

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 28 February 2022	14:00	Remotely by MS Teams,

KENNETH GRAHAM
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

C Cardosi; C Dickson; M Dymond; F Hewitt; S McLean; J McSorley P Pieraccini; D Reid; I Robertson.

Recording of Meeting

This meeting will be recorded for subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. If you have any queries regarding the recording please contact Committee Services on 01416187103. To find the recording please follow the link which will be attached to this agenda once the meeting has been concluded.

Items of business

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

1 Election of Convener

2a Minute of Previous Meeting 1 - 6

Minute of previous meeting held on 4 October 2021.

2b Note of Inquorate Meeting 7 - 8

Note of Inquorate Meeting of the Joint Renfrewshire Licensing Forum/Licensing Board meeting.

3 Matters Arising

4 Police Scotland Update

Verbal report by Police Scotland representative on local licensing issues.

5 Licensing Standard Officer Update

Verbal report by the Licensing Standards Officer on local licensing issues.

6 ADP/Licensing Issues

Verbal report by J McSorley - NHS GGC

7 Alcohol Focus Scotland 9 - 18

AFS Newsletter - January 2022.

8 Date of Next Meeting

Members are asked to note that the next meeting of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum is scheduled for Monday 23 May 2022 at 2.00pm

Minute of Meeting Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 04 October 2021	14:00	Remotely by MS Teams,

PRESENT

C Dickson, M Dymond, S McLean, P Pieraccini, D Reid, and I Robertson.

CHAIR

M Dymond, Convener, presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

D Campbell, Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) and E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer, D Pole End User Technician and P Shiach, Senior Committee Services Officer Renfrewshire Council (all Renfrewshire Council).

RECORDING OF MEETING

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Convener intimated that this meeting of the Forum would be recorded and that the recording would be available to watch on the Council's website.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

ADDITIONAL ITEM

The Convener indicated that there was one additional item which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Convener, being of the opinion that the item which was dealt with at item 9 of the agenda was competent and relevant, authorised its consideration.

1a **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was submitted the Minute of the previous meeting of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum held on 9 September 2020.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

1b **NOTE OF INQUORATE MEETING**

There was submitted the note of the inquorate joint meeting of the Licensing Board and Licensing Forum of 18 November 2020.

DECIDED: That the note be noted.

1c **NOTE OF INQUORATE MEETING**

There was submitted the note of the inquorate meeting of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum on 3 February 2021.

DECIDED: That the note be noted.

2 **MATTERS ARISING**

DECIDED: It was noted that there were no matters arising from the previous Minute.

3 **POLICE SCOTLAND - UPDATE**

Sergeant I Robertson, Police Scotland, provided a verbal update on local licensing issues which had arisen since the last meeting of the Forum 9 September 2020.

He indicated that 362 inspections of licensed premises had taken place since the last report and a number of reviews had been undertaken, mainly in respect of problematic premises. It was noted that where these managers had been replaced, a marked difference in licence-holders' engagement with the Police had been noted. He further advised that the proxy purchasing scheme in terms of off-sales premises had been promoted and as a result, the Licensing Board had temporarily suspended some licences.

Sergeant Robertson advised of work being undertaken with the Council and other partners in relation to other aspects of licensing such as car wash premises and scrap metal dealers which had resulted in charges being brought by Scottish Power, and by SEPA in relation to landfill sites. In addition, he referred to work to be carried out over the festive period in relation to raising awareness of vulnerable people around alcohol.

Sergeant Robertson was then heard in answer to questions from Forum members on the content of the report.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

4 **LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICER - UPDATE**

C Dickson, Licensing Standards Officer (LSO), provided an update in relation to licensing activity undertaken since September 2020.

He advised that there were currently 432 licensed premises in the Renfrewshire area and that the Licensing Board had agreed that for on-sales premises the annual renewal fee would be waived in light of restrictions imposed during the period as a result of the pandemic, and that 256 letters had been issued to the premises covered by the waiver. He indicated that the premises in question included pubs restaurants, hotels and clubs but did not apply to off-sales premises which had mostly been open during the period.

The Licensing Standards Officer indicated that the number of personal licence holder applications had reduced by approximately one third from 105 to 57.

The Licensing Standards Officer was then heard in answer to questions from Forum members on the content of the report.

DECIDED: That the update be noted.

