



LICENSING (LICENSING ACT 2003) COMMITTEE

Monday, 9th January, 2012

**At the rising of the Licensing
Committee**

Town Hall, Watford

Publication date: 20 December 2011

CONTACT

If you require further information or you would like a copy of this agenda in another format, e.g. large print, please contact Jodie Kloss in Legal and Property Services on 01923 278376 or by email to legalanddemocratic@watford.gov.uk (Minicom available on 01923 278499).

Welcome to this meeting. We hope you find these notes useful.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor J Brown (Chair)

Councillor K Hastrick (Vice-Chair)

Councillors K Brodhurst, J Connal, K Crout, G Derbyshire, J Dhindsa, P Jeffree, C Leslie, M Mills, A Mortimer, F Qureshi, D Scudder, L Scudder and D Walford

AGENDA

PART A - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/ COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**
2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY)**
3. **MINUTES**

To approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2011.

4. **LICENSING ACT 2003 ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011** (Pages 1 - 38)

Report of the Head of Environmental Services

This report asks the Committee to note the annual report of the Licensing Act 2003.

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*PART A

Report to: Licensing Committee
Date of meeting: 9 January 2012
Report of: Head of Environmental Services
Title: Licensing Act 2003 Annual Report for 2011

1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 The Council is responsible under the Licensing Act 2003 for licensing alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment within the Borough, which came into force on 24 November 2005. This is the fifth annual report on the operation of the Act within the Borough.

1.2 The national economic position has affected local premises, with several premises being closed, transferred or changed as a result. At the same time, new premises (principally off-licences) have opened. Nationally, the Government has both introduced and proposed new legislation to amend the Licensing Act.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Licensing Committee notes the report and makes any recommendations it feels fit.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Jeffrey Leib (Licensing Manager) on telephone extension: 8429, email: jeffrey.leib@watford.gov.uk.

Report approved by: Alan Gough, Head of Environmental Services

3.0 Introduction

3.1 Under the Licensing Act 2003, Watford Borough Council has responsibility for licensing alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment. This encompasses the determination, grant, administration and enforcement of premises licences, club premises certificates, personal licences and temporary event notices to authorise those activities to take place.

3.2 The Act requires the licensing authority to produce a statement of licensing policy in consultation with specified stakeholders. Any decisions in relation to the Act must be in furtherance of the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the prevention of public nuisance; and the protection of children from harm. The licensing authority is required to have regard to statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State and approved by Parliament in the exercise of its functions.

3.3 There are now 294 premises (included qualifying clubs) licensed under the Act, one fewer than last year. However, during 2011 we received thirteen applications for new premises licences. Although two were to replace existing premises licences, there was one more application than during 2010. There is one less qualifying club this year following the surrender of the certificate for West Watford Conservative Club.

3.4 Twenty seven hearings were scheduled for licensing sub-committees during 2011, six more than 2010. Thirteen of those were vacated, one fewer than during 2010.

Interested parties made representations concerning eighteen applications. The Police made representations about seven applications (three fewer than in 2010). Councillors and Environmental Health made representations on two applications apiece, and Fire and Planning made representations on one application each. These all relate to representations that were not withdrawn.

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Scheduled hearings	30	21	28	27
Vacated hearings	7	7	13	7

Nationally, on average 12 applications per local authority go to committee.

3.5 The table at appendix 1 sets out a comparison of hearings and appeals over the last few years. Officers again conducted several successful mediation meetings that resulted in representations being withdrawn without the need for hearings.

3.6 Eighteen new premises licences were applied for in 2011 (compared to eleven in 2010 and 19 in 2009) in respect of:

<i>Alcohol on-sales and other licensable activities</i> (6 applications in 2010)	Paparazzi* (formerly licensed as Kandi Klub)
<i>Alcohol off-sales</i> (2 applications made in 2010)	Watford Off-Licence Rose Grocers Icely Done Ltd News Plus (refused) DKSR* (2 applications refused) Tesco, High Street
<i>Restaurants</i> (0 applications made in 2010)	Chimichanga Jimmy Spices Wagamama Steakhouse Carluccio's Caffè Zizzi 36 Market Street Its Rodells Best Café* (previously licensed as Sunrise Café) Bellissimo
<i>Late-night refreshment only</i> (1 applications made in 2010)	None (but all the above restaurants have late night refreshment on their licences)
<i>Regulated entertainment only</i> (2 applications made in 2010)	None

* New application for previously licensed premises

3.7

Changes to licences

The table below sets out the amount of licence variations, transfers and variations to designated premises supervisors in 2007 - 2010. No objections to changes in designated premises supervisors or premises licence holders were lodged by the Police.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Licence variation	25	20	11	12	37
Licence transfer	26	27	26	25	28
Variation to designated premises supervisor	22	91	94	55	80
Interim authority notices	0	2	2	0	3

3.8

During 2011, eight premises surrendered their authorisations compared to nine in 2010:

- (1) Bellissimo
- (2) Trattoria Carnevale

- (3) Polish Village
- (4) Ring-a-Delivery Ltd
- (5) Vogue
- (6) Agora Sports Bar
- (7) Agora Gaming Centre
- (8) 230 St Albans Road (off-licence)

3.9 Minor Variations

A procedure to allow minor variations to be made to premises licences and club premises certificates was introduced in July 2009. This allows minor changes to be made to premises (such as the addition of live music, or minor structural alterations) without the need for the full lengthy and expensive variation process. The table below illustrates the number of applications:

	2009	2010	2011
Minor variation applications received	5	13	19
Minor variation applications approved	3	12	19

3.10 Premises supervisors in community premises

For the third year, there have been no applications under the arrangements to allow community premises to sell alcohol under the authority of a management committee rather than a designated premises supervisor.

3.11 Temporary Event Notices

The chart below indicates the number of temporary event notices (TENs) received each year by the council. The Police issued 14 objection notices in 2011 (against 17 in 2010) on the grounds that the TEN would be likely to undermine the crime prevention objective.

