

## 2. The licensing objectives

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### CRIME AND DISORDER

- 2.1 The steps any licence holder or club might take to prevent crime and disorder are as varied as the premises or clubs where licensable activities may be carried on. Licensing authorities should therefore look to the police as the main source of advice on these matters. They should also seek to involve the local CDRP, as recommended in paragraph 1.21 of this Guidance.
- 2.2 The Government's expectation is that the police will have a key role in undertaking the following tasks:
- developing a constructive working relationship with licensing authority licensing officers and bodies such as the local authority social services department, the Area Child Protection Committee or another competent body;
  - developing a constructive working relationship with designated premises supervisors and other managers of premises, including premises providing late night refreshment;
  - advising, where necessary, on the development of a venue drug policy;
  - developing a constructive working relationship with the Security Industry Authority including joint visits and enforcement action where appropriate;
  - agreeing the protocols for actions taken by door supervisors in relation to illegal drugs or violent behaviour, particularly when police officers should be called immediately;
  - advising on and approving search procedures and the storage procedures for confiscated drugs;
  - gathering and sharing intelligence on drug dealing and use with partner organisations and local venues;
  - advising on the installation and monitoring of security devices such as CCTV;
  - advising on the provision of safe and accessible transport home in consultation with community safety colleagues, local transport authorities and transport operators;
  - working with venue owners and managers to resolve drug-related problems and problems of disorder, drunkenness and anti-social behaviour; and
  - advising on the protection of employees on licensed premises who may be targets for attacks and reprisals.
- 2.3 The Security Industry Authority 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 and that door supervisors are properly licensed. This may include making specific enquiries or visiting premises through intelligence led operations in conjunction with the police, local authorities and other partner agencies. In the exercise of their functions licensing authorities should seek to co-operate with the SIA as far as possible and consider adding relevant conditions to licences where necessary and appropriate.
- 2.4 The essential purpose of the licence or certificate in this context is to regulate behaviour on premises and access to them where this relates to licensable activities and the licensing objectives. Conditions attached to licences cannot seek to manage the behaviour of customers once they are beyond the direct management of the licence holder and their staff or agents, but can directly impact on the behaviour of customers on, or in the immediate vicinity of, the premises as they seek to enter or leave.

- 2.5 Licence conditions should not replicate licensing offences that are set out in the 2003 Act. For example, a condition that states that a licence holder shall not permit drunkenness and disorderly behaviour on his premises would be superfluous because this is already a criminal offence. A condition that states that a licence holder shall not permit the sale of controlled drugs on the premises would be similarly superfluous.
- 2.6 Conditions are best targeted on deterrence and preventing crime and disorder. For example, where there is good reason to suppose that disorder may take place, the presence of closed-circuit television cameras both inside and immediately outside the premises can actively deter disorder, nuisance and anti-social behaviour and crime generally. Some licensees may wish to have cameras on their premises for the protection of their own staff and for the prevention of crime directed against the business itself or its customers. But any condition may require a broader approach, and it may be necessary 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.
- 2.7 Similarly, the provision of requirements for door supervision may be necessary to ensure that people who are drunk or drug dealers or carrying firearms do not enter the premises, reducing the potential for crime and disorder, and that the police are kept informed.
- 2.8 Text and radio pagers allow premises licence holders, designated premises supervisors and managers of premises and clubs to communicate instantly with the local police and facilitate a rapid response to any disorder which may be endangering the customers and staff on the premises. The Secretary of State recommends that text or radio pagers should be considered appropriate necessary conditions for public houses, bars and nightclubs operating in city and town centre leisure areas with a high density of licensed premises.
- 2.9 Some conditions primarily focused on the prevention of crime and disorder will also promote other licensing objectives. For example, a condition requiring that all glasses used on the premises for the sale of alcoholic drinks should be made of plastic or toughened glass or not allowing bottles to pass across a bar may be necessary to prevent violence by denying assailants suitable weapons, but may also benefit public safety by minimising the injury done to victims when such assaults take place (for example, facial injuries resulting from broken glass).
- 2.10 A condition must also be capable of being met. For example, while beer glasses may be available in toughened glass, wine glasses may not. Licensing authorities should carefully consider conditions of this kind to ensure that they are not only necessary but both practical and achievable.
- 2.11 Similarly, although most commonly made a condition of a licence on public safety grounds, licensing authorities should also consider conditions which set capacity limits for licensed premises or clubs where it may be necessary to prevent overcrowding likely to lead to disorder and violence. If such a condition is considered necessary, the licensing authority should consider whether door supervisors are needed to control numbers.

