Public Protection's Licensing Team update 17 June 2024

Euros 2024

The government has confirmed that an order has been issued to provide venues in England and Wales with the option to extend licensing hours on the day of any semi-final (scheduled for 9 and/or 10 July) involving a home nation team and on the day of final of the tournament (14 July) should a home nation team be participating for two hours from 11pm until 1am the following day for consumption of alcohol on the premises and provision of late night refreshment in licenced premises to celebrate the England and/or Scotland team(s) reaching the semi-finals and/or the final of Euro 2024.

For the avoidance of doubt, if neither of these teams reach the semi-final, then normal licensing hours will apply on 9 and 10 July. If either, or both, teams reach the semi-final, but neither team is in the final, normal licensing hours will apply on 14 July.

This order will only apply to the on-sale of alcohol (i.e. consumption of alcohol on the premises). It will not apply to the off sale of alcohol (i.e. consumption of alcohol off the premises).

The team are all carrying out unannounced visits to licenced premises ahead of the Euros to offer advice and support. These visits will be carried out across Wiltshire and will be based on the Officers own knowledge of premises likely to be showing the football games.

Consultation to make it easier for hospitality businesses to sell alcohol to drink in licensed pavement areas

Businesses such as pubs and restaurants are licensed to sell alcohol for customers to drink on the premises ('on-sales').

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the government passed regulations allowing them to sell alcohol for takeaway, delivery and to drink in licensed pavement areas ('off-sales'), without changing their licence.

The regulations expire on 31 March 2025. This consultation sets out permanent options for alcohol licensing after this date. <u>Alcohol in licensed pavement areas</u> (accessible) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Event Management

The Licensing and Food Safety team have met with the Longleat management team to discuss the events they have planned this year and to agree an inspection protocol. Various events are planned this year, and we are keen to engage at the earliest opportunity.

Event Safety Advisory Groups (ESAGs)

The ESAG group is a multi-agency group, which provides advice and guidance to event organisers, particularly for events that have the potential to pose a significant risk to the safety and wellbeing of participants, spectators, and the public.

We have organised ESAG's for WOMAD, Existence Festival, and the summer solstice at Stonehenge and Avebury this year and will potentially have more for other larger events in Wiltshire. These meetings offer a really useful way for various enforcement agencies for example Police, Fire service, Environmental Protection and highways to understand more about an organisers plans and to ask questions to ensure the event will be safe and well organised.

Team updates

The team restructure was completed in March, with Roy Bahadoor appointed as Principal Licensing Officer. Roy has quickly embraced the new role and is working on reviewing procedures and the Statement of Gambling Policy as well as maintaining his usual day to day work.

As Roy will be carrying out day to day management of the Licensing Officers there has been a few changes to the areas the Officers will be covering these are included in Appendix A.

The Public Protection service sadly saw the retirement of John Carter as Head of Service at the end of May 2024, the recruitment for this position is likely to take place in the next 3-6 months.

New ICT system

The Public Protection Service will be moving to a new database called "Arcus Global". This has been years in the planning and will open opportunities to speed up how applicants apply for licenses and will start to automate some of the licence processes. We are aiming to minimise disruption to the service delivery, the data was extracted on 24 May from the current system and there will be about 3 weeks until the new system is switched on.

The system should be going live the week beginning the 17 June. A huge well done to Carla Adkins and Lisa Grant who have worked on the licensing element of the system, with all the processes involved for licensing this has required a huge amount of commitment and dedication.

You may note a slight change to the weekly licensing application email as we are using a temporary Excel system while we move to the new system

Useful information from the Local Government Association

The Local Government Association has produced a range of tips and advice sheets for members of their Council's licensing committee which may be helpful. Please see the link below.

Licensing committee: Councillor tip sheets hub | Local Government Association

Officer Areas - Updated May 2024

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