placed on Occasional Licences, largely those applied for by a Premises or Personal Licence holder to provide staff to sell or serve alcohol who have completed two hours Licensing Training as specified in regulations. The Forum wishes the Board to introduce a further local condition requiring a copy of the members of staff training record to be kept on site for the duration of the Occasional Licence. This would help assist the integrity of Licensing checks carried out by the Police and LSO's and support the Licensing Objectives.