

Statutory Licensing Sub-Committee

27th November 2018

Application for the Review of a Premises Licence following a Closure Order



Report of Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Local Services

**Name & Address of Premises: M & A General Stores, 44 Middle Street,
Blackhall, Hartlepool, TS27 4EA**

1. Summary

The Sub-Committee is asked to consider and determine an application by Durham County Council – Licensing Authority to review the premises licence in respect of M & A General Stores, 44 Middle Street, Blackhall, Hartlepool, under Section 167 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The Licensing Authority received notification on Thursday 15th November 2018 that a Closure Order had been issued by Peterlee Magistrates Court.

The Closure Order had been applied for by Durham County Council – Trading Standards Department pursuant to Section 80 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 following an investigation into the supply of illicit tobacco products from the premises and seizures of illicit tobacco products from the premises.

Section 167 of the Licensing Act 2003 applies where:

- (a) A magistrates court has made a closure order under section 80 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, or the Crown Court has made a closure order on appeal under section 84 of that Act, in relation to premises in respect of which a premises licence has effect; and
- (b) The relevant licensing authority has accordingly received a notice under section 80(9) or 84(7) of that Act

The relevant licensing authority must then review the premises licence.

The premises are licensed for the sale of alcohol as follows:

Licensable Activity	Timings
The Sale of Alcohol (Off sales only)	Monday to Saturday 08:00 hrs – 23:00 hrs Sunday 10:00hrs – 22:30 hrs

A copy of the current premises licence is attached at Appendix 1.

A plan showing the location of the premises is attached at Appendix 2.

2. Details of the Application

On 15th November 2018 the Licensing Authority received an application from Durham County Council – Licensing Authority (Responsible Authority) for a review of the premises licence (Licence Number DOEP052).

The Premises Licence Holder is Mr Dalvinder Singh and Designated Premises Supervisor is Ms Jaswant Kaur.

The application is deemed by the Licensing Authority to be relevant.

This application for a review relates to the following licensing objectives:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- The Protection of Children from Harm

A copy of the application for the review of the premises licence is attached at Appendix 3.

A copy of the Closure Order issued by Peterlee Magistrates Court on 15th November 2018 is attached at Appendix 4.

The application for review was advertised in accordance with the regulations.

3. Representations

The licensing authority has received no representations at the time the report was written. Members will receive details of any representations received in relation to the application prior to or at the meeting.

4. The Parties

The Parties to the hearing will be:

- Durham County Council – Licensing Authority (applicant)
- Mr Dalvinder Singh (premises licence holder)

5. Durham County Council Statement of Licensing Policy

The Sub-Committee's attention is drawn to the following relevant parts of the Policy:

- 7.0 Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- 8.0 Public Safety

- 9.0 Prevention of Public Nuisance
- 10.0 Protection of Children from Harm
- 22.0 Reviews

Relevant information is attached at Appendix 5.

6. Section 182 Guidance

The Sub-Committee's attention is drawn to the relevant parts of the Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 as follows:

- 2.1 – 2.6 Crime and Disorder
- 2.7 – 2.14 Public Safety
- 2.15 – 2.21 Public Nuisance
- 2.22 – 2.32 Protection of Children from Harm
- 11.1 – 11.29 Reviews

Relevant information is attached at Appendix 6.

7. For Decision

The Sub-Committee is asked to determine the application for the review of the premises licence and to take any of the following steps that it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives:

- Take no further action
- Modify or add conditions to the licence
- Exclude a licensable activity from the licence
- Remove the Designated Premises Supervisor
- Suspend the licence for a period (not exceeding three months)
- Revoke the licence

Background Papers:

- Durham County Council's Statement of Licensing Policy
- Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (As amended April 2018)

Contact: Helen Johnson

Tel: 03000 265101

E-mail: helen.johnson2@durham.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1 – CURRENT PREMISES LICENCE



LICENSING ACT 2003 PREMISES LICENCE

Premises Licence Number
Granted
Issued

DOEP052
24 November 2005
09 November 2017

Part 1 – Premises details

Postal address of premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description	Issuing Authority
<p>M & A GENERAL STORE 44 MIDDLE STREET BLACKHALL HARTLEPOOL TS27 4EA</p>	<p>DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL ADULT AND HEALTH SERVICES LICENSING SERVICES PO BOX 617 DURHAM DH1 9HZ</p>
<p>Telephone number:</p>	

<p>Where the licence is time limited the dates N/A</p>
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<p>Licensable activities authorised by this licence Sale by retail of alcohol</p>

Opening Hours of the Premises		
Mon	Not stated	<p>Non-standard/seasonal timings N/A</p>
Tues	Not stated	
Wed	Not stated	
Thurs	Not stated	
Fri	Not stated	
Sat	Not stated	
Sun	Not stated	

<p>Where the licence authorises the sale by retail of alcohol whether these are on and/or off sales: OFF ALCOHOL SALES ONLY</p>

The times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities (all in 24hr format)

Sale by retail of alcohol	Further details
Mon 08:00-23:00	N/A
Tue 08:00-23:00	
Wed 08:00-23:00	Non-standard/seasonal timings
Thu 08:00-23:00	Good Friday: 08:00 - 22:30
Fri 08:00-23:00	Christmas Day: 12:00 - 15:00 and 19:00 - 22:30
Sat 08:00-23:00	
Sun 10:00-22.30	

Part 2

Name, (Registered) address, telephone number and email (where relevant) of holder of premises licence	
MR DALVINDER SINGH M & A GENERAL STORE 44 MIDDLE STREET BLACKHALL COLLIERY HARTLEPOOL, CLEVELAND TS27 4EA	
Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable)	
Company no:	N/A
Charity no:	N/A

Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the sale by retail of alcohol
MRS JASWANT KAUR

Personal licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the sale by retail of alcohol

Annex 1 – Mandatory conditions

No supply of alcohol may be made at a time when no designated premises supervisor has been specified in the licence or at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his or her licence has been suspended. Every supply of alcohol under this premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol -

The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.

The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either-

- (a) a holographic mark, or
- (b) an ultraviolet feature.

Minimum Price of Alcohol:

1 A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.

2 For the purposes of the condition:

- (a) "duty" is to be construed in accordance with the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979;
- (b) "permitted price" is the price found by applying the formula –

$$P = D + (D \times V)$$

Where –

- (i) P is the permitted price,
 - (ii) D is the amount of duty chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the duty were charged on the date of the sale or supply of alcohol, and
 - (iii) V is the rate of value added tax chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the value added tax were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol;
- (c) "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a premises licence –
- (i) the holder of the premises licence,
 - (ii) the designated premises supervisor (if any) in respect of such a licence, or
 - (iii) the personal licence holder who makes or authorises a supply of alcohol under such a licence;
- (d) "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a club premises certificate, any member or officer of the club present on the premises in a capacity which enables the member or officer to prevent the supply in question; and
- (e) "value added tax" means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994.

3 Where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 would (apart from this paragraph) not be a whole number of pennies, the price given by that sub-paragraph shall be taken to be the price actually given by that sub-paragraph rounded up to the nearest penny.

4 (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 on a day ("the first day") would be different from the permitted price on the next day ("the second day") as a result of a change to the rate of duty or value added tax.

(2) The permitted price which would apply on the first day applies to sales or supplies of alcohol which take place before the expiry of the period of 14 days beginning on the second day.

This Premises Licence has been granted upon conversion under schedule 8 of the Licensing Act 2003 of the previous Justices' On Licence, and such rights and restrictions that applied to such Licence are hereby incorporated into this Premises Licence, subject to any express terms to the contrary hereinafter specified, and/or any restriction applying to a Premises Licence and/or any licensable activity.