Year	Number of TENs
2005	81*
2006	177
2007	410
2008	207
2009	255
2010	338
2011	202

* Only relates to 24 November (when the Act commenced) to 31 December 2005

3.12 The Police made representations about 14 temporary event notices (compared to just 13 in 2010) and seven sub-committees were convened to consider those (one less than during the previous year). Seven TENs were refused, one was withdrawn and a number were not valid.

3.13 Twenty temporary event notices rejected for reasons such as failing to give insufficient notice of their event rather than the ten clear working days demanded by the legislation.

3.14 Personal licences

As initially predicted in 2005, the number of personal licence applications has declined considerably, partly because many licence-holders under the previous legislation now hold personal licences, and partly due to the factors mentioned elsewhere in this report. The table below shows the numbers of personal licences issued since 2005. There were no applications referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee owing to Police representations during the year.

Year	Number of personal licences
2005	303
2006	115
2007	74
2008	80
2009	81
2010	72
2011	62

3.15 As far as officers are aware, none of the personal licences issued by the licensing authority has been revoked by the courts following convictions for a relevant offence. However there remains concerns nationally that not all licensees appearing before criminal courts disclose the fact they are personal licence holders (as legally obliged to), and that the courts do not properly understand their powers in such circumstances.

3.16 **Statement of licensing policy**

The table below sets out applications for premises licences within the town centre covered by policy LP3 Creating a Family-Friendly Town Centre, although it should be borne in mind that the area was slightly enlarged from January 2011.

3.17

	Applications	Hearings not required	Applications where special saturation policy did not apply ¹	Appeals against sub-committee's decisions
2005/6	27	3	12	3
2007	10	1	5	0
2008	14	2	4	2
2009	11	1	0	1
2010	7	0	1	1
2011	8	2	0 ²	0

¹ This is because either alcohol sales were not the principal activity or where the application was not intended to extend the hours beyond midnight.

² New exceptions set out in policy LP3 applied to applications from January 2011

3.18 According to Government figures, as of 31 March 2010 there were over 129 cumulative impact areas in England and Wales, an increase of 5 since March 2009, although it is understood Watford's is the only one in Hertfordshire and one of only five in the East of England.

3.19 Interaction with other policies:

The Council's approach to licensing continues to fit in with a number of other relevant strategies:

- (a) Making Watford a safer town, in the current sustainable community strategy 2026;
- (b) the Watford community safety partnership's a mandatory alcohol harm reduction plan. Reducing alcohol-related crime is a current strategic priority for 2011 – 2014;
- (c) the Council's 24-hour economy strategy, agreed in 2009.

3.20 **Compliance and Enforcement**

The Council's licensing enforcement officers, Police and Trading Standards have continued to work proactively and reactively to ensure compliance with licensing legislation.

3.21 The licensing authority received 117 service complaints from the public about all licensing activities during 2011, of which seventeen concerned licensed premises. This is partly due to the generally high standards of compliance amongst licence-holders and proactive enforcement by officers in co-operation with the Police licensing team.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Premises opening hours	3	4	1	4	1
Door supervisors	4	2	0	2	2
Noise from premises	11	11	5	8	5
Underage sales	1	4	3	0	2
Advertisements	1	0	2	0	0
Unlicensed activities/other	5	1	1	5	2
Public safety	*	0	0	1	3
Child protection	*	1	0	1	0
Crime and disorder	*	3	3	1	2

* Not separately recorded in 2007

3.22 Closure powers

Aside from reviews of premises licences and club premises certificates, the Police and Council have various powers to deal with premises that are being operated noisily, in a disorderly manner, or in breach of licensing conditions. These were not used in 2009 or 2010. In 2011, both licensing authority officers and Police licensing officers issued "closure notices" under section 19 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. In one case this was used where no appropriate designated premises supervisor was in place; the

second was to prevent the sale of alcohol after the premises licence had been surrendered.

3.23 Test purchases

The Licensing Act 2003 allows the licensing authority to bring prosecutions for under-age sales and proxy sales (where adults buy alcohol for children under 18 from on- and off-licensed premises). Trading Standards have a duty to conduct test-purchasing operations within off-licences and the Police take the lead for test-purchasing within other licensed premises.

3.24 The table below sets out test purchase operations conducted by Trading Standards in the Borough:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number of operations	6		1	2	1
Number of premises tested	19	9	5	12	4
Number of failures, that is, sales made to under-age volunteer	1	3	0	0	0
Number of passes	18	6	5	12	4
Number of fixed penalty notices issued		2	0	0	0
Number of review applications made	1	0	0	0	0

3.25 Licensing Reviews

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number of review applications	4	1	0	0	3	0

3.26 Inspections and monitoring

Regular inspections of premises are conducted by licensing enforcement officers from the Council and Police. These are based either on specific intelligence or on a risk-based approach.

3.27 Seventy-five premises were inspected in 2011, which is less than last year simply because there were fewer low-risk premises within the inspection cycle.

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No of inspections	59	169	158	143	75

3.28 In 2011, as part of the Council's revised licensing policy, well-run and therefore low risk premises were inspected every three years instead of every two years under the previous policy. Further changes are being considered for 2012 which will see even fewer premises inspections being conducted in order to concentrate resources on higher-risk and proactive issues.

3.29 Gambling Act 2005

The Gambling Act imposes a duty on the licensing authority to issue permits for gaming machines in alcohol-licensed premises, and to regulate other

low-stake gambling, e.g. poker. Premises have an automatic entitlement to two gaming machines and may apply for a permit for more than two machines.

- 3.30 The number of *applications (including renewals) for permits* relating to alcohol-licensed premises is set out below. This does not reflect the number of *premises* that have gaming machines however, as many premises are still reliant on authorisations granted by the Magistrates' Court under the Gaming Act 1968.

