

**LSO report to Highland Licensing Forum for Meeting of Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at  
Council Headquarters Glenurquhart Road, Inverness.**

Our long serving LSO colleague David Inglis is retiring from his role and the Council in mid April this year after over 10years in the role of LSO from its inception. We wish David every enjoyment of his retirement and warmly thank him for his contribution to Highland licensing. Currently this job is being advertised internally within the Council and there is confidence that a high calibre of candidate will come forward.

Currently the first large batch of Personal Licence renewals is progressing well and there is confidence that the process outlined by the Scottish Government has been well broadcast and business continuity at a local level will not be adversely affected.

Highland continues to buck the national trend as far as licensing is concerned, the first 2 Boards of the year have seen several new Licence applications and the LSO's have received several more enquiries from potential applicants, these reflect B&B establishments wanting to offer services to guests, artisan distilleries, gift shops and bistro's.

Forum members Liz Smart and Ian Cox have represented the Forum on a National Licensing Policy Review Group co-ordinated by Alcohol Focus Scotland, whose aim is to find good practice across all Licensing Boards in relation to Policy and thereafter disseminate it.

Susan Blease retired as Clerk to the Licensing Board in January, 2019; her replacement and former Deputy Clerk, Claire MacArthur is now in post. Susan's parting gift was a wholesale review and update of the Policy Statement to which the Forum contributed amendment and we now have a highly regarded and workable Policy which actively supports a responsible licensing industry in the Highlands , enabling it to flourish in keeping with the Licensing Objectives.

Ian Cox.