5 **ANNUAL FUNCTIONS REPORT 2020-2021**

There was submitted a report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board relative to the Annual Functions Report for 2020/21 in terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

The Forum was advised that the Annual Report had been prepared by Renfrewshire Licensing Board in terms of Section 9A of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, which required the report to include the following: -

(a) A statement explaining how the Board has had regard to i) the licensing objectives; and ii) Their licensing policy statement, in the exercise of their functions under the Act during the financial year; (b) A summary of the decisions made by (or on behalf of) the Board during the financial year; and (c) Information about the number of licences held under the Act in the Board's area (including occasional licences).

It was noted that the Board might also include other information about the exercise of the Board's functions as the Board considers appropriate.

The report indicated that the Act set out the Licensing Objectives which were preventing crime and disorder; securing public safety; preventing public nuisance; protecting and improving public health; and protecting children and young persons from harm.

The report also provided a summary of decisions and information about licences held; the Licensing Policy Statement; Further actions of the Board relating to the Licensing Objectives; and the conclusion that the Board was satisfied that, in all decisions made in the financial year 2020/21, the Board and its officers had had regard to the Licensing Objectives and the Board's Statement of Licensing Policy in their exercise of functions under the Act. The Board had taken firm action when necessary for the Licensing Objectives. At the same time, the Board appreciated the considerable challenges which faced the licensed trade and continued to encourage and support them to maintain good practice in their premises for the benefit of the people of Renfrewshire.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

6 **FESTIVE TERMINAL HOUR 2021/22**

There was submitted a report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board relative to the extension of hours for the festive period 2021/22 under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

The report advised that it has been the normal practice of the Renfrewshire Licensing Board to make a policy for extended hours for the festive period each year. In previous years, this policy was considered at the Board's October quarterly meeting under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976 regime and a similar practice had continued under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, except in 2020/21 due to public health measures being in place.

The report indicated that the Board had in terms of its current Statement of Licensing Policy at Paragraph 15.4 set out the following:-

"The Board has an existing practice permitting longer licensed hours over the festive period and that will continue to be the case. The festive period for the purposes of this aspect of the policy will be determined by the Board on an annual basis."

Accordingly, the Board now required to determine the festive period for such longer licensed hours to apply for the festive period 2021/22. It was noted that many premises licence holders when making an application for a premises licence to the Board included within the Seasonal Variations section of their applications a reference to the hours to be determined by the Board in respect of their festive policy to be applied to their licences as a seasonal variation. Accordingly, such licence- holders would not require to make further application to the Board for "extended hours" to cover the festive period determined by the Board. Other licence holders who had not included a seasonal variation in their operating plans were required to submit separate applications for extended hours.

The report provided details in relation to the following: -

- Consultation on Festive Policy;
- Proposed Festive Policy Hours;
- Last date for applications; and
- Requirement for notification.

The Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) advised that the proposed hours had been agreed at the last meeting of the Licensing Board, and that members of the Forum had been consulted on the proposals.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

7a **E-NEWSLETTER**

E Focus Newsletter – September 2020

There was submitted the Alcohol Focus Scotland newsletter for September 2020.

DECIDED: That the newsletter be noted.

7b **E NEWSLETTER**

E Focus Newsletter – October 2020

There was submitted the Alcohol Focus Scotland newsletter for October 2020.

DECIDED: That the newsletter be noted.

7c **E-NEWSLETTER**

E Focus Newsletter – March 2021

There was submitted the Alcohol Focus Scotland newsletter for March 2021.

DECIDED: That the newsletter be noted.

7d **ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND**

E Focus Newsletter – June 2021

There was submitted the Alcohol Focus Scotland newsletter for June 2021.

DECIDED: That the newsletter be noted

7e **E NEWSLETTER**

E Focus Newsletter – July 2021

There was submitted the Alcohol Focus Scotland newsletter for July 2021.

DECIDED: That the newsletter be noted.

7f **E-NEWSLETTER**

E Focus Newsletter – August 2021

There was submitted the Alcohol Focus Scotland newsletter for August 2021.

DECIDED: That the newsletter be noted.

8 **FUTURE MEETINGS**

There was submitted a report by the Clerk relative to proposed arrangements for meetings of the Forum until September 2022.

The report advised that in terms of the Constitution approved at the meeting of the Forum held on 2 October 2007, there was a requirement for the Forum to meet no less than four times per year and for one of these meetings to be a joint meeting with Renfrewshire Licensing Board.