	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Automatic entitlement	0	0	8	10	12	5
More than two machines	1	4	6	5	11	6

3.31 Drinking Banning Orders

Powers under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 for the Council or Police to apply for a drink banning order (dubbed "alcohol ASBOs") in the civil courts came into force in 2009, although none have been applied for in Watford. Post-conviction DBOs, under which criminal courts must consider whether to impose an order on defendants convicted of alcohol-related offences, were introduced locally in November 2010. It is understood that three post-conviction orders have been made locally since then. The following information was provided by the Ministry of Justice following a Freedom of Information Act request:

Number of orders given by magistrates' courts in Hertfordshire since the provisions were introduced

	Total
Hertfordshire	6

Source: HMCTS Libra Management Information System.
Data supplied up to and inclusive of 30 June 2011.

Regional breakdown of the number of orders issued under section 6

	Total
London	1
Midlands	48
North East	114
North West	20
South East	19
South West	152
Wales	9
Total	363

Source: HMCTS Libra Management Information System.

Data supplied up to and inclusive of 30 June 2011.

Note: volume variation is due to different rollout periods of the new provisions.

Work is continuing in conjunction with the Police Community Safety Unit to ensure magistrates are aware of the need to use their powers effectively.

3.32 **Crime and disorder**³

The Community Safety Partnership's draft strategic assessment for 2011/12 sets out the following headline figures for the year ending 31 July although the following figures are not audited or generally publicly available:

- (a) 875 alcohol related offences were committed in 2010/2011;
- (b) there was a 17.5% drop in alcohol-related offences compared to a 15.9% increase in 2009/10;
- (c) Watford is tenth-worst in the county for the third consecutive year for alcohol-related crime with a current ratio of 10.7 crimes per 1000 population;
- (d) 64.7% of alcohol-related offences in 2010/11 were "violent" (according to Home Office classifications) against 70.3% in 2009/10. Just over a quarter of the 2010/11 offences however included causing public fear, alarm or distress which would not perhaps be ordinarily considered to be a "violent" offence;
- (e) 68.6% (600 offences) of all alcohol-related crime occurred in the town centre (C1A beat), a decrease from 71.8% (763 offences) in 2010/1;
- (f) 22.7% of all alcohol-related offences in the Borough resulted in Actual Bodily Harm and other injury (199 of the 875 offences), with 119 of those occurring within C1A;
- (g) Callowland ward (C4A beat) recorded the second highest number of offences (6.4% of the total) , increasing from 31 to 40 offences;
- (h) Vicarage ward (C1E beat) has experienced a decline from 51 offences to 27 offences. This ward was the second-highest in 2009/10 and is now the third highest;
- (i) Crimes categorised as "violent" and "most serious violent" have both declined compared to the previous year's assessment. These are reported here but not all of them would be attributable to alcohol-related offences or associated with licensed premises.

3.33 88.8% of offenders are male and 78.3% of White European ethnic

³ The figures in this and the following paragraphs are drawn from the CSP's draft strategic assessment and so have not been officially verified at the time of compiling this report.

appearance. The average age for offenders was 28.

- 3.34 The young people substance misuse team report there are two residents of the district aged under 18 (down from 10 the previous year), who are currently receiving treatment for alcohol abuse; this places the Community Safety Partnership joint third out of ten within the county. Watford now however has the highest number of clients in Hertfordshire aged over 18 in alcohol treatment, with 234 clients.
- 3.35 **Alcohol and health information**
Appendix 2 shows relevant alcohol-related statistics that have been obtained from the Local Alcohol Profiles on the North West Public Health Observatory (www.nwph.net).
- 3.36 The 2009 figures for alcohol-attributable mortality show a decline compared to previous years, particularly for females, although alcohol-attributable hospital admissions for men and women are both higher in 2009 than the previous four years. Alcohol-related crime however follows a downward pattern.
- 3.37 Hertfordshire as a county compares well to other areas of the country. Watford compares “significantly worse” than the England average in only category, where it is ranked 276 out of 326 local authority areas where the main medical reason for claiming Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance is alcoholism (see appendix 2 for the full description of this indicator).
- 3.38 Watford is also significantly better than the England average in a number of areas:
- (a) alcohol-specific hospital admissions for under 18s;
 - (b) alcohol-specific hospital admissions for males and females over 18;
 - (c) alcohol-attribute hospital admissions for males (and no significant difference for females);
 - (d) number of employees in bars as a percentage of all employees although there is no comment in the LAPE on whether a better or worse figure is more desirable.
- 3.39 There is no significant difference between the rates of binge drinking in Watford compared to the England average.
- 3.40 **Licensing initiatives**
The licensing team has continued to work on and develop a number of initiatives involving licensed premises and licensable activities:
- 3.41 Pubwatch
Officers have continued to work with pubs and clubs through the three

Pubwatch schemes. Apart from the town centre scheme in latter months, attendance at meetings by venue managers has been patchy.

3.42 Monthly door supervisor meetings have continued throughout most of the year, attended by council and Police officers.

3.43 Off-Watch

Officers have not devoted much resources to the Off-Watch scheme this year, as attendance and commitment at meetings by business owners has been very low. However, officers are confident in this level of activity given the very low level of failed test purchases; the lack of complaints about under-age and proxy sales in particular; and that there has been no identified need to run Operation Carbine during 2011 (our multi-agency anti-social behaviour and under-age drinking campaign).

3.44 Taxi marshalling

During the 2010/2011 financial year, the County Council funded 55% of the scheme for Friday and Saturday, with WBC arranging the funding for the remainder and for Monday evenings. In November the scheme was extended to provide two further marshals in Sainsbury's car park, and discussions are currently taking place with Hertfordshire County Council to implement a permanent traffic regulation order to facilitate a permanent taxi marshalling area there.

3.45 Contributions from licensed premises means that no contribution has been required from the Council tax-payers for the fourth successive year.

