

LSO Report to Highland Licensing Forum, 27th August, 2019. Committee Room 2, Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness.

Coming and Going.

We welcome Garry Cameron to the Forum as the Licensing Standards Officer for North Highland. Garry took over from David Inglis in May of this year. He has a background of a former Police career and was a Facilities Manager and Ward Manager with Highland Council before taking up his new role. Garry is based in Drummuie, Golspie.

Sergeant Bruce Gray will retire from Police(Scotland) on 12th November this year having performed his role as Licensing Sergeant with great credit. Bruce will not be ideal and may return to the licensing scene in a new role- watch this space.

News.

The first large tranch of personal licence renewals has been completed, the local and national picture reflects that a substantial number of Personal Licence Holders failed to renew; largely this was blamed on a complex renewal process, which was circulated late to the trade and local Authority's. Whether this will see a shift in the process is yet to be decided but there are certainly widely voiced views for a more simplified process.

Currently the Scottish Government is considering evidence drawn from a public consultation on the cost of Occasional Licences, currently costing £10.00. Suggested cost has been talked about at £50.00. Whilst this may ease the admin burden on Councils and produce a fairer remuneration for processing each Application adverse factors such as the rise in "Bring your own Booze events also has to be considered.

Minimum Unit Pricing.

NHS has produced the evaluation study following the introduction of the national MUP.

In summary the study has found.

- practitioners focused on the off-trade and reported licensed premises were largely compliant with MUP legislation
- where instances of non-compliance were identified, all issues were considered minor and swiftly resolved
- practitioners did not report any known increase in illegal or unlicensed alcohol-related activity as a result of the introduction of MUP

.Best Bar None Lochaber

The nationally recognised scheme which supports and encourages best practice and sound Premises Management has been taken up as a project in Lochaber in a joint initiative co-ordinated by the Police, Fire Service and Highland Council, in the initial year 14 licensed Premises have enrolled for this very worthwhile scheme.