Annex 2 – Conditions consistent with the premises Operating Schedule

General

None

Prevention of Crime & Disorder

None

Public Safety

None

Prevention of Public Nuisance

None

Protection of Children from Harm

None

Annex 3 – Conditions attached after a hearing by the licensing authority

None

Annex 4 – Plans attached

Attached

Signature of Authorised Officer
Head of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection

APPENDIX 2 – LOCATION PLAN

Durham County Council - IntraMAP



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Every care has been taken to ensure the information contained on this map is correct. DCC accepts no liability for error or misinterpretation of the information shown on this map.

Map produced by Durham County Council - IntraMAP on
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APPENDIX 3 – REVIEW APPLICATION

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form.
If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary.
You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

I Laura Cloney on behalf of the Durham County Council Licensing Authority

(Insert name of applicant)

apply for the review of a premises licence under Section 167 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in Part 1 below:

Part 1 – Premises or club premises details

Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description M & A General Store 44 Middle Street Blackhall Hartlepool TS27 4EA	
Post town Hartlepool	Post code (if known) TS27 4EA

Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known) Mr Dalvinder Singh

Number of premises licence: DOEP052

Part 2 - Applicant details

I am

Please tick ✓ yes

- 1) an individual, body or business which is not a responsible authority (please read guidance note 1, and complete (A) or (B) below)
- 2) a responsible authority (please complete (C) below)
- 3) a member of the club to which this application relates (please complete (A) below)

(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT (fill in as applicable)

Please tick ✓ yes

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other title
(for example, Rev)

Surname

First names

I am 18 years old or over

Please tick ✓ yes

**Current postal
address if
different from
premises
address**

Post town

Post Code

Daytime contact telephone number

**E-mail address
(optional)**

(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT

Name and address

Telephone number (if any)

E-mail address (optional)

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address Laura Cloney Licensing Enforcement Team Leader Durham County Council EHCP Annand House John Street North Meadowfield Durham DH7 8RS
Telephone number (if any)
E-mail address (optional)

This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| | Please tick one or more boxes ✓ |
| 1) the prevention of crime and disorder | ✓ |
| 2) public safety | ✓ |
| 3) the prevention of public nuisance | ✓ |
| 4) the protection of children from harm | ✓ |

Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 2)

On Monday 12th November 2018, a closure notice was served by Durham County Council (DCC) Trading Standards Department in respect of LIFESTYLE EXPRESS STORE, 44 MIDDLE STREET, BLACKHALL COLLIERY, COUNTY DURHAM TS27 4EA under section 76 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

On Tuesday 13th November 2018, an application for a Closure Order was made to Newton Aycliffe Magistrates Court pursuant to section 80 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. In the absence of legal representation for the respondent this hearing was adjourned for a later hearing on Thursday 15th November 2018 at Peterlee Magistrates Court where the Closure Order was made by the magistrates.

The application for a Closure Order was requested by DCC Legal Services on behalf of DCC Trading Standards Service following an investigation into the supply of illicit tobacco products from the premises and seizures of illicit tobacco products on Friday 26th October 2018.

Lifestyle Express Store is licensed as M & A General Store for the sale of alcohol (off sales only). The name and registered address of the holder of the premises licence is Mr Dalvinder Singh M & A General Store, 44 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS27 4EA.

The name and address of the designated premises supervisor is Mrs Jaswant Kaur,

The premises are owned by B S T and Jaswant Kaur who is also the DPS. The subject of the investigation carried out by DCC Trading Standards services is F S T

There is a history of illicit tobacco products being sold from licensed retail premises associated with B S T s business activities. Previous investigations in 2017 undertaken by DCC Trading Standards services uncovered illicit tobacco products were stored at and sold from Vine Stores, 42 Middle Street Blackhall Colliery, a licenced premises under his control. This resulted in the revocation of the premises licence for 42 Middle Street and his prosecution for the possession of illicit tobacco products and to knowingly allowing a licensable activity to be carried on otherwise in accordance with an authorisation under the Licensing Act 2003 (The sale of alcohol without a DPS).

Subsequently, Trading Standards services acted on intelligence that F S T continued to sell illicit tobacco products from vehicles parked next to the LIFESTYLE EXPRESS STORE, 44 MIDDLE STREET, BLACKHALL COLLIERY. This was confirmed by directed surveillance operations. Trading Standards surveillance activities indicated that payments for the illicit tobacco products purchased from B S T vehicles were made inside the shop premises prior to the tobacco transactions outside the shop. Following the execution of warrants of entry, searches of F S T s home address, a container near Middle street and a vehicle parked near the shop considerable quantities of illicit tobacco products were seized.

The court upheld the application for the closure order on the basis of the Trading Standard services' argument that the premises were directly associated with the supply of illicit tobacco products.

Notification of the Closure Order was received by Durham County Council Licensing Authority from Peterlee Magistrates Court on Thursday 15th November 2018 and is attached.

(1) Section 167 of the Licensing Act 2003 applies where:

- (a) A magistrates court has made a closure order under section 80 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, or the Crown Court has made a closure order on appeal under section 84 of that Act, in relation to premises in respect of

which a premises licence has effect; and

- (b) The relevant licensing authority has accordingly received a notice under section 80(9) or 84(7) of that Act

- (2) The relevant licensing authority must review the premises licence

It is the opinion of Licensing Services that LIFESTYLE EXPRESS STORE, 44 MIDDLE STREET, BLACKHALL COLLIERY, COUNTY DURHAM TS27 4EA licensed as M & A General Store is associated with criminal activities namely the supply of illicit tobacco products. Such activities generally undermine and adversely affect the licensing objectives.

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 3)

See box re grounds above

Please tick ✓ yes

Have you made an application for review relating to the premises before

If yes please state the date of that application

Day Month Year

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

If you have made representations before relating to the premises please state what they were and when you made them

--

Please tick ✓

yes

- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate X
- I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected X

IT IS AN OFFENCE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003, TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION. THOSE WHO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT MAY BE LIABLE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO A FINE OF ANY AMOUNT.

Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 4)

Signature of applicant or applicant’s solicitor or other duly authorised agent (please read guidance note 5). **If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

Signature

.....

Date **15 November 2018**

.....

Capacity **Licensing Enforcement Team Leader**

.....

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 6)

Post town

Post Code

Telephone number (if any)

If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional)

Notes for Guidance

1. A responsible authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.
2. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
3. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
4. The application form must be signed.
5. An applicant’s agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.

APPENDIX 4 – CLOSURE ORDER

Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

Tel: 03000 260000



CLOSURE ORDER

Pursuant to Section 80 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Premises to be closed: **Lifestyle Express Store**
44 Middle Street, Blackhall Colliery, TS27 4EA

Order Issued: **Thursday 15th November 2018**
Order Expires: **Tuesday 12th February 2019**

In County Durham & Darlington Magistrates Court, sitting at Peterlee Magistrates Court, a Closure Order under Section 80 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 was granted.

**ACCESS TO THE PREMISES BY ANY PERSONS, OTHER THAN THE OWNER,
IS PROHIBITED**

**ANY PERSON WHO CONTRAVENES THIS ORDER SHALL BE LIABLE ON
SUMMARY CONVICTION TO IMPRISONMENT FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING
51 WEEKS AND/OR A FINE**

*[FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, THE FLAT ABOVE THE PREMISES AT 44
MIDDLE STREET, BLACKHALL COLLIERY IS NOT THE SUBJECT OF THIS
ORDER]*

If you are affected by this Closure Order you may seek independent legal advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau, Shakespeare House, Shakespeare Street, Seaham, SR7 7JB

Enquiries regarding this Order should be directed to Durham County Council Trading Standards Team on 03000 261 016 or by email at ehcp@durham.gov.uk

BY ORDER OF THE COURT

APPENDIX 5 – STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

7.0 The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

7.1 Licensed premises, especially those offering late night / early morning entertainment, alcohol and refreshment may sometimes, if not properly managed, become a source of public nuisance, generating crime and disorder problems.