3.46 Three Strikes Scheme

This scheme has operated since December 2006, and was modified at the end of 2010. It now applies to all alcohol and drug-related offences committed in the town centre between 6 pm and 6 am. People who are arrested, charged or receive penalty notices for disorder (PND) are given a first 'yellow card' warning. A second arrest, charge or PND within twelve months leads to a referral to Pubwatch for a six-month Pubwatch ban, which can be reduced by half after attending an alcohol diversion education course. A total of 290 yellow cards had been issued to 24 November 2011, and only eight red cards, with most detected offences involving drugs (39.1%); public order/drunkenness (32.83%); and assaults (17.17%). The largest majority of offenders were Watford residents (33.76%) followed by other Hertfordshire residents (21.38%).

3.47 Officers currently provide the resources to send out the Three Strikes literature and to bring referrals to the Pubwatch scheme, but this is currently under review.

3.48 Safer Watford Partnership

During 2011, officers have helped to deliver the Council's statutory alcohol harm reduction strategy by participating in the work of the alcohol harm reduction plan, and in the work of the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Group. This has included analysis of Police data to try and identify trends for victims

of alcohol-related crime in order to consider designing suitable intervention projects.

3.49 Altogether A Safer Watford

This project was launched in 2010 by the Community Safety Partnership to address the increase in night-time alcohol-related crime. It introduced a number of measures including:

- (1) helping create a safer working environment for taxi drivers at night;
- (2) producing an educational DVD for showing in licensing premises and local cinemas to advise the public of the consequences of drunken behaviour;
- (3) a poster campaign to reinforce the above, targeting young people;
- (4) working with the Turning Point treatment agency to help distribute alcohol awareness “binge backs”;
- (5) use of Police officers, door supervisors, taxi drivers and CCTV operators early on in the evening to identify people who arrive in the town already drinking alcohol. Those individuals are refused entry to premises or are directed by the Police under the Violent Crime Reduction Act to leave the town centre for up to 24 hours;
- (6) production of a map for night-time economy users showing dispersal routes, taxi ranks, public transport etc;
- (7) an operation to target under-age drinkers.

3.50 Purple Flag

Officers and partners have submitted an application in recent weeks for Purple Flag accreditation for management of the night-time economy. The Altogether A Safer Watford’s work has been temporarily subsumed into that group.

3.51 Safety Advisory Group

Officers continue to play a role in the non-statutory multi-agency Safety Advisory Group advising on safety and licensing.

3.52 **National initiatives**

There have been continuing national developments in relation to licensing and alcohol over the last year. The Government has indicated its support for the Live Music Bill which has passed through the Lords and is now before the Commons. It is expected the Bill will be given Royal Assent on 20 January 2012 and will allow alcohol-licensed premises to provide live music before a maximum of 200 people between 8 am and 11 pm without the need for specific authorisation or subject to licence conditions. However, following a successful application for review, such conditions can be added back onto that licence. Live unlicensed music will also be allowed

in premises that fit the description of a “workplace”, subject to the same occupancy and temporal restrictions. Live unamplified music will not require any licensing at all between the times stated.

- 3.53 The Council responded to the Government’s proposal to remove many of the licensing requirements surrounding regulated entertainment as currently defined in schedule 1 to the Licensing Act.
- 3.54 Policing Reform and Social Responsibility Act
This Act is expected to be introduced in two stages, in April and October 2012. It followed the Government’s consultation paper on ‘Rebalancing the Licensing Act to which the Council responded. The key implications contained in the legislation are set out in appendix 3.
- 3.55 Powers to implement early morning restriction orders or late-night levies are perhaps the two most contentious in the Act. Licensing authorities can choose to implement one of those measures if they wish, but not both at the same time. Although officers see there may be a case for considering an EMRO for the town centre, they are not persuaded that a late-night levy will be productive for a number of reasons including:
- (a) the significant amount of resources that will be needed to implement and administer the levy;
 - (b) that at least 70% of the proceeds will be passed to the Police authority and which may not be necessarily ring-fenced for policing Watford’s night-time economy;
 - (c) as indicated above, town centre venues already significantly contribute to the town’s taxi marshalling scheme on a voluntary basis. It is estimated (with a maximum late-night levy of £4400) that a levy will reduce the overall value of the voluntary contributions;
 - (d) if the licensing authority decided to apply the levy to all premises open after midnight, it would make premises outside the town centre pay for town centre services such as policing and street cleaning which may be unfairly penalising them. If the levy is applied to premises after 1 am or 2 am, it will probably capture a smaller number of premises although payments will be required from other premises such as late-night take-aways that do not currently contribute to the taxi marshalling scheme; and
 - (e) the economic impact of the levy should be considered against the new power to charge higher licensing fees.
- 3.56 Early in 2012 the Government is expected to publish an alcohol strategy to update the last Government’s alcohol plans. It is proposing to ban the “below cost” sale of alcohol, that is making it illegal to sell alcohol for less than the cost of duty and the VAT that ought to be paid on it. The minimum price for a can of lager for example will therefore be about 38p. It is

expected licensing authorities will have a role to play in enforcing this.

3.57 **Future Plans**

A business process review of all of the licensing team was conducted during 2011 in order to identify savings of around £42,000. Officers are still working through the conclusions from the review, which might see changes such as other officers becoming more involved in Licensing Act applications.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The Head of Strategic Finance comments that there are no financial implications arising from this report.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Head of Legal and Property Services comments that there are no legal implications arising from this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Licensing hearings and appeals

Appendix 2 – Local Alcohol Profiles for Hertfordshire

Appendix 3 – Summary of Licensing Act amendments by Policing Reform & Social Responsibility Act

Background Papers

Local Alcohol Profiles for England

Policing Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011

Safer Watford Draft Strategic Assessment 2011/12

File Reference

None

Appendix 1

Application type	1 January - 31 December 2011					
	Hearings	<u>Hearings not required</u> ^[3]	Refused by Licensing sub-Committee	Appeals against sub-committee's decisions	<u>Appeals dismissed by magistrates'</u> court ^[4]	Appeals upheld by magistrates' court
Premises licences	20	7	4*	1	1	0
Club premises certificates	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Event Notices	7	5	n/a	0	0	0
Provisional statements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal licences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reviews	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	27	13	4	1	1	0