- 2.12 In the context of crime and disorder and public safety, the preservation of order on premises may give rise to genuine concerns about the competency of the management team charged with the maintenance of order. This may occur, for example, on premises where there are very large numbers of people and alcohol is supplied for consumption, or in premises where there are public order problems.
- 2.13 The designated premises supervisor is the key person who will usually be charged with day to day management of the premises by the premises licence holder, including the prevention of disorder. However, conditions relating to the management competency of designated premises supervisors should not normally be attached to premises licences. A condition of this kind could only be justified as necessary in rare circumstances where it could 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.
- 2.14 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 and licensing authorities must ensure that they do not stray outside their powers and duties under the 2003 Act. This is important to ensure the portability of the personal licence and the offences set out in the 2003 Act ensure, for example, that the prevention of disorder is in sharp focus for all such managers, licence holders and clubs.
- 2.15 Communications between the managers of the premises and the police can also be crucial in preventing crime and disorder. Involvement by operators and managers in voluntary schemes and initiatives may be particularly valuable. Conditions requiring dedicated text or pager links between management teams and local police stations can provide early warning of disorder and also can be used to inform other licence holders that a problem has arisen in the area generally. For example, where a gang of youths is causing problems in one public house and their eviction will only result in them going on elsewhere to cause problems on other premises, there is advantage in communication links between the police and other licensed premises and clubs.
- 2.16 However, while this may be necessary and effective in certain parts of licensing authority areas, it may be less effective or even unnecessary in others. Police views on such matters should be given considerable weight and licensing authorities must remember that only necessary conditions, which are within the control of the licence holder or club, may be imposed.
- 2.17 The Indecent Displays Act 1981 prohibits the public display of indecent matter, subject to certain exceptions. It should not therefore be necessary for any conditions to be attached to licences or certificates concerning such displays in or outside the premises involved. For example, the display of advertising material on or immediately outside such premises is regulated by this legislation. Similarly, while conditions relating to public safety in respect of dancing may be necessary in certain

circumstances, the laws governing indecency and obscenity are adequate to control adult entertainment involving striptease and lap-dancing which goes beyond what is lawful. Accordingly, conditions relating to the content of such entertainment which have no relevance to crime and disorder, public safety, public nuisance or the protection of children from harm could not be justified. In this context, however, it should be noted that it is in order for conditions relating to the exclusion of minors or the safety of performers to be included in premises licence or club premises certificate conditions where necessary. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 insofar as its adoptive provisions relate to sex establishments – sex shops, sex cinemas and in London sex encounter establishments – also remains in force.

- 2.18 Guidance to the police on powers to close premises (formerly Chapter 11 of this Guidance) can now be found on the DCMS website at [www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk).

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- 2.19 Licensing authorities and responsible authorities should note that the public safety objective is concerned with the physical safety of the people using the relevant premises and not with public health, which is dealt with in other legislation. There will of course be occasions when a public safety condition could incidentally benefit health, but it should not be the purpose of the condition as this would be ultra vires the 2003 Act. Accordingly, conditions should not be imposed on a premises licence or club premises certificate which relate to cleanliness or hygiene.
- 2.20 From 1 October 2006 the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 ('the Fire Safety Order') replaced previous fire safety legislation. As such any fire certificate issued under the Fire Precautions Act 1971 will have ceased to have effect. Licensing authorities should note that under article 43 of the Fire Safety Order any conditions imposed by the licensing authority that relate to any requirements or prohibitions that are or could be imposed by the Order automatically cease to have effect, without the need to vary the licence. This means that licensing authorities should not seek to impose fire safety conditions where the Order applies.
- 2.21 The exception to this will be in cases where the licensing authority and the enforcing authority for the fire safety order are one and the same body. For example, designated sports-grounds and stands where local authorities enforce the fire safety order. In such circumstances fire safety conditions should not be set in new licences, but conditions in existing licences will remain in force and be enforceable by the licensing authority.
- 2.22 The Fire Safety Order applies in England and Wales. It covers 'general fire precautions' and other fire safety duties which are needed to protect 'relevant persons' in case of fire in and around 'most premises'. The Order requires fire precautions to be put in place 'where necessary' and to the extent that it is reasonable and practicable in the circumstances of the case.
- 2.23 Responsibility for complying with the Order rests with the 'responsible person', which may be the employer, or any other person or people who may have control of the premises. Each responsible person must carry out a fire risk

assessment which must focus on the safety in case of fire for all 'relevant persons'. The fire risk assessment is intended to identify risks that can be removed or reduced and to decide the nature and extent of the general fire precautions that need to be taken including, where necessary, capacity limits.

