

The Highland Licensing Board

Meeting – 25 June 2024

Agenda Item	12.1
Report No	HLB/73/24

Hearing to consider Police Scotland report of conduct inconsistent with licensing objectives

Personal licence holder – James Ernest Robert McEachern (HC/RSL/8700)

Report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board

Summary

This report relates to a hearing under section 84A of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. This is a mandatory hearing which the Board must hold following receipt from Police Scotland of a report advising that the Chief Constable considers that a personal licence holder has acted in a manner inconsistent with any of the licensing objectives.

1. Background

- 1.1 A personal licence is required to allow any individual to supervise or authorise the sale of alcohol.
- 1.2 James Ernest Robert McEachern was granted a personal licence on 29 August 2023 and, subject to the terms of the Act, the licence will expire on 28 August 2033.
- 1.3 Mr McEachern is currently a Designated Premises Manager within a premises in the jurisdiction of the Highland Licensing Board.
- 1.4 In terms of section 84A of the Act, Police Scotland have submitted to the Board a report dated 3 April 2024 that the Chief Constable considers that personal licence holder, James Ernest Robert McEachern, has acted in a manner inconsistent with the following licensing objective:
 - preventing crime and disorder.

A copy of this report detailing the conduct in question is attached (**Appendix 1**).

Section 84A(2) of the Act provides that where the Board receives from Police Scotland a report of this nature, the Board must hold a hearing.

- 1.5 The personal licence holder, Mr McEachern, and a representative from Police Scotland have been invited to attend the hearing. Both have been advised of the hearing procedure which will be followed at the meeting and which may also be viewed via the following link:

http://highland.gov.uk/hlb_hearings

2. Legal position

- 2.1 At the hearing, the Board may, after giving the licence holder, Police Scotland and such other persons as they consider appropriate an opportunity to be heard, make an order revoking, suspending or endorsing the licence if the Board is satisfied that it is necessary to do so for the purposes of any of the licensing objectives. The period of any suspension may not exceed 6 months. Alternatively, the Board may decide to take no action.
- 2.2 Separately, where, at the hearing, the Board are satisfied that, having regard to the licensing objectives, the licence holder is not a fit and proper person to be the holder of a personal licence, the Board must make an order revoking the licence.
- 2.3 For the purposes of the Act, the licensing objectives are-
- (a) preventing crime and disorder,
 - (b) securing public safety,
 - (c) preventing public nuisance,
 - (d) protecting and improving public health, and
 - (e) protecting children and young persons from harm.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to hear from the representative of Police Scotland and from the personal licence holder and then to determine whether to make any order revoking, suspending or endorsing the personal licence.

Reference: HC/RSL/8700

Date: 28 May 2024

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Letter from Police Scotland dated 3 April 2024