* Including twice for the same premises

Application type	1 January - 31 December 2010					
	Hearings	<u>Hearings not required</u> ^[3]	Refused by Licensing sub-Committee	Appeals against sub-committee's decisions	<u>Appeals dismissed by magistrates'</u> court ^[4]	Appeals upheld by magistrates' court
Premises licences	10	13	2	1	1	0
Club premises certificates	0	1	0	0	0	0
Temporary Event Notices	8	0		0	0	0
Provisional statements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal licences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reviews	3	0	0	2	1	1
TOTAL	21	14	2	2	1	1

1 January - 31 December 2009						
Application type	Hearings	Hearings not required [3]	Refused by Licensing sub-Committee	Appeals against sub-committee's decisions	Appeals dismissed by magistrates' court [4]	Appeals upheld by magistrates' court
Premises licences	21	7	3	1	1	0
Club premises certificates	1	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Event Notices	1	0	n/a	0	0	0
Provisional statements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal licences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reviews	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	23	7	3	1	1	0

1 January – 31 December 2008						
Application type	Hearings	Hearings not required [3]	Refused by Licensing sub-Committee	Appeals against sub-committee's decisions	Appeals dismissed by magistrates' court [4]	Appeals upheld by magistrates' court
Premises licences	27	23	3	3*	1	2
Club premises certificates	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Event Notices	4	3	n/a	0	0	0
Provisional statements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal licences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reviews	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	34	26	3	2	3	0

1 January - 31 December 2007						
Application type	Hearings	Hearings not required [1]	Refused by Licensing sub-Committee	Appeals against sub-committee's decisions	Appeals dismissed by magistrates' court [2]	Appeals upheld by magistrates' court
Premises licences	21	5	1	0	0	0
Club premises certificates	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Event Notices	2	1	n/a	0	0	0
Provisional statements	1	0	0	0	0	0
Personal licences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reviews	2	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	26	6	1	0	0	0

24 November 2005 - 31 December 2006

Application type	Hearings	Hearings not required [3]	Refused by LSC	Appeals against sub-committee's decisions	Appeals dismissed by magistrates' court [4]	Appeals upheld by magistrates' court
Premises licences	85	8	4	9	8	1
Club premises certificates	7	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary Event Notices	2	1	n/a	0	0	0
Provisional statements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal licences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reviews	3	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	97	9	4	9	8	1

[1] Due to withdrawal of application or withdrawal of representations before a hearing.

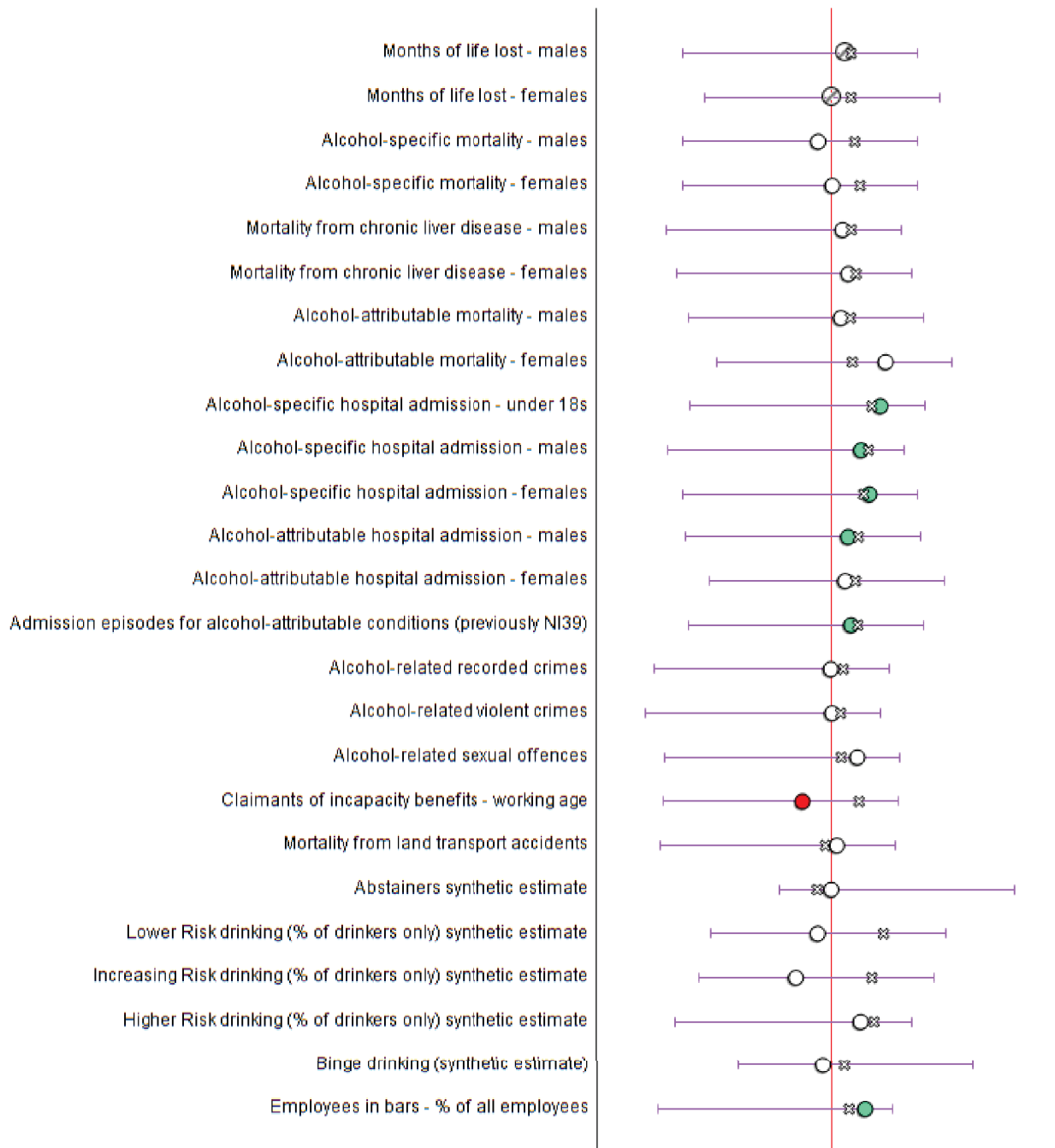
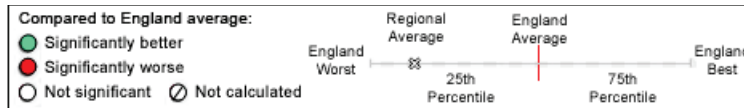
[2] These include where the appeal was withdrawn before a hearing or dismissed by way of a consent order.