7.2 As a matter of policy, the Licensing Authority will require every holder of a premises licence, club premises certificate or temporary event notice to be responsible for minimising the impact of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour by their patrons both on and within the immediate vicinity of their premises, including for example on the pavement, in a beer garden or in a smoking shelter.

7.3 The Licensing Authority recommends that all applicants demonstrate in their Operating Schedules that suitable and sufficient measures, ranging from the design and layout of the premises through to the daily operation of the business have been identified and will be implemented and maintained with the intention of preventing crime and disorder. Procedures to deal with drunken customers, violence and anti social behaviour in and outside premises and the provision of closed circuit 14 television in certain premises should be considered by applicants, licencees and event organisers when addressing this issue.

7.4 The Licensing Authority encourages Personal Licence holders to actively participate in established "Pubwatch" schemes, where issues relating to crime and disorder can be addressed. The Licensing Authority support involvement in "Best Bar None" initiative which enables premises to demonstrate good safe operating procedures. Such schemes have been very successful in reducing the negative impact of alcohol across a range of circumstances.

7.5 The Licensing Authority recognises and promotes effective and responsible management of all licensed and authorised premises through competent and efficient and regular instruction, recorded training, supervision of staff and the adoption of good practice, such as 'Challenge 25'. These are considered to be among the most important control measures for the achievement of all Licensing Objectives. The Licensing Authority will take a positive view of anyone who invests in appropriate training, and in particular nationally accredited qualifications tailored to the Licensing sector. Training records should be kept available for inspection by all enforcement agencies.

7.6 The application for premises licence must identify a Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) who must also hold a Personal Licence. The DPS does not have to be present on the premises at all times when alcohol is being sold. However, the DPS and Premises Licence Holder remain responsible for the premises at all times. It is important that there is an accountable, responsible person present when alcohol is being sold or supplied to ensure, for example, that alcohol is not sold to persons who have had too much to drink, or to those under the age of 18 years.

7.7 Someone should always be present on premises or at an event during times when licensable activities are taking place who can discuss any problems or

issues arising from the licensable activities offered on the premises with officers from Licensing Authority and Police. The Licensing Authority considers it to be good practice if the DPS or Premises Licence Holder is present in the licensed area of the premises:

- Between 22:00 hours and closing time, when the premises is one that regularly opens after midnight for both regulated entertainment and the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises.
- At all times when the premises is a "vertical drinking establishment" where little or no seating is provided.
- At times where there is a substantial increase in customers i.e. for televised major sporting events etc.

7.8 The Licensing Authority will only impose a maximum number of people that can attend premises or an event where there is a clear and justifiable need in respect of that particular premises or event. Any such decision will be based on the nature and style of the operation. The Licensing Authority will consider information provided by the applicant and any other body, in particular the Council's Building Control Section, Environmental Health Section and the Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service before setting a maximum number. Applicants will be expected to detail the arrangements that would be put in place e.g. provision of door staff to ensure that the permitted number of people attending the premises or event will not be exceeded.

7.9 Whenever security operatives/door supervisors are employed at licensed premises to carry out security functions they must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). If a licensee directly employs security operatives they will need to be licensed by the SIA as a supervisor/manager.

7.10 The numbers of licensed door supervisors, both male and female, required at any premises will be dependant upon the nature of the activities licensed and the characteristics and capacity of the establishment and hours of trading.

7.11 In addition to the requirement of the Licensing Authority to promote the Licensing Objectives, the Council also has a duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do all it reasonably can do to prevent crime and disorder in its area and to consider crime and disorder in its decision making process.

7.12 Toughened/Safety Glass Policy: Licensed venues that provide the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises should consider the introduction of toughened/safety glass. This policy expectation applies to those premises that would be considered as carrying a higher risk for potential crime and disorder. In particular it is expected in premises considered to be high volume vertical drinking establishments and those premises open beyond midnight in areas where there is a high concentration of venues (but not premises in those areas that are viewed as low risk in this context).

7.13 Drugs/Knives/Weapons: The Licensing Authority will expect licensees to take all reasonable steps to prevent the presence of drugs on licensed premises and to take appropriate steps to prevent drugs changing hands within the

premises in order to prevent tragedies as a result of drug misuse. The Licensing Authority will expect licensees to be familiar with the Home Office Drug Strategy booklet entitled Safer Clubbing (ISBN 1840827807) or other subsequent editions. The Licensing Authority also expects that licence holders will also take steps to prevent the presence of knives and other weapons on their premises and that a log be kept of all drug, knife and weapon incidents. Licence holders should also consider arranging training for their staff on drugs, knives and weapons and to have policies for dealing with the possession of drugs, knives and weapons and the supply of drugs.

8.0 Public Safety

8.2 Applicants are advised to seek advice on such matters from the Council's Occupational Safety and Health team, Health and safety Executive, Durham Constabulary and the Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, and incorporate any recommendations in their Operating Schedule before submitting their applications.

- First Aid
- Public security
- Event control
- Polycarbonate Glass
- Fire Safety
- Electrical safety
- Building safety
- Transport
- Drink driving issues
- Occupancy levels

9.0 Prevention of Public Nuisance

9.1 Licensed premises, especially those operating late at night and in the early hours of the morning, can cause a range of nuisances impacting on people living, working or sleeping in the vicinity of the premises.

9.2 The concerns relate, amongst other things, to litter, light pollution, noxious odours and noise nuisance resulting from music, human voices, ventilation equipment and vehicles. The Licensing Authority will expect applicants to demonstrate that suitable and sufficient measures have been identified, and will be implemented and maintained, with the intention of preventing public nuisance relevant to the individual style, location and characteristics of the premises and events.

9.3 If an external structure or area is to be used by customers, whether for consumption of alcohol or for smoking, the applicant will be expected to offer measures designed to minimise its impact on local residents in respect of both public nuisance and crime and disorder. These measures may include a restriction on hours that areas / structures will be used, appropriate signage requesting customers to consider local residents and monitoring of such areas by staff.

9.4 The placement of tables and chairs outside of licensed premises may give rise to public nuisance including noise and litter. When tables and chairs are situated on the public highway relevant consents will often be required. Enquiries for such consents should be made to the Council's Highway's Section of the Regeneration and Economic Development Department. In predominantly commercial areas such as shopping centres the Licensing Authority, the use of tables and chairs outside may be allowed however, the Council will normally expect them to be removed before the premises close, and any resulting litter/ debris cleared away.

9.5 Applicants should give consideration to reducing potential noise nuisance by, for example (this list is not exhaustive):

- Assessment of likely noise levels in the premises.
- Assessment of likely noise levels if outdoor drinking is allowed.
- The sound insulation the building would provide (e.g. double glazing, double doors / lobbies to entrances, windows used for ventilation).
- The distance and direction to the nearest noise sensitive premises.
- Likely noise sources outside of the premises (e.g. emptying bottle bins, taxis, unruly customers leaving the premises).
- Dispersal of patrons – where necessary the Licensing Authority will expect a dispersal policy for patrons at the end of the evening. The policy will specify such issues as alterations to the style and volume of music played, public address announcements and use of appropriate signage at exits.
- Ways to limit noise / disorder from patrons leaving the premises.

9.6 The extent to which the above matters will need to be addressed will be dependent on the nature of the area where the premises are situated, the type of premises concerned, the licensable activities to be provided, operational procedures and the needs of the local community.

9.7 Applicants are advised to seek advice from Durham County Councils Environmental Health Team and incorporate any recommendations in their Operating Schedule before submitting their applications.

9.8 Takeaways and fast-food outlets: The Licensing Authority expects takeaways and late night refreshment premises to take reasonable steps in clearing litter from outside their premises and along the pavement in either direction as necessary, whilst the premises are open and at the end of the working day. These premises should maintain clean, dirt or grease free frontages. Such premises should also provide notices displayed advising customers of the location of bins and patrons should use the bins any provided.