It had been the custom and practice that the Forum met on a quarterly basis, with meetings being held during February or March, April or May, August or September and October or November.

The report proposed that meetings of the Forum be held on:-

Monday 7 February 2022;
Monday 23 May 2022; and
Monday 12 September 2022.

In response to a question regarding the date of the Joint Licensing Board/Licensing Forum meeting, the Clerk intimated that he intended to consult with the Convener of the Board following this meeting and advise Forum members once a date had been identified.

DECIDED: That the proposed dates for future meetings until September 2022, as detailed in the report, be approved.

9 **APPOINTMENT OF RENFRESHIRE HEALTH & SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP MEMBER**

D Reid advised that following the resignation of Elaina Smith, James McSorley had been appointed to the Licensing Forum as a full time equivalent employee and as a result would be in a position to dedicate more time to Licensing Forum issued.

D Reid proposed that a short-life working group be established, consisting of herself, Mr McSorley and any other Forum members, to identify issues for the Forum to consider, and prepare an appropriate Action Plan to a future meeting of the Forum.

DECIDED: That it be agreed that a short-life working group be established, to identify issues for the Forum to consider, and prepare an appropriate Action Plan to submission to a future meeting of the Licensing Forum.

Minute of Meeting Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 29 November 2021	14:00	Remotely by MS Teams,

PRESENT

REPRESENTING THE LICENSING FORUM

Colin Dickson; Margaret Dymond; Piero Pieraccini; Sergeant Ian Robertson; Jim McSorley

REPRESENTING THE LICENSING BOARD

Councillor Jennifer Adam-McGregor; Councillor Bill Brown; Councillor Jim Paterson; Councillor Jane Strang; Councillor Andy Steel.

IN ATTENDANCE

D Campbell Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing), D Pole, End User Technician and P Shiach, Senior Committee Services Officer (all Renfrewshire Council).

APOLOGIES

Councillor M Campbell, Councillor K Montgomery, C Cardosi and S McLean

QUORUM

Ten minutes after the appointed time for the meeting a quorum was not present and in terms of the constitutional document agreed at the meeting of the Forum held on 2 October 2007 the meeting stood adjourned.

January 2022

Highest increase in UK alcohol deaths since 2001

Figures published by the Office for National Statistics in December 2021 showed that the UK experienced an increase in deaths from alcohol in 2020 – with Scotland seeing higher rates than the other UK nations.

In 2020, there were 8,974 deaths from alcohol-specific causes registered in the UK, an 18.6% increase compared with 2019 and the highest year-on-year increase since the data time series began in 2001. More than three-quarters of alcohol-specific deaths were caused by alcoholic liver disease.

Of the four UK constituent countries, Scotland had the highest rates of alcohol-specific deaths in 2020 with 21.5 deaths per 100,000 people. Northern Ireland, Wales, and England had 19.6, 13.9, and 13.0 deaths per 100,000 people, respectively. Comparing with 2019, the alcohol-specific death rate has risen across all four UK constituent countries, but statistically significant increases were only seen in England and Scotland.

[Read more](#)

MUP Introduced in Ireland

The Republic of Ireland introduced minimum unit pricing (MUP) on 4 January 2022, setting a floor price of 10 cent per gram of alcohol. The policy aims to reduce alcohol harms. The World Health Organisation (WHO) identifies increasing the price of alcohol as one of its “**Best Buys**” to reduce alcohol harms.

The rate of 10 cent per gram (8p per gram or approximately 67p per unit) was set in October 2013. Proponents have highlighted that the lengthy debate before MUP’s implementation has meant that inflation may have eroded the rate and its efficacy. However, MUP has dramatically increased prices, particularly for the cheapest and strongest products, which were previously set at “pocket-money prices”. For example, a bottle of wine must now cost at least €7.40 (£6.40), a can of beer at least €1.70 (£1.40), and spirits with 40% ABV must cost at least €20.70 (£17.30).

As in Scotland, the introduction of MUP is a policy which will help reduce alcohol harms, but it is not a silver bullet in and of itself. However, expected benefits include a reduction in alcohol-specific deaths, alcohol-related hospital admissions, and the societal cost of alcohol. More details from the Sheffield Alcohol Research Group can be found [here](#).

Read the [Department of Health](#) and [Alcohol Action Ireland](#)’s media releases.