[3] Due to withdrawal of application or withdrawal of representations before a hearing.

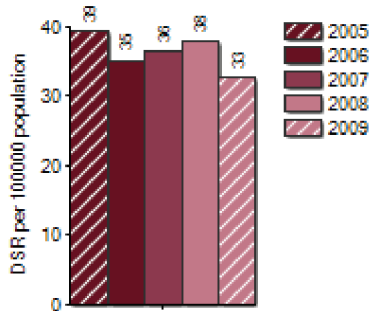
[4] These include where the appeal was withdrawn before a hearing or dismissed by way of a consent order.

* Includes one appeal lodged in 2007 but heard in 2008

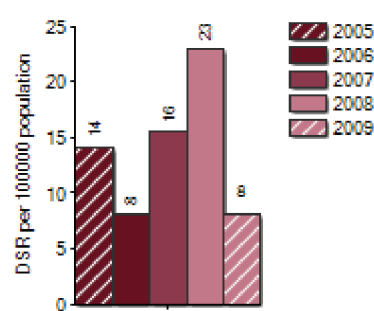
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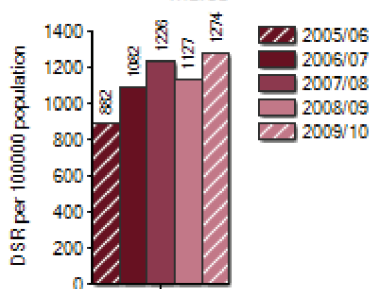
Alcohol-attributable mortality - males



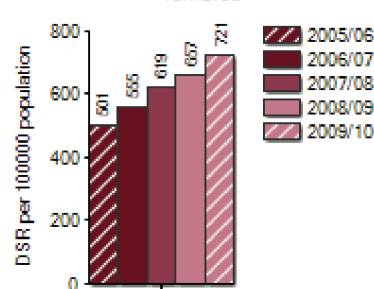
Alcohol-attributable mortality - females



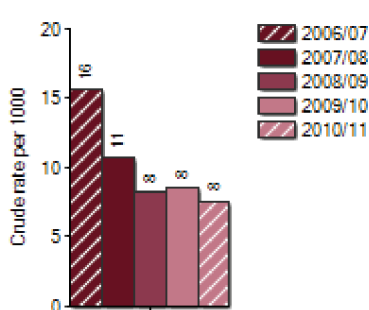
Alcohol-attributable hospital admission males



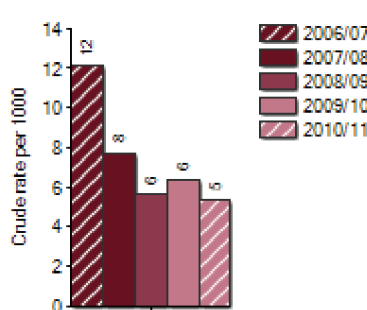
Alcohol-attributable hospital admission females



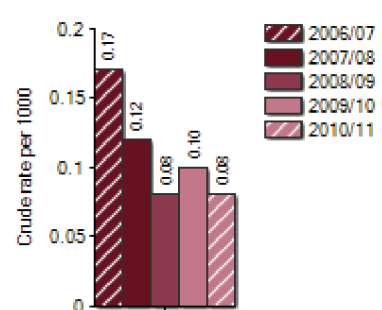
Alcohol-related recorded crimes - all



Alcohol-related violent crimes



Alcohol-related sexual offences



ID	Indicator	Measure (a)	National Rank (b)	Regional Average
1	Months of life lost - males	8.2	145	7.5
2	Months of life lost - females	4.2	197	3.4
3	Alcohol-specific mortality - males	14.9	238	9.4
4	Alcohol-specific mortality - females	6.0	198	4.0
5	Mortality from chronic liver disease - males	11.4	152	9.8
6	Mortality from chronic liver disease - females	5.6	121	4.9
7	Alcohol-attributable mortality - males	32.5	150	29.4
8	Alcohol-attributable mortality - females	8.1	21	12.2
9	Alcohol-specific hospital admission - under 18s	29.1	46	34.7
10	Alcohol-specific hospital admission - males	307.7	120	278.7
11	Alcohol-specific hospital admission - females	130.6	69	142.0
12	Alcohol-attributable hospital admission - males	1,274.5	171	1,200.7
13	Alcohol-attributable hospital admission - females	720.5	155	672.0
14	Admission episodes for alcohol-attributable conditions (previously NI39)	1,544.7	155	1,482.6
15	Alcohol-related recorded crimes	7.6	217	6.2
16	Alcohol-related violent crimes	5.3	201	4.5
17	Alcohol-related sexual offences	0.1	37	0.1
18	Claimants of incapacity benefits - working age	147.0	276	59.8
19	Mortality from land transport accidents	1.4	129	1.6
20	Abstainers synthetic estimate	15.6	82	13.1
21	Lower Risk drinking (% of drinkers only) synthetic estimate	70.5	210	78.7
22	Increasing Risk drinking (% of drinkers only) synthetic estimate	24.1	262	16.8
23	Higher Risk drinking (% of drinkers only) synthetic estimate	5.4	98	4.6
24	Binge drinking (synthetic estimate)	21.2	216	18.2
25	Employees in bars - % of all employees	1.1	21	1.6