10.0 Protection of Children from Harm

10.1 While the Act does not prohibit children from having free access to any licensed premises, the Licensing Authority recognises that limitations may have to be considered where it appears necessary to protect children from physical, moral or psychological harm and the effects of alcohol on parenting.

10.2 The Act makes it an offence for any child under the age of 16 who is not

- accompanied by an adult from being present:
- At any time on pub premises, or other premises being used exclusively or primarily for the supply of alcohol for consumption on those premises; or
 - Between the hours of midnight and 05:00 hours on restaurant premises or other premises that supply alcohol for consumption on the premises
 - The Licensing Authority will judge the merits of each separate application before deciding whether to impose conditions limiting the access of children to Individual premises where it is necessary to prevent physical, moral or psychological harm.

10.3 The Licensing Authority may consider the following when dealing with a licence application where children may have limited access:

- Limitations on the hours when children may be present.
- Limitations on under 18s
- Limitations or exclusion when certain activities are taking place.
- Requirements for an accompanying adult to be present.
- Full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when certain licensable activities are taking place (e.g. entertainment of a sexual nature).
- Limitations on the parts of premises to which children might be given access.
- Any other limitations appropriate to the application and according with the four licensing objectives.

10.4 The Licensing Authority will work closely with the Police and the Council's Trading Standards service to ensure the appropriate enforcement of the law, especially relating to the sale and supply of alcohol to children. Alcohol must not be served to persons under the age of 18, except in limited circumstances allowed by the law, and then only after verifying a person's proof of age e.g. 16 and 17 year-olds may drink beer, wine or cider with a table meal in relevant premises, where accompanied by an adult aged 18 years or over. The currently accepted verifications for proof of age are a passport, a photo card driving licence or a proof of age scheme such as Challenge 25.

10.5 The Licensing Authority is aware of young persons' vulnerability to alcohol and events which are aimed at children under the age of 18 years on licensed premises will not be supported by the licensing authority unless the applicant can demonstrate that all safeguards for children have been addressed such as the removal of alcohol advertising.

10.6 The Licensing Authority, Durham Constabulary Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit and the Local Safeguarding Children Board have produced a "good practice guide" for an event catering for under-18's and mixed events of under and over 18's. This guide is highly recommended by the Licensing Authority and should be adhered to by licence holders and event organisers.

10.7 Recorded staff training programmes, the use of a refusals register, in-store signage and limited access to alcoholic drink can all reduce the likelihood of illegal sales and proxy sales and are to be encouraged.

10.8 The Licensing Authority commends the use of the 'Portman Group' Code of Practice on the naming, packaging and the promotion of alcoholic drinks in all licensed premises.

10.9 Access to Cinemas: In the case of premises requiring an licence to show films, applicants should include in the operating schedule arrangements for restricting access only to those children who meet the required age limit, in line with any certificate granted by the British Board of Film Classification or, in specific cases, a certificate given to the film by the Local Authority.

10.10 The Act provides that it is mandatory for Licensing Authorities to include a condition in all premises licences and club certificates authorising the exhibition of film, for the admission of children to the exhibition of any film to be restricted in accordance with the recommendations given to films either by the British Board of Film Classification or by the Licensing Authority itself.

10.11 Should the Licensing Authority need to adopt its own system of film classification the information regarding such classifications will be published on the Local Authority's website.

10.12 Children and Public Entertainment: Many children go to see and / or take part in an entertainment arranged especially for them. For example, children's film shows and dance or drama school productions, and additional arrangements may be required to safeguard them while at the premises.

10.13 Where entertainment requiring a Licence is specifically presented for children, the Licensing Authority will normally expect the presence of at least one member of staff from the Licensed premises for every 50 children present to ensure their safety and protection from harm and to control their access and egress from the premises. The Council will require those caring for or supervising children to have undergone an appropriate Criminal Record check with the Disclosure and Barring Service.

10.14 With regard to this Licensing Objective, the Licensing Authority considers Durham County Council Safeguarding Children Board to be the competent authority for matters relating to the protection of children from harm. A protocol exists between Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board and Durham Constabulary. All safeguarding concerns identified as a result of premises, personal applications and all variations to licences are covered by this protocol.

10.15 Applicants are advised to seek advice from the Local Safeguarding Children Board and incorporate any recommendations in their Operating Schedule before submitting their applications

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

22.0 Reviews

22.1 The Licensing Act provides a mechanism for reviewing premises licences and Club Premises Certificates where problems associated with premises undermine the licensing objectives following grant or variation.

22.2 At any stage during the life of a premises licence or a club premises certificate, an application for a review can be made to the Licensing Authority by any responsible authority, elected Member or any other person. However, where an application for a review is considered to be frivolous vexatious or repetitious or where an application for a review is considered not relevant to the licensing objectives the Licensing Authority will reject it.

22.3 The proceedings set out in the Act for reviewing premises licences and club premises certificates represent a key protection for the community. Unless an application is withdrawn, deemed to be frivolous, vexatious or repetitious or does not relate to the licensing objectives, the Licensing Authority will hold a hearing and take any necessary steps to promote the licensing objectives, such as modification of conditions, exclusion of licensable activities, removal of the designated premises supervisor, suspension of the licence/certificate for up to 3 months or the revocation of the licence/certificate.

22.4 Local residents can request that their licensing authority review a premises licence where activities at licensed premises are undermining one or more of the licensing objectives.

22.5 It is always worth considering other options before requesting a review of a licence, including:

- Talking to those who manage the premises to let them know about the problem and give them the opportunity to address the issues,
- Asking the licensing department at your council to talk to those who manage the premises on your behalf, or
- Talking to the relevant "responsible authority" (e.g. local authority exercising environmental health functions in relation to noise nuisance, or the police in relation to crime and disorder) about the problem.

22.6 If a request for a review of the premises licence is made by e.g. a local resident, they are required to notify the holder of the premises licence or club premises certificate and the "responsible authorities", by sending them a copy of the request, together with any accompanying documents, on the same day as the request is given to the licensing authority. The licensing authority will advertise the review to enable others (responsible authorities or other persons) to comment on it. Responsible authorities have the option, if they wish, to comment on any application for a review.

22.7 A licensing authority must act on requests for review unless they consider the request to be irrelevant, repetitive, frivolous or vexatious. Frivolous representations would concern minor issues which the licensing authority could not reasonably be required to take any action to remedy. Representations may be considered vexatious

if they appear to be intended to cause aggravation or annoyance without reasonable cause.

22.8 The licensing authority will advertise the fact that a request for review of the licence has been received, and allow a period of 28 days for other persons to make representations to it (such representations can be for or against the activities at the premises in question).

22.9 After the period for making representations has expired, the licensing authority will hold a hearing to consider the request unless the request for review has been withdrawn. The request will in most cases be considered by the licensing sub-committee who will hear representations from all parties involved.

22.10 The licensing authority will invite you to attend the hearing and give the applicant for the review the opportunity to address the licensing sub-committee in support of the request for review. They must then give the authority at least 5 working days' notice (prior to the start of the hearing), advising:

- If they will attend the hearing in person,
- Whether they will be represented by someone else (e.g. councillor / MP / lawyer / residents' association representative / friend),
- If they think that a hearing is unnecessary (if, for example, the parties have come to an agreement before the formal hearing), or
- They may also request permission for another person to attend the hearing, and must advise the licensing authority how that person may be able to assist the authority in relation to the request for review

22.11 Once the sub-committee has listened to and considered all views and evidence, it must decide what (if any) action is appropriate to promote the licensing objectives. Actions can include:

- No action,
- Modifying the conditions of the licence (change, add or remove conditions – Including operating hours),
- Excluding a licensable activity from the licence,
- Removing the designated premises supervisor,
- Suspend the licence for a period (not exceeding 3 months), and
- Revoke the licence.