Lockdown drinking increased most in those already at risk, says study

[Research by Newcastle University](#) shows that adults already at risk of harm from heavy drinking bought significantly more alcohol during Covid-19 lockdowns – however, this was less pronounced in Scotland and Wales compared to England.

The researchers point to this possibly being linked to the minimum unit pricing

(MUP) policy in place in both Scotland and Wales – which has already been shown to reduce supermarket and store purchases of alcohol, particularly amongst some of the heaviest-drinking households.

Academics from [Newcastle University](#) and the [National Institute for Health Research \(NIHR\) Applied Research Collaboration \(ARC\) North East and North Cumbria](#), found that Britain's heaviest drinkers - those in the top fifth of households that would consistently purchase the most alcohol - bought around 17 times more from shops and supermarkets than the bottom fifth during the lockdown period between March and July 2020.

[Read more about the study.](#)

No Amount of Alcohol is Good for the Heart

[The World Heart Federation](#) (WHF) has published a [policy brief](#) to challenge the myth that moderate consumption of alcohol can decrease the risk of heart disease.

The evidence clearly shows that there is no safe level of alcohol consumption. Studies have repeatedly shown that even low consumption can increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases, including coronary disease, stroke, heart failure, hypertensive heart disease, cardiomyopathy, atrial fibrillation, and aneurysm. Contradictory studies making the opposite claim are based on observational research and do not account for other factors like pre-existing conditions or previous drinking patterns in abstinent people

The WHF recommendations to governments are to: restrict the availability of alcohol, improve access to screening and treatment, ban alcohol advertising,

raise prices through taxation, and mandate prominent health warnings on alcohol products.

[Read the policy brief here.](#)

AFS Response – inquiry into the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland

AFS provided **written evidence** to the Scottish Parliament **Health, Social Care and Sport Committee** inquiry into the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland. We highlighted the short-term and long-term impact of alcohol on children and young people's health and wellbeing, focusing on parental or carer alcohol use. We illustrated the issues caused by the normalisation of alcohol use in our society and called for alcohol marketing restrictions, reductions on availability, and an increase on the minimum unit price. We noted the need to support parents and carers with existing alcohol problems, as their recovery is also beneficial to their children, and providing resources

AFS Response – proposed Right to Recovery Bill

AFS provided **written evidence** to the Member's Bill consultation on the proposed Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) bill. While we support the principles that the proposal is seeking to achieve (e.g., improved availability, accessibility and quality of treatment and recovery options), we have identified wider legislative and policy developments that may offer the possibility to secure the rights of people accessing support for alcohol and other drugs in a broader and fuller sense than the proposal outlined in the consultation. In addition, we have highlighted a number of areas where the proposals lack clarity, and highlighted that without thorough information on current levels and types of service provision across Scotland, there would be no baseline upon which

which could be used to support 'whole family' services.

to measure any success in improving availability, access, and quality.

[Read our written evidence.](#)

[Read our written evidence](#)

AFS Response - consultation on excess deaths in Scotland since the start of the pandemic

AFS provided [written evidence](#) to the Scottish Parliament [COVID-19 Recovery Committee](#) consultation on excess deaths in Scotland since the start of the pandemic. We noted that in addition to the tragically high deaths from COVID-19, alcohol-specific deaths rose by 17% to 1,120 in 2020. We illustrated the negative effects of the pandemic and associated restrictions, highlighting an increase in high-risk and harmful drinking as people were drinking more at home. Changing drinking habits has resulted in increased rates of liver failure after chronic alcohol-related liver disease, and fatal withdrawal issues for heavy drinkers due to reduced availability of medically assisted detox. We discussed the encouraging decrease in off-trade sales in the first year of minimum unit pricing (MUP) implementation which likely influenced the 10% reduction in alcohol-specific deaths in 2019. We reiterated that the minimum unit price should be uprated to 65p per unit to ensure that it delivers full benefits and initial gains from the policy are not lost. We voiced our support of increasing marketing controls to protect children from exposure to alcohol marketing. We recognised the challenging financial environment Scotland is facing during its COVID-19 recovery, and urge the Scottish Government to raise revenue from the sale of alcohol to support the COVID-19 recovery and fund public services including improved recovery-oriented services.