Footnotes

Definition

Alcohol-specific

Conditions that are wholly related to alcohol (e.g. alcoholic liver disease or alcohol overdose). A list of alcohol-specific conditions with their ICD-10 codes and associated attributable fractions can be found at: <http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/AlcoholAttributableFractions.pdf>

Alcohol-attributable

Alcohol-specific conditions plus conditions that are caused by alcohol in some, but not all, cases (e.g. stomach cancer and unintentional injury). For these latter conditions, different attributable fractions are used to determine the proportion related to alcohol for males and females. A list of alcohol-attributable conditions with their ICD-10 codes can be found at: <http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/AlcoholAttributableFractions.pdf>

a)

The actual indicator value for the local authority as calculated in the definitions below.

b)

The rank of the local indicator value among all 326 local authorities in England. A rank of 1 is the best local authority in England and a rank of 326 is the worst. For indicators 20 to 24, a rank of 1 is the highest and a rank of 326 is the lowest value, as the desirability of the value (what is better or worse) has not been determined.



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<http://www.cph.org.uk>

ID	Definition
1,2	Months of life lost- males/females - An estimate of the increase in life expectancy at birth that would be expected if all alcohol-attributable deaths among males/females aged under 75 years were prevented. (NWPHO from 2007-2009 England and Wales life expectancy tables for males and females [Government Actuary Department], alcohol-attributable deaths from Public Health Mortality File 2007-2009 in males/females aged under 75 and Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates for 2007-2009.
3,4	Alcohol-specific mortality- males/females - Deaths from alcohol-specific conditions (all ages, male/female), directly standardised rate per 100,000 population (standardised to the European Standard Population). (NWPHO from Office for National Statistics Public Health Mortality File for 2007-2009 and mid-year population estimates for 2007-2009). Numerator counts of less than 3 have been suppressed (indicated as *).
5,6	Mortality from chronic liver disease- males/females - Deaths from chronic liver disease including cirrhosis (ICD-10: K70, K73-K74) (all ages, male/female), directly standardised rate per 100,000 population (standardised to the European Standard Population). (Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators, National Centre for Health Outcomes Development 2007-2009 pooled).
7,8	Alcohol-attributable mortality - males/females - Deaths from alcohol-attributable conditions (all ages, male/female), directly standardised rate per 100,000 population (standardised to the European Standard Population). (NWPHO from Office for National Statistics Public Health Mortality File for 2009 and mid-year population estimates for 2009). Numerator counts of less than 3 have been suppressed (indicated as *).
9	Alcohol-specific hospital admission - under 18s - Persons admitted to hospital due to alcohol specific conditions (under 18s, persons), crude rate per 100,000 population. (NWPHO from Hospital Episodes Statistics 2007/08-2009/10 and Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates 2007-2009). Numerator counts of less than 6 have been suppressed (indicated as *). Does not include attendance at A&E.
10, 11	Alcohol-specific hospital admission - males/females - Persons admitted to hospital due to alcohol-specific conditions (all ages, male/female), directly standardised rate per 100,000 population. (NWPHO from Hospital Episodes Statistics 2009/10 and Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates 2009). Numerator counts of less than 6 have been suppressed (indicated as *). Does not include attendance at A&E.
12, 13	Alcohol-attributable hospital admission - males/females - Persons admitted to hospital due to alcohol-attributable conditions (all ages, male/female), directly standardised rate per 100,000 population. (NWPHO from Hospital Episodes Statistics 2009/10 and Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates 2009). Numerator counts of less than 6 have been suppressed (indicated as *). Does not include attendance at A&E.
14	Admission episodes for alcohol-attributable conditions (previously NI39) - Admission episodes for alcohol-attributable conditions (previously NI39): directly age and sex standardised rate per 100,000 population. (Department of Health using Hospital Episode Statistics 2009/10 and Office for National Statistics 2009 mid-year population estimates).
15, 16, 17	Alcohol-attributable recorded crimes - Alcohol-related recorded crimes, crude rate per 1,000 population. (NWPHO from Home Office recorded crime statistics 2010/11). Office for National Statistics 2009 mid year population were used. Attributable fractions for alcohol for each crime category were applied, based on survey data on arrestees who tested positive for alcohol by the Strategy Unit.
18	Claimants of incapacity benefits - working age - Claimants of Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance whose main medical reason is alcoholism, crude rate per 100,000 (working age, persons) population. (NWPHO from Department for Work and Pensions data Aug 2010 and Office for National Statistics 2009 mid-year population estimates). NB Important Note Supplied by DWP - To qualify for Incapacity Benefit, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a Personal Capability Assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to Incapacity Benefit. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming Incapacity Benefit on the basis of alcoholism would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the Personal Capability Assessment; or on the effects of any associated mental health problems. It is also important to note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.
19	Mortality from land transport accidents - Estimated number of deaths attributable to alcohol from land transport accidents (ICD-10: V01-V89) (all ages, persons) directly standardised rate per 100,000 population (standardised to the European Standard population). (NWPHO from Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators, National Centre for Health Outcomes Development 2007-09 pooled and Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates 2007-2009). The Strategy Unit's alcohol-attributable fraction was applied to obtain the estimates.