22.12 The Licensing Authority will not expect a premises licence to be reviewed more than once within any 12 month period on similar grounds, except in exceptional circumstances or where it arises following a Closure Order.

22.13 Appeals against the decisions of the Licensing Authority - There is a right of appeal for all parties concerned with the request for review (i.e. the applicant for the review, the premises licence holder or any other person who made relevant representations in relation to the application). This means that they can appeal to the magistrates' court if they are not happy with the decision of the licensing authority.

22.14 If there is an appeal against a licensing authority's decision, and you are unsuccessful, the magistrates' court can award costs against the appellant if it sees fit. This would mean that they would have to pay other parties' legal costs as well as your own. However, the Magistrates' Association and the Justices' Clerks Society has advised that awarding costs for a licensing appeal should be an **exception** and

not a rule, and any resident with reasonable grounds for appeal should not be penalised.

22.15 If the licence holder appeals against the licensing authority's decision, the appeal will be heard by the magistrates' court. The licensing authority will be the respondent to the appeal and may call the person who brought the review (and any other person or responsible authority) as a witness in support of its case. The decision of the licensing authority in relation to the review will be suspended until the appeal is determined.

22.16 An application to appeal the decision must be made within 21 days of the notice of decision.

22.17 In hearing an appeal against the Licensing Authority's decision, the court will have regard to this policy and the guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003. However, the court would be entitled to depart from both of these documents if it considers it justified so to do.

22.18 In respect of personal licences, appeals must be made to the Magistrates' Court in the area where the licence was issued. Appeals in relation to all other authorisations must be made to the Magistrates' Court where the premises or event is situated.

APPENDIX 6 – SECTION 182 GUIDANCE

Crime and disorder

- 2.1 Licensing authorities should look to the police as the main source of advice on crime and disorder. They should also seek to involve the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 2.2 In the exercise of their functions, licensing authorities should seek to co-operate with the Security Industry Authority ("SIA") as far as possible and consider adding relevant conditions to licences where appropriate. The SIA also plays an important role in preventing crime and disorder by ensuring that door supervisors are properly licensed and, in partnership with police and other agencies, that security companies are not being used as fronts for serious and organised criminal activity. This may include making specific enquiries or visiting premises through intelligence led operations in conjunction with the police, local authorities and other partner agencies. Similarly, the provision of requirements for door supervision may be appropriate to ensure that people who are drunk, drug dealers or people carrying firearms do not enter the premises and ensuring that the police are kept informed.
- 2.3 Conditions should be targeted on deterrence and preventing crime and disorder including the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises (see paragraph 10.10). For example, where there is good reason to suppose that disorder may take place, the presence of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras both inside and immediately outside the premises can actively deter disorder, nuisance, anti-social behaviour and crime generally. Some licence holders may wish to have cameras on their premises for the prevention of crime directed against the business itself, its staff, or its customers. But any condition may require a broader approach, and it may be appropriate to ensure that the precise location of cameras is set out on plans to ensure that certain areas are properly covered and there is no subsequent dispute over the terms of the condition.
- 2.4 The inclusion of radio links and ring-round phone systems should be considered an appropriate condition for public houses, bars and nightclubs operating in city and town centre leisure areas with a high density of licensed premises. These systems allow managers of licensed premises to communicate instantly with the police and facilitate a rapid response to any disorder which may be endangering the customers and staff on the premises.
- 2.5 Conditions relating to the management competency of designated premises supervisors should not normally be attached to premises licences. It will normally be the responsibility of the premises licence holder as an employer, and not the licensing authority, to ensure that the managers appointed at the premises are competent and appropriately trained. The designated premises supervisor is the key person who will usually be responsible for the day to day management of the premises by the premises licence holder, including the prevention of disorder. A condition of this kind may only be justified as

appropriate in rare circumstances where it can be demonstrated that, in the circumstances associated with particular premises, poor management competency could give rise to issues of crime and disorder and public safety.

- 2.6 The prevention of crime includes the prevention of immigration crime including the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises. Licensing authorities should work with Home Office Immigration Enforcement, as well as the police, in respect of these matters. Licence conditions that are considered appropriate for the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises might include requiring a premises licence holder to undertake right to work checks on all staff employed at the licensed premises or requiring that a copy of any document checked as part of a right to work check are retained at the licensed premises.

Public safety

- 2.7 Licence holders have a responsibility to ensure the safety of those using their premises, as a part of their duties under the 2003 Act. This concerns the safety of people using the relevant premises rather than public health which is addressed in other legislation. Physical safety includes the prevention of accidents and injuries and other immediate harms that can result from alcohol consumption such as unconsciousness or alcohol poisoning. Conditions relating to public safety may also promote the crime and disorder objective as noted above. There will of course be occasions when a public safety condition could incidentally benefit a person's health more generally, but it should not be the purpose of the condition as this would be outside the licensing authority's powers (be ultra vires) under the 2003 Act. Conditions should not be imposed on a premises licence or club premises certificate which relate to cleanliness or hygiene.
- 2.8 A number of matters should be considered in relation to public safety. These may include:
- Fire safety;
 - Ensuring appropriate access for emergency services such as ambulances;
 - Good communication with local authorities and emergency services, for example communications networks with the police and signing up for local incident alerts (see paragraph 2.4 above);
 - Ensuring the presence of trained first aiders on the premises and appropriate first aid kits;
 - Ensuring the safety of people when leaving the premises (for example, through the provision of information on late-night transportation);
 - Ensuring appropriate and frequent waste disposal, particularly of glass bottles;
 - Ensuring appropriate limits on the maximum capacity of the premises (see paragraphs 2.12-2.13, and Chapter 10; and
 - Considering the use of CCTV in and around the premises (as noted in paragraph 2.3 above, this may also assist with promoting the crime and disorder objective).
- 2.9 The measures that are appropriate to promote public safety will vary between premises and the matters listed above may not apply in all cases. As set out in Chapter 8 (8.38-8.46), applicants should consider when making their application which steps it is appropriate to take to promote the public safety objective and demonstrate how they achieve that.

Ensuring safe departure of those using the premises

- 2.10 Licence holders should make provision to ensure that premises users safely leave their premises. Measures that may assist include:
- Providing information on the premises of local taxi companies who can provide safe transportation home; and
 - Ensuring adequate lighting outside the premises, particularly on paths leading to and from the premises and in car parks.

Maintenance and repair

- 2.11 Where there is a requirement in other legislation for premises open to the public or for employers to possess certificates attesting to the safety or satisfactory nature of certain equipment or fixtures on the premises, it would be inappropriate for a licensing condition to require possession of such a certificate. However, it would be permissible to require as a condition of a licence or certificate, if appropriate, checks on this equipment to be conducted at specified intervals and for evidence of these checks to be retained by the premises licence holder or club provided this does not duplicate or gold-plate a requirement in other legislation. Similarly, it would be permissible for licensing authorities, if they receive relevant representations from responsible authorities or any other persons, to attach conditions which require equipment of particular standards to be maintained on the premises. Responsible authorities – such as health and safety authorities – should therefore make their expectations clear in this respect to enable prospective licence holders or clubs to prepare effective operating schedules and club operating schedules.

Safe capacities

- 2.12 “Safe capacities” should only be imposed where appropriate for the promotion of public safety or the prevention of disorder on the relevant premises. For example, if a capacity has been imposed through other legislation, it would be inappropriate to reproduce it in a premises licence. Indeed, it would also be wrong to lay down conditions which conflict with other legal requirements. However, if no safe capacity has been imposed through other legislation, a responsible authority may consider it appropriate for a new capacity to be attached to the premises which would apply at any material time when the licensable activities are taking place and make representations to that effect. For example, in certain circumstances, capacity limits may be appropriate in preventing disorder, as overcrowded venues can increase the risks of crowds becoming frustrated and hostile.
- 2.13 The permitted capacity is a limit on the number of persons who may be on the premises at any time, following a recommendation by the relevant fire and rescue authority under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. For any application for a premises licence or club premises certificate for premises without an existing permitted capacity where the applicant wishes to take advantage of the special provisions set out in section 177 of the 2003 Act¹, the applicant should conduct their own risk assessment as to the appropriate capacity of the premises. They should send their recommendation to the fire and rescue authority which will consider it and decide what the “permitted capacity” of

¹ S 177 of the 2003 Act now only applies to performances of dance.

those premises should be.