[Read our written evidence.](#)

Alcohol industry submissions to the WHO 2020 Consultation on the development of an Alcohol Action Plan: A content and thematic analysis

In a [report](#) commissioned by the [Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education](#) (FARE), researchers identified that almost a quarter of all submissions to the WHO's Global Alcohol Action Plan were made by alcohol companies and their lobby groups. Their responses made misleading claims and misrepresented scientific evidence, framing themselves as socially responsible, socioeconomically important, and as legitimate policy actors. Citing the complexity of the problem, industry actors called for localised options instead of global governance regulations and goals. The researchers concluded that alcohol industry actors utilised the consultation to legitimise their position in the process of developing the Plan, following a Working Paper proposing their exclusion due to clear conflict of interest.

[Read the report here.](#)

An objective assessment of children's exposure to brand marketing in New Zealand (Kids'Cam): a cross-sectional study

In this cross-sectional study, 90 children aged 11-13 wore cameras for four consecutive days, allowing researchers to identify the nature and extent of their exposure to alcohol marketing. Children in the study were

Distilling the curriculum: An analysis of alcohol industry-funded school-based youth education programmes

Despite clear conflict of interest, alcohol education programmes are frequently funded by the alcohol industry or bodies receiving alcohol industry funding. After analysing teaching materials from three school-

exposed to a mean of 554 brands per 10hr day – nearly a brand a minute, through multiple mediums (predominantly brand labels [36% of exposures] and product packaging [22%]) and mostly in schools (43%) and at home (30%). The researchers conclude that their findings suggest an urgent need to reduce marketing to promote planetary health.

[Read the study here.](#)

based youth education initiatives, researchers concluded that alcohol industry-sponsored youth education programmes serve industry interests and promote moderate consumption. These materials should not be used in schools. Independently developed materials will empower children and young people to understand and think critically about alcohol, including harms and drivers of consumption.

[Read the study here.](#)

Social Practice in Alcohol Research Collaboration (SPARC) – An investigation into how and why British drinking culture is changing

Date: Tuesday 22 February 2022, 09:30am-12:30pm Online (Zoom)

The ESRC-funded SPARC project set out to develop new understanding about contemporary British drinking culture and analyse how changes in alcohol use relate to wider policy, cultural and structural shifts. This online event is an opportunity to hear about and discuss the findings:

- **One Drinking Culture?** Variations of drinking practices by gender, socioeconomic status, life stage and other drinker or occasion characteristics.
- **Stability and change in British drinking** - hear about how drinking practices have changed over a 12-year period, and our attempts to disentangle effects

of three drivers of change over time: aging, birth cohort effects, and effects of the times we live in.

- **The influence of policies and events**, including a look at changes to licensing, the introduction of Minimum Unit Pricing in Scotland and Covid-19 on drinking practices inside and outside the home.

The event will be chaired by **Professor Carol Emslie** (Glasgow Caledonian University).

Speakers include **Professor Petra Meier** (MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow), **Professor John Holmes** (Sheffield Alcohol Research Group, University of Sheffield) and members of the SPARC team.

Panellists include Clive Henn (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities), Clare Beeston (Public Health Scotland), and Alison Douglas (Alcohol Focus Scotland)..

Register **here**.

Alcohol & Human Rights - IAS Sustainability Series seminar 4.

Date: Wednesday 2 March 2022, 10am Online

The last seminar in the Institute of Alcohol Studies' four-part series will consider human rights and alcohol, including:

- Workers' rights for alcohol industry employees in the developing world
 - Industry practices in Africa
 - Female promotional workers' rights and their risk of sexual harassment and assault
-

- Gender and health inequality
- How human rights litigation can be used as a last resort control policy

Speakers are:

Chair: Dr Eric Carlin, World Health Organization

Olivier van Beemen, Investigative journalist

Dr Sarah Hill, The University of Sydney School of Public Health

Professor Amandine Garde, University of Liverpool Law School

[Book your place here.](#)

Meet the team!

We are pleased to welcome Marc Buchanan to the role of Engagement and Partnerships Coordinator. One of the main focuses for Marc will be to build and maintain strong relationships with key AFS stakeholders, including Alcohol and Drug Partnerships, licensing practitioners and people within the recovery community. Marc has a particular passion for ensuring those with lived experience have the platform and opportunity to have their voices heard, having previously worked with a member led campaigning group for people living with dementia.

Through engaging with people in recovery across the country, he will work to ensure that their voices are heard by decision makers and that policy and practice is responsive to people's experiences and needs.

Marc is keen to hear from professionals and partnership organisations who have been involved in this work previously as well as from anyone who would like to be involved going forward or would like more information.

[Get in touch with Marc](#)