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<http://www.cph.org.uk>

ID	Definition
20	Abstainers synthetic estimate - Mid 2008 Synthetic estimate of the percentage within the total population aged 16 years and over who report in abstaining from drinking alcohol. Estimates were derived from a statistical model developed to estimate the percentage of abstainers, lower risk, increasing risk and high risk drinkers in local authority populations.
21	Lower Risk drinking (% of drinkers only) synthetic estimate - Mid 2008 Synthetic estimate of the percentage within the drinking population (not including abstainers) aged 16 years and over who report engaging in lower risk drinking, defined as consumption of less than 22 units of alcohol per week for males, and less than 15 units of alcohol per week for females. Estimates were derived from a statistical model developed to estimate the percentage of abstainers, lower risk, increasing risk and high risk drinkers in local authority populations.
22	Increasing Risk drinking (% of drinkers only) synthetic estimate - Mid 2008 Synthetic estimate of the percentage within the drinking population (not including abstainers) aged 16 years and over who report engaging in increasing risk drinking, defined as consumption of between 22 and 50 units of alcohol per week for males, and between 15 and 35 units of alcohol per week for females. Estimates were derived from a statistical model developed to estimate the percentage of abstainers, lower risk, increasing risk and high risk drinkers in local authority populations.
23	Higher Risk drinking (% of drinkers only) synthetic estimate - Mid 2008 Synthetic estimate of the percentage within the drinking population (not including abstainers) aged 16 years and over who report engaging in higher risk drinking, defined as more than 50 units of alcohol per week for males, and more than 35 units of alcohol per week for females. Estimates were derived from a statistical model developed to estimate the percentage of abstainers, lower risk, increasing risk and high risk drinkers in local authority populations.
24	Binge drinking (synthetic estimate) - Synthetic estimate of the proportion (%) of adults who consume at least twice the daily recommended amount of alcohol in a single drinking session (that is, 8 or more units for men and 6 or more units for women). Estimates originally produced for the Department of Health (2007-2008). Please see Health profiles for further information www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=P_HEALTH_PROFILES . Primary care organisation values were estimated as a population weighted average of component local authority values.
25	Employees in bars - % of all employees - The number of employees, employed in bars as a percentage of all employees. (Annual Business Inquiry 2009, National Statistics, from Nomis website: www.nomisweb.co.uk). Office for National Statistics single year of age mid 2009 population estimate for males aged between 16-64 years and females aged 16-60 years. A rank of 1 is the lowest local authority value in England and a rank of 326 is the highest. Values that are significantly lower than the England average have been highlighted green and values that are significantly higher have been highlighted red. The desirability of the value (what is better or worse) has not been determined.



North West Public Health Observatory

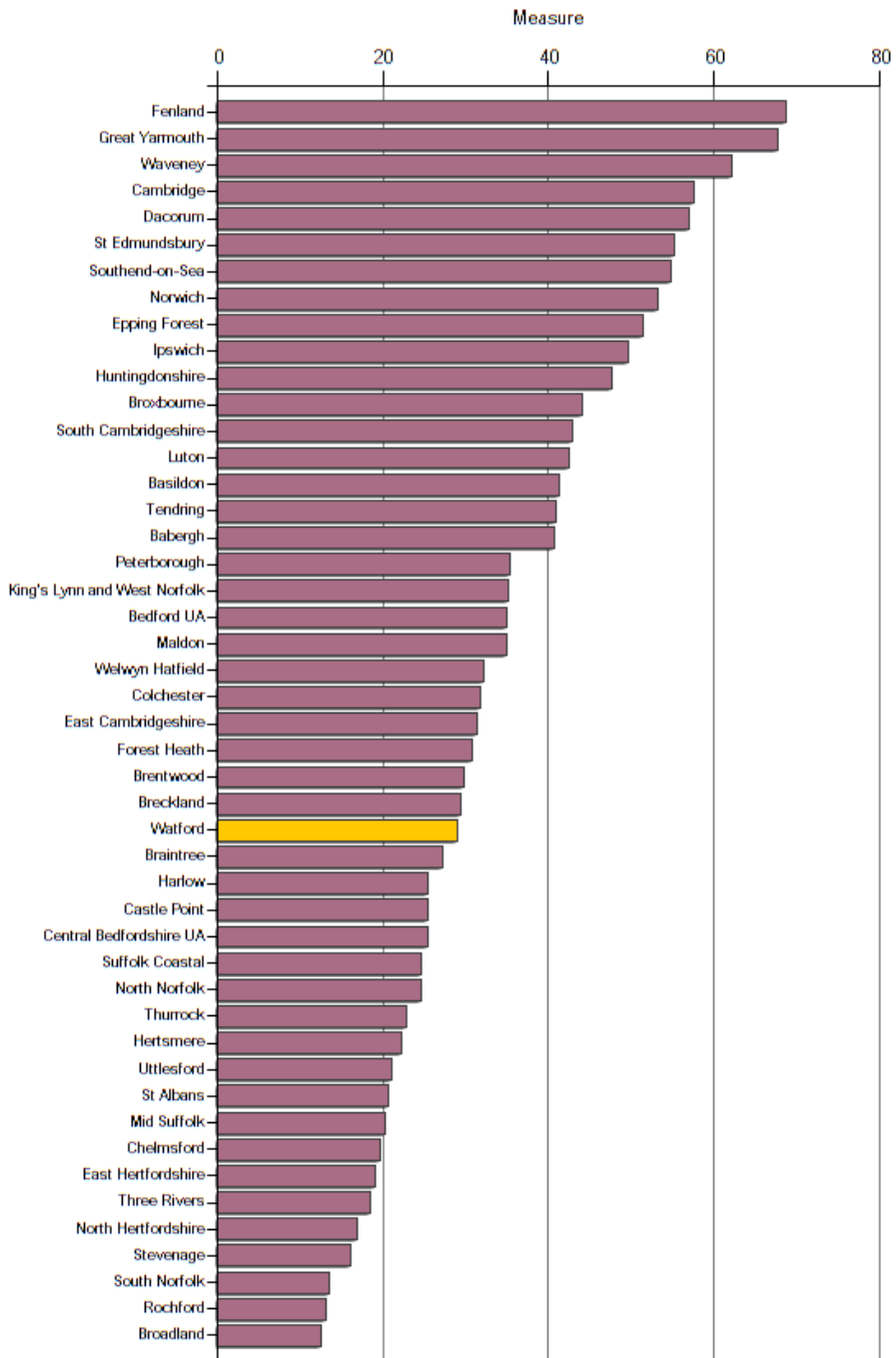
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