- 2.24 The local fire and rescue authority will enforce the Order in most premises and have the power to inspect the premises to check the responsible person is complying with their duties under the Order. They will look for evidence that the responsible person has carried out a suitable fire risk assessment and acted upon the significant findings of that assessment. If the enforcing authority is dissatisfied with the outcome of a fire risk assessment or the action taken, they may issue an enforcement notice that requires the responsible person to make certain improvements or, in extreme cases, issue a prohibition notice that restricts the use of all or part of the premises until improvements are made.
- 2.25 Further information and guidance about the Order and fire safety legislation is available from the Communities and Local Government website [www.communities.gov.uk/fire](http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire).
- 2.26 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 unnecessary 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 necessary, 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 interested parties, 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 clear their expectations in this respects to enable prospective licence holders or clubs to prepare effective operating schedules and club operating schedules.

- 2.27 "Safe capacities" should only be imposed where necessary 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 unnecessary 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 necessary 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 necessary in preventing disorder, as overcrowded venues can increase the risks of crowds becoming frustrated and hostile.
- 2.28 As noted above, a capacity limit should not be imposed as a condition of the licence on fire safety grounds (unless the licensing authority and the enforcing authority for fire safety purposes are the same) since, under article 43 of the Fire Safety Order, it would have no effect and so would not be enforceable.

2.29 The special provisions made for dancing, amplified and unamplified music in section 177 of the 2003 Act apply only to premises with a "permitted capacity" of not more than 200 persons. In this context, the capacity must be where the fire and rescue authority has made a recommendation on the capacity of the premises under the Fire Safety Order. 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 Act, 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 who will consider it and then decide what the "permitted capacity" of those premises should be.

2.30 Whilst the Cinematograph (Safety) Regulations 1955 (S.I. 1995/1129) which contained a significant number of regulations in respect of fire safety provision at cinemas, no longer apply, applicants taking advantage of the "grandfather rights" pursuant to Schedule 8 to the 2003 Act will have been subject to conditions which re-state those regulations in their new premises licence or club premises certificate. Any holders of a converted licence seeking to remove these conditions and reduce the regulatory burden on them (to the extent to which that can be done while still promoting the licensing objectives), would need to apply to vary their converted licences or certificates. When considering variation applications or applications for new licences, licensing authorities and responsible authorities should recognise the need for steps to be taken to assure public safety at these premises in the absence of the 1995 Regulations.

2.31 Public safety includes the safety of performers appearing at any premises.

## PUBLIC NUISANCE

2.32 The 2003 Act requires licensing authorities (following receipt of relevant representations) and responsible authorities, through representations, to make judgements about what constitutes public nuisance and what is necessary 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 impacts of the licensable activities at the specific premises on persons living and working (including doing business) in the vicinity that are disproportionate and unreasonable. The issues will mainly concern noise nuisance, light pollution, noxious smells and litter.

2.33 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 is important to remember that the prevention of public nuisance could therefore include low-level nuisance perhaps affecting a few people living locally as well as major disturbance affecting the whole community. It may also include in appropriate circumstances the reduction of the living and working amenity and environment of interested parties (as defined in the 2003 Act) in the vicinity of licensed premises.<sup>2</sup>

2.34 Conditions relating to noise nuisance will normally concern steps necessary 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

<sup>2</sup> It should also be noted in this context that it remains an offence under the 2003 Act to sell or supply alcohol to a person who is drunk. This is particularly important because of the nuisance and anti-social behaviour which can be provoked after leaving licensed premises

kept closed after a particular time in the evening to more sophisticated measures like the installation of acoustic curtains or rubber speaker mounts. Any conditions necessary to promote the prevention of public nuisance should be tailored to the style and characteristics of the specific premises. Licensing authorities should be aware of the need to avoid unnecessary or disproportionate measures that could deter events that are valuable to the community, such as live music. Noise limiters, for example, are very expensive to purchase and install and are likely to be a considerable burden for smaller venues.

- 2.35 As with all conditions, it will be clear that conditions relating to noise nuisance may not be necessary in certain circumstances where the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Noise Act 1996, or the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 adequately protect those living in the vicinity 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 necessary.
- 2.36 Where applications have given rise to representations, any necessary and appropriate conditions should normally focus on the most sensitive periods. For example, music noise from premises usually occurs from mid-evening until either late evening or early morning when residents in adjacent properties may be attempting to go to sleep or are sleeping. In certain circumstances, conditions

relating to noise in the immediate vicinity of the premises may also prove necessary to address any disturbance anticipated as customers enter and leave.