2.14 Public safety may include the safety of performers appearing at any premises, but does not extend to the prevention of injury from participation in a boxing or wrestling entertainment.

Public nuisance

- 2.15 The 2003 Act enables licensing authorities and responsible authorities, through representations, to consider what constitutes public nuisance and what is appropriate to prevent it in terms of conditions attached to specific premises licences and club premises certificates. It is therefore important that in considering the promotion of this licensing objective, licensing authorities and responsible authorities focus on the effect of the licensable activities at the specific premises on persons living and working (including those carrying on business) in the area around the premises which may be disproportionate and unreasonable. The issues will mainly concern noise nuisance, light pollution, noxious smells and litter.
- 2.16 Public nuisance is given a statutory meaning in many pieces of legislation. It is however not narrowly defined in the 2003 Act and retains its broad common law meaning. It may include in appropriate circumstances the reduction of the living and working amenity and environment of other persons living and working in the area of the licensed premises. Public nuisance may also arise as a result of the adverse effects of artificial light, dust, odour and insects or where its effect is prejudicial to health.
- 2.17 Conditions relating to noise nuisance will usually concern steps appropriate to control the levels of noise emanating from premises. This might be achieved by a simple measure such as ensuring that doors and windows are kept closed after a particular time, or persons are not permitted in garden areas of the premises after a certain time. More sophisticated measures like the installation of acoustic curtains or rubber speaker mounts to mitigate sound escape from the premises may be appropriate. However, conditions in relation to live or recorded music may not be enforceable in circumstances where the entertainment activity itself is not licensable (see chapter 16). Any conditions appropriate to promote the prevention of public nuisance should be tailored to the type, nature and characteristics of the specific premises and its licensable activities. Licensing authorities should avoid inappropriate or disproportionate measures that could deter events that are valuable to the community, such as live music. Noise limiters, for example, are expensive to purchase and install and are likely to be a considerable burden for smaller venues.
- 2.18 As with all conditions, those relating to noise nuisance may not be appropriate in certain circumstances where provisions in other legislation adequately protect those living in the area of the premises. But as stated earlier in this Guidance, the approach of licensing authorities and responsible authorities should be one of prevention and when their powers are engaged, licensing authorities should be aware of the fact that other legislation may not adequately cover concerns raised in relevant representations and additional conditions may be appropriate.

- 2.19 Where applications have given rise to representations, any appropriate conditions should normally focus on the most sensitive periods. For example, the most sensitive period for people being disturbed by unreasonably loud music is at night and into the early morning when residents in adjacent properties may be attempting to go to sleep or are sleeping. This is why there is still a need for a licence for performances of live music between 11 pm and 8 am. In certain circumstances, conditions relating to noise emanating from the premises may also be appropriate to address any disturbance anticipated as customers enter and leave.
- 2.20 Measures to control light pollution will also require careful thought. Bright lighting outside premises which is considered appropriate to prevent crime and disorder may itself give rise to light pollution for some neighbours. Applicants, licensing authorities and responsible authorities will need to balance these issues.
- 2.21 Beyond the immediate area surrounding the premises, these are matters for the personal responsibility of individuals under the law. An individual who engages in anti-social behaviour is accountable in their own right. However, it would be perfectly reasonable for a licensing authority to impose a condition, following relevant representations, that requires the licence holder or club to place signs at the exits from the building encouraging patrons to be quiet until they leave the area, or that, if they wish to smoke, to do so at designated places on the premises instead of outside, and to respect the rights of people living nearby to a peaceful night.

Protection of children from harm

- 2.22 The protection of children from harm includes the protection of children from moral, psychological and physical harm. This includes not only protecting children from the harms associated directly with alcohol consumption but also wider harms such as exposure to strong language and sexual expletives (for example, in the context of exposure to certain films or adult entertainment). Licensing authorities must also consider the need to protect children from sexual exploitation when undertaking licensing functions.
- 2.23 The Government believes that it is completely unacceptable to sell alcohol to children. Conditions relating to the access of children where alcohol is sold and which are appropriate to protect them from harm should be carefully considered. Moreover, conditions restricting the access of children to premises should be strongly considered in circumstances where:
- adult entertainment is provided;
 - a member or members of the current management have been convicted for serving alcohol to minors or with a reputation for allowing underage drinking (other than in the context of the exemption in the 2003 Act relating to 16 and 17 year olds consuming beer, wine and cider when accompanied by an adult during a table meal);
 - it is known that unaccompanied children have been allowed access;
 - there is a known association with drug taking or dealing; or
 - in some cases, the premises are used exclusively or primarily for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises.
- 2.24 It is also possible that activities, such as adult entertainment, may take place at certain times on premises but not at other times. For example, premises may operate as a café bar during the day providing meals for families but also provide entertainment with a sexual content after 8.00pm. It is not possible to give an exhaustive list of what amounts to entertainment or services of an adult or sexual nature. Applicants, responsible authorities and licensing authorities will need to consider this point carefully. This would broadly include topless bar staff, striptease, lap-, table- or pole-dancing, performances involving feigned violence or horrific incidents, feigned or actual sexual acts or fetishism, or entertainment involving strong and offensive language.
- 2.25 Applicants must be clear in their operating schedules about the activities and times at which the events would take place to help determine when it is not appropriate for children to enter the premises. Consideration should also be given to the proximity of premises to schools and youth clubs so that applicants take appropriate steps to ensure that advertising relating to their premises, or relating to events at their premises, is not displayed at a time when children are likely to be near the premises.
- 2.26 Licensing authorities and responsible authorities should expect applicants, when preparing an operating schedule or club operating schedule, to set out the steps to be taken to protect children from harm when on the premises.
- 2.27 Conditions, where they are appropriate, should reflect the licensable activities taking place on the premises. In addition to the mandatory condition regarding age verification, other conditions relating to the protection of children from harm can include:
- restrictions on the hours when children may be present;
 - restrictions or exclusions on the presence of children under certain ages when particular specified activities are taking place;
 - restrictions on the parts of the premises to which children may have access;

- age restrictions (below 18);
- restrictions or exclusions when certain activities are taking place;
- requirements for an accompanying adult (including for example, a combination of requirements which provide that children under a particular age must be accompanied by an adult); and
- full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place.

- 2.28 Please see also Chapter 10 for details about the Licensing Act 2003 (Mandatory Licensing Conditions) Order 2010.
- 2.29 Licensing authorities should give considerable weight to representations about child protection matters. In addition to the responsible authority whose functions relate directly to child protection, the Director of Public Health may also have access to relevant evidence to inform such representations. These representations may include, amongst other things, the use of health data about the harms that alcohol can cause to underage drinkers. Where a responsible authority, or other person, presents evidence to the licensing authority linking specific premises with harms to children (such as ambulance data or emergency department attendances by persons under 18 years old with alcohol-related illnesses or injuries) this evidence should be considered, and the licensing authority should also consider what action is appropriate to ensure this licensing objective is effectively enforced. In relation to applications for the grant of a licence in areas where evidence is presented on high levels of alcohol-related harms in persons aged under 18, it is recommended that the licensing authority considers what conditions may be appropriate to ensure that this objective is promoted effectively.
- 2.30 The 2003 Act provides that, where a premises licence or club premises certificate authorises the exhibition of a film, it must include a condition requiring the admission of children to films to be restricted in accordance with recommendations given either by a body designated under section 4 of the Video Recordings Act 1984 specified in the licence (the British Board of Film Classification is currently the only body which has been so designated) or by the licensing authority itself. Further details are given in Chapter 10.
- 2.31 Theatres may present a range of diverse activities and entertainment including, for example, variety shows incorporating adult entertainment. It is appropriate in these cases for a licensing authority to consider restricting the admission of children in such circumstances. Entertainments may also be presented at theatres specifically for children. It will be appropriate to consider whether a condition should be attached to a premises licence or club premises certificate which requires the presence of a sufficient number of adult staff on the premises to ensure the wellbeing of the children during any emergency.

