

Update on the Licensing Service: March 2019

To update the Committee on the work of the Licensing Team in 2018 / early 2019

2018 has proven to be a challenging year for the Licensing Team. The biggest impact towards the later part of the year was the introduction of the new Animal Welfare Regulations in October, which replaced a number of pieces of outdated animal welfare legislation. The licences issued under the previous legislation were all due to expire by 31st December 2018, which gave only a short turnaround time to learn the new legislation, update our systems and carry out inspections for all of our existing customers.

The end of the year saw a Public Health and Public Protection service restructure. The outcome of the review meant that the licensing team moved from reporting to the Head of Prevention of Harm and placed under Head of Public Protection.

Festivals and large scale events

Due to being a rural county with lots of large outdoor spaces, Wiltshire is a popular venue for festivals and other large scale events. Prevention of harm is a key element when planning an event; Licensing Officers are involved in considerable pre event work guiding organisers in managing their own event to lessen the impact on the local community and emergency services of Wiltshire. By early intervention and positive engagement we seek to guide and educate organisers around managing alcohol consumption levels, drug prevention, antisocial behaviour, and the wellbeing of all at events.

Some events are supported through the Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG). This is a forum where the organisers of events meet with the responsible authorities including the emergency services to discuss details of the event and any potential issues, and are offered multi-agency advice. The aim of these meetings is to promote well-run, safe events in Wiltshire.

Some of our high profile events include, Chalke Valley History Society in Broad Chalke in June, WOMAD at Charlton Park in July. A three day Armed Forces event and the OVO cycle race both in Salisbury have both triggered ESAG meetings.

In 2018 there were over 55 festivals and events in Wiltshire. Many of these will be held again this year along with a number of new events planned.

Partnership Working

Wiltshire Council Licensing, Swindon Licensing and Wiltshire Police licensing have been working together to promote the "Ask for Angela" campaign. This is a cross county initiative which was launched in Wiltshire and Swindon in October 2018.

The aim of the campaign is to promote a safe route from an uncomfortable or difficult situation a person may find themselves in and applies equally to men and women when perhaps a date is not working out or they feel unsafe in the current situation.

Initially the launch has been through pub watches and as a result a list of participating licensed premises has been published on our website.

Members are asked to continue their support of this positive initiative to assist a person at time of vulnerability.

Immigration Service

In April 2017 the Home Office Immigration department became a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act.

Following intelligence relating to potential illegal workers at a licensed premise in Wiltshire, the Licensing Team recently carried out a joint visit with the Immigration Service.

The visit resulted in two arrests being made with persons detained in immigration detention, five illegal workers encountered and “referral notice served”. (This is a civil penalty notice for employing illegal workers and entails a potential £20,000 fine per illegal worker).

Further action in relation to the premise’s licence is being considered by the Immigration Service.

Further joint working is planned in the future.

Licensing Applications

To give the Committee an update on the work of the Licensing Team, the table below details some the licensing applications in the 2017 and 2018 calendar years, but excludes the animal welfare regulations work.

Licence Applications: 2017 / 2018

Year comparison	2017	2018
Temporary Events Notices	1703	1715
Late Temporary Events Notices	395	448
Licensing Applications (New /variation/minor variation/Variation of DPS)	1171	1145
Personal Licences	338	295
Lotteries	534	536
Gambling Permits (Gaming Machines)	28	31

Hearings

Last year we have held 12 licensing hearings compared to 11 in 2017. To date in 2019 no hearings have been held.

Off Licence Premises

The Licensing team is continuing the programme of inspections of all off licences within Wiltshire. The inspections are being carried out to check compliance and to ensure staff employed at these premises receive regular reminders and training in regard to the Licensing Act 2003.

Gambling Act 2005

The Gaming Machine (Miscellaneous Amendments and Revocation) Regulations 2018 were made on the 20th December 2018 and come into force on the 1st April 2019.

The widely publicised changes will see the maximum permitted stake for category B2 gaming machines (Fixed Odds Betting Terminals) reduced from £100 to £2.

Guidance aimed at protecting children and young people

The Committee of Advertising Practice issued revised guidance on the 13th February 2019.

The aim is to assist advertisers' agencies and media owners with their interpretation of the Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) and the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP) gambling rules (Codes), as they relate to the protection of children and young people.

It applies to marketing communications appearing in all media, including online channels such as social media.

The revised guidance will come into force on 1st April 2019 and supports the Advertising Codes, which require that marketers take all reasonable steps to:

- Ensure that advertising is not targeted at under-18's, either through the selection of media or the advertisement's content; and
- Prevent advertising being directed at adult audiences posing a risk to under-18.

The revised guidance provides greater detail on the approaches that are likely to be considered unacceptable by the Advertising Standards Authority in individual marketing communications.

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