- 2.37 Measures to control light pollution will also require careful thought. Bright lighting outside premises considered necessary 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.
- 2.38 In the context of preventing public nuisance, it is again essential that conditions are focused on measures within the direct control of the licence holder or club. Conditions relating to public nuisance caused by the anti-social behaviour of customers once they are beyond the control of the licence holder, club or premises management cannot be justified and will not serve to promote the licensing objectives.
- 2.39 Beyond the vicinity of the premises, these are matters for 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 and to respect the rights of people living nearby to a peaceful night.
- 2.40 The cumulative effects of litter in the vicinity of premises carrying on licensable activities can cause public nuisance. For example, it may be appropriate and necessary for a condition of

a licence to require premises serving customers from take-aways and fast food outlets from 11.00pm to provide litter bins in the vicinity of the premises in order to prevent the accumulation of litter. Such conditions may be necessary and appropriate in circumstances where customers late at night may have been consuming alcohol and be inclined to carelessness and anti-social behaviour.

## PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

- 2.41 The protection of children from harm includes the protection of children from moral, psychological and physical harm, and this would include the protection of children from too early an exposure to strong language and sexual expletives, for example, in the context of film exhibitions or where adult entertainment is provided.
- 2.42 However, in the context of many licensed premises such as pubs, restaurants, café bars and hotels, it should be noted that the Secretary of State recommends that the development of family-friendly environments should not be frustrated by overly restrictive conditions in relation to children.
- 2.43 The Secretary of State intends that the admission of children to premises holding a premises licence or club premises certificate should normally be freely allowed without restricting conditions unless the 2003 Act itself imposes such a restriction or there are good reasons to restrict entry or to exclude children completely. Licensing authorities, the police and other authorised persons should focus on enforcing the law concerning the consumption of alcohol by minors.
- 2.44 Conditions relating to the access of children which are necessary to protect them from harm are self evidently of great importance. As mentioned in connection with statements of licensing policy in Chapter 13 of this Guidance, issues will arise about the access of children in connection with premises:
- where adult entertainment is provided;
  - where 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 in the company of adults during a table meal);
  - where it is known that unaccompanied children have been allowed access;
  - where requirements for proof of age cards or other age identification to combat the purchase of alcohol by minors is not the norm;
  - with a known association with drug taking or dealing;
  - where there is a strong element of gambling on the premises (but not small numbers of cash prize machines);
  - where the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises is the exclusive or primary purpose of the services provided at the premises.
- 2.45 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. Such trading practices should be obvious from the operating schedule or club operating schedule provided with the relevant application allowing the framing of an appropriate, time-limited c



- 2.46 Similarly, gambling may take place in part of a leisure centre but not in other parts of those premises. This means that the access of children will need to be carefully considered by applicants, licensing authorities and responsible authorities. In many respects, it should be possible to rely on the discretion and common sense of licence and certificate holders. However, licensing authorities and responsible authorities should still expect applicants when preparing an operating schedule or club operating schedule to state their intention to exercise discretion and where they are necessary, to set out the steps to be taken to protect children from harm when on the premises.
- 2.47 Conditions, where they are necessary, should reflect the licensable activities taking place on the premises and can include:
- where alcohol is sold, requirements for the production of proof of age cards or other age identification before sales are made, to ensure that sales are not made to individuals under 18 years (whether the age limit is 18 or 16 as in the case of the consumption of beer, wine and cider in the company of adults during a table meal);
  - restrictions on the hours when children may be present;
  - restrictions 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 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
- 2.48 The Secretary of State considers that representations made by the child protection bodies and the police in respect of individual applications should be given considerable weight when they address necessary issues regarding the admission of children.
- 2.49 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.
- 2.50 The admission of children to theatres, as with other licensed premises, should not normally be restricted. However, theatres may present a range of diverse activities. The admission of children to the performance of a play should normally be at the discretion of the licence holder and no condition restricting their access to plays should be attached. However, theatres may also present a wide range of entertainment including, for example, variety shows incorporating adult entertainment. A condition restricting the admission of children in such circumstances may be necessary. Entertainments may also be presented at theatres specifically for children. It may be necessary 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 well being of the children during any emergency.

### Offences relating to the sale and supply of alcohol to children

2.51 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 s.154 of the 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. For example, 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
Section 145	Unaccompanied children prohibited from certain premises
Section 146	Sale of alcohol to children
Section 147	Allowing the sale of alcohol to children
Section 147A	Persistently selling alcohol to children
Section 148	Sale of liqueur confectionery to children under 16
Section 149	Purchase of alcohol by or on behalf of children
Section 150	Consumption of alcohol by children
Section 151	Delivering alcohol to children
Section 152	Sending a child to obtain alcohol
Section 153	Prohibition of unsupervised sales by children