Offences relating to the sale and supply of alcohol to children

- 2.32 Licensing authorities are expected to maintain close contact with the police, young offenders' teams and trading standards officers (who can carry out test purchases under section 154 of the 2003 Act) about the extent of unlawful sales and consumption of alcohol by minors and to be involved in the development of any strategies to control or prevent these unlawful activities and to pursue prosecutions. Licensing authorities, alongside the police, are prosecuting authorities for the purposes of these offences, except for the offences under section 147A (persistently selling alcohol to children). Where, as a matter of policy, warnings are given to retailers prior to any decision to prosecute in respect of an offence, it is important that

each of the enforcement arms should be aware of the warnings each of them has given.

Table of relevant offences under the 2003 Act

Section	Offence	Prosecuting Authority
Section 145	Unaccompanied children prohibited from certain premises	Police and/or Licensing Authority
Section 146	Sale of alcohol to children	Police, Licensing Authority and/or Local Weights and Measures Authority
Section 147	Allowing the sale of alcohol to children	Police, Licensing Authority and/or Local Weights and Measures Authority
Section 147A	Persistently selling alcohol to children	Police and/or Local Weights and Measures Authority
Section 149	Purchase of alcohol by or on behalf of children	Police and/or Licensing Authority
Section 150	Consumption of alcohol by children	Police and/or Licensing Authority
Section 151	Delivering alcohol to children	Police and/or Licensing Authority
Section 152	Sending a child to obtain alcohol	Police and/or Licensing Authority
Section 153	Prohibition of unsupervised sales by children	Police and/or Licensing Authority

Section 182 Guidance - The review process

- 11.1 The proceedings set out in the 2003 Act for reviewing premises licences and club premises certificates represent a key protection for the community where problems associated with the licensing objectives occur after the grant or variation of a premises licence or club premises certificate.
- 11.2 At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence or club premises certificate, a responsible authority, or any other person, may ask the licensing authority to review the licence or certificate because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives.
- 11.3 An application for review may be made electronically, provided that the licensing authority agrees and the applicant submits a subsequent hard copy of the application, if the licensing authority requires one. The licensing authority may also agree in advance that the application need not be given in hard copy. However, these applications are outside the formal electronic application process and may not be submitted via GOV.UK or the licensing authority's electronic facility.
- 11.4 In addition, the licensing authority must review a licence if the premises to which it relates was made the subject of a closure order by the police based on nuisance or disorder and the magistrates' court has sent the authority the relevant notice of its determination, or if the police have made an application for summary review on the basis that premises are associated with serious crime and/or disorder.
- 11.5 Any responsible authority under the 2003 Act may apply for a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate. Therefore, the relevant licensing authority may apply for a review if it is concerned about licensed activities at premises and wants to intervene early without waiting for representations from other persons. However, it is not expected that licensing authorities should normally act as responsible authorities in applying for reviews on behalf of other persons, such as local residents or community groups. These individuals or groups are entitled to apply for a review for a licence or certificate in their own right if they have grounds to do so. It is also reasonable for licensing authorities to expect other responsible authorities to intervene where the basis for the intervention falls within the remit of that other authority. For example, the police should take appropriate steps where the basis for the review is concern about crime and disorder or the sexual exploitation of children. Likewise, where there are concerns about noise nuisance, it is reasonable to expect the local authority exercising environmental health functions for the area in which the premises are situated to make the application for review.
- 11.6 Where the relevant licensing authority does act as a responsible authority and applies for a review, it is important that a separation of responsibilities is still achieved in this process to ensure procedural fairness and eliminate conflicts of interest. As outlined previously in Chapter 9 of this Guidance, the distinct functions of acting as licensing authority and responsible authority should be exercised by different officials to ensure a separation of responsibilities. Further information on how licensing authorities should achieve this separation of responsibilities can be found in Chapter 9, paragraphs 9.13 to 9.19 of this Guidance.
- 11.7 In every case, any application for a review must relate to particular premises in respect of which there is a premises licence or club premises certificate and must be relevant to the promotion of one or more of the licensing objectives. Following the grant or variation of a licence or certificate, a complaint regarding a general issue in the local area relating to the licensing objectives, such as a general (crime and disorder) situation in a town centre, should generally not be regarded as a relevant representation unless it can be

positively tied or linked by a causal connection to particular premises, which would allow for a proper review of the licence or certificate. For instance, a geographic cluster of complaints, including along transport routes related to an individual public house and its closing time, could give grounds for a review of an existing licence as well as direct incidents of crime and disorder around a particular public house.

- 11.8 Where a licensing authority receives a geographic cluster of complaints, the authority may consider whether these issues are the result of the cumulative impact of licensed premises within the area concerned. In such circumstances, the authority may also consider whether it would be appropriate to include a special policy relating to cumulative impact within its licensing policy statement. Further guidance on cumulative impact policies can be found in Chapter 14 of this Guidance.
- 11.9 Representations must be made in writing and may be amplified at the subsequent hearing or may stand in their own right. Additional representations which do not amount to an amplification of the original representation may not be made at the hearing. Representations may be made electronically, provided the licensing authority agrees and the applicant submits a subsequent hard copy, unless the licensing authority waives this requirement.
- 11.10 Where authorised persons and responsible authorities have concerns about problems identified at premises, it is good practice for them to give licence holders early warning of their concerns and the need for improvement, and where possible they should advise the licence or certificate holder of the steps they need to take to address those concerns. A failure by the holder to respond to such warnings is expected to lead to a decision to apply for a review. Co-operation at a local level in promoting the licensing objectives should be encouraged and reviews should not be used to undermine this co-operation.
- 11.11 If the application for a review has been made by a person other than a responsible authority (for example, a local resident, residents' association, local business or trade association), before taking action the licensing authority must first consider whether the complaint being made is relevant, frivolous, vexatious or repetitious. Further guidance on determining whether a representation is frivolous or vexatious can be found in Chapter 9 of this Guidance (paragraphs 9.4 to 9.10).

Repetitious grounds of review

- 11.12 A repetitious ground is one that is identical or substantially similar to:
- a ground for review specified in an earlier application for review made in relation to the same premises licence or certificate which has already been determined; or
 - representations considered by the licensing authority when the premises licence or certificate was granted; or
 - representations which would have been made when the application for the premises licence was first made and which were excluded then by reason of the prior issue of a provisional statement; and, in addition to the above grounds, a reasonable interval has not elapsed since that earlier review or grant.
- 11.13 Licensing authorities are expected to be aware of the need to prevent attempts to review licences merely as a further means of challenging the grant of the licence following the failure of representations to persuade the licensing authority on an earlier occasion. It is for licensing authorities themselves to judge what should be regarded as a reasonable interval in these circumstances. However, it is recommended that more

than one review originating from a person other than a responsible authority in relation to a particular premises should not be permitted within a 12 month period on similar grounds save in compelling circumstances or where it arises following a closure order.

- 11.14 The exclusion of a complaint on the grounds that it is repetitive does not apply to responsible authorities which may make more than one application for a review of a licence or certificate within a 12 month period.
- 11.15 When a licensing authority receives an application for a review from a responsible authority or any other person, or in accordance with the closure procedures described in Part 8 of the 2003 Act (for example, closure orders), it must arrange a hearing. The arrangements for the hearing must follow the provisions set out in regulations. These regulations are published on the Government's legislation website (www.legislation.gov.uk). It is particularly important that the premises licence holder is made fully aware of any representations made in respect of the premises, any evidence supporting the representations and that the holder or the holder's legal representative has therefore been able to prepare a response.

Powers of a licensing authority on the determination of a review

- 11.16 The 2003 Act provides a range of powers for the licensing authority which it may exercise on determining a review where it considers them appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 11.17 The licensing authority may decide that the review does not require it to take any further steps appropriate to promoting the licensing objectives. In addition, there is nothing to prevent a licensing authority issuing an informal warning to the licence holder and/or to recommend improvement within a particular period of time. It is expected that licensing authorities will regard such informal warnings as an important mechanism for ensuring that the licensing objectives are effectively promoted and that warnings should be issued in writing to the licence holder.
- 11.18 However, where responsible authorities such as the police or environmental health officers have already issued warnings requiring improvement – either orally or in writing – that have failed as part of their own stepped approach to address concerns, licensing authorities should not merely repeat that approach and should take this into account when considering what further action is appropriate. Similarly, licensing authorities may take into account any civil immigration penalties which a licence holder has been required to pay for employing an illegal worker.
- 11.19 Where the licensing authority considers that action under its statutory powers is appropriate, it may take any of the following steps:
- modify the conditions of the premises licence (which includes adding new conditions or any alteration or omission of an existing condition), for example, by reducing the hours of opening or by requiring door supervisors at particular times;
 - exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence, for example, to exclude the performance of live music or playing of recorded music (where it is not within the incidental live and recorded music exemption)¹⁰;
 - remove the designated premises supervisor, for example, because they consider that the problems are the result of poor management;
 - suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;
 - revoke the licence.
- 11.20 In deciding which of these powers to invoke, it is expected that licensing authorities should so far as possible seek to establish the cause or causes of the concerns that the

representations identify. The remedial action taken should generally be directed at these causes and should always be no more than an appropriate and proportionate response to address the causes of concern that instigated the review.

- 11.21 For example, licensing authorities should be alive to the possibility that the removal and replacement of the designated premises supervisor may be sufficient to remedy a problem where the cause of the identified problem directly relates to poor management decisions made by that individual.
- 11.22 Equally, it may emerge that poor management is a direct reflection of poor company practice or policy and the mere removal of the designated premises supervisor may be an inadequate response to the problems presented. Indeed, where subsequent review hearings are generated by representations, it should be rare merely to remove a succession of designated premises supervisors as this would be a clear indication of deeper problems that impact upon the licensing objectives.
- 11.23 Licensing authorities should also note that modifications of conditions and exclusions of licensable activities may be imposed either permanently or for a temporary period of up to three months. Temporary changes or suspension of the licence for up to three months could impact on the business holding the licence financially and would only be expected to be pursued as an appropriate means of promoting the licensing objectives or preventing illegal working. So, for instance, a licence could be suspended for a weekend as a means of deterring the holder from allowing the problems that gave rise to the review to happen again. However, it will always be important that any detrimental financial impact that may result from a licensing authority's decision is appropriate and proportionate to the promotion of the licensing objectives and for the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises. But where premises are found to be trading irresponsibly, the licensing authority should not hesitate, where appropriate to do so, to take tough action to tackle the problems at the premises and, where other measures are deemed insufficient to revoke the licence.

Reviews arising in connection with crime

- 11.24 A number of reviews may arise in connection with crime that is not directly connected with licensable activities. For example, reviews may arise because of drugs problems at the premises, money laundering by criminal gangs, the sale of contraband or stolen goods, the sale of firearms, or the sexual exploitation of children. Licensing authorities do not have the power to judge the criminality or otherwise of any issue. This is a matter for the courts. The licensing authority's role when determining such a review is not therefore to establish the guilt or innocence of any individual but to ensure the promotion of the crime prevention objective.
- 11.25 Reviews are part of the regulatory process introduced by the 2003 Act and they are not part of criminal law and procedure. There is, therefore, no reason why representations giving rise to a review of a premises licence need be delayed pending the outcome of any criminal proceedings. Some reviews will arise after the conviction in the criminal courts of certain individuals, but not all. In any case, it is for the licensing authority to determine whether the problems associated with the alleged crimes are taking place on the premises and affecting the promotion of the licensing objectives. Where a review follows a conviction, it would also not be for the licensing authority to attempt to go beyond any finding by the courts, which should be treated as a matter of undisputed evidence before them.

- 11.26 Where the licensing authority is conducting a review on the grounds that the premises have been used for criminal purposes, its role is solely to determine what steps should be taken in connection with the premises licence, for the promotion of the crime prevention objective. It is important to recognise that certain criminal activity or associated problems may be taking place or have taken place despite the best efforts of the licence holder and the staff working at the premises and despite full compliance with the conditions attached to the licence. In such circumstances, the licensing authority is still empowered to take any appropriate steps to remedy the problems. The licensing authority's duty is to take steps with a view to the promotion of the licensing objectives and the prevention of illegal working in the interests of the wider community and not those of the individual licence holder.
- 11.27 There is certain criminal activity that may arise in connection with licensed premises which should be treated particularly seriously. These are the use of the licensed premises:
- for the sale and distribution of drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the laundering of the proceeds of drugs crime;
 - for the sale and distribution of illegal firearms;
 - for the evasion of copyright in respect of pirated or unlicensed films and music, which does considerable damage to the industries affected;
 - for the illegal purchase and consumption of alcohol by minors which impacts on the health, educational attainment, employment prospects and propensity for crime of young people;
 - for prostitution or the sale of unlawful pornography;
 - by organised groups of paedophiles to groom children;
 - as the base for the organisation of criminal activity, particularly by gangs;
 - for the organisation of racist activity or the promotion of racist attacks;
 - for employing a person who is disqualified from that work by reason of their immigration status in the UK;
 - for unlawful gambling; and
 - for the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and alcohol.
- 11.28 It is envisaged that licensing authorities, the police, the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) and other law enforcement agencies, which are responsible authorities, will use the review procedures effectively to deter such activities and crime. Where reviews arise and the licensing authority determines that the crime prevention objective is being undermined through the premises being used to further crimes, it is expected that revocation of the licence – even in the first instance – should be seriously considered.

Review of a premises licence following closure order or illegal working compliance order

- 11.29 Licensing authorities are subject to certain timescales, set out in the legislation, for the review of a premises licence following a closure order under section 80 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 or an illegal working compliance order under section 38 of and Schedule 6 to the Immigration Act 2016. The relevant time periods run concurrently and are as follows:
- when the licensing authority receives notice that a magistrates' court has made a closure order it has 28 days to determine the licence review – the determination must be made before the expiry of the 28th day after the day on which the notice is received;

- the hearing must be held within ten working days, the first of which is the day after the day the notice from the magistrates' court is received;
- notice of the hearing must be given no later than five working days before the first hearing day (there must be five clear working days between the giving of the notice and the start of the hearing).

Review of a premises licence following persistent sales of alcohol to children

11.29 The Government recognises that the majority of licensed premises operate responsibly and undertake due diligence checks on those who appear to be under the age of 18 at the point of sale (or 21 and 25 where they operate a Challenge 21 or 25 scheme). Where these systems are in place, licensing authorities may wish to take a proportionate approach in cases where there have been two sales of alcohol within very quick succession of one another (e.g., where a new cashier has not followed policy and conformed with a store's age verification procedures). However, where persistent sales of alcohol to children have occurred at premises, and it is apparent that those managing the premises do not operate a responsible policy or have not exercised appropriate due diligence, responsible authorities should consider taking steps to ensure that a review of the licence is the norm in these circumstances. This is particularly the case where there has been a prosecution for the offence under section 147A or a closure notice has been given under section 169A of the 2003 Act. In determining the review, the licensing authority should consider revoking the licence if it considers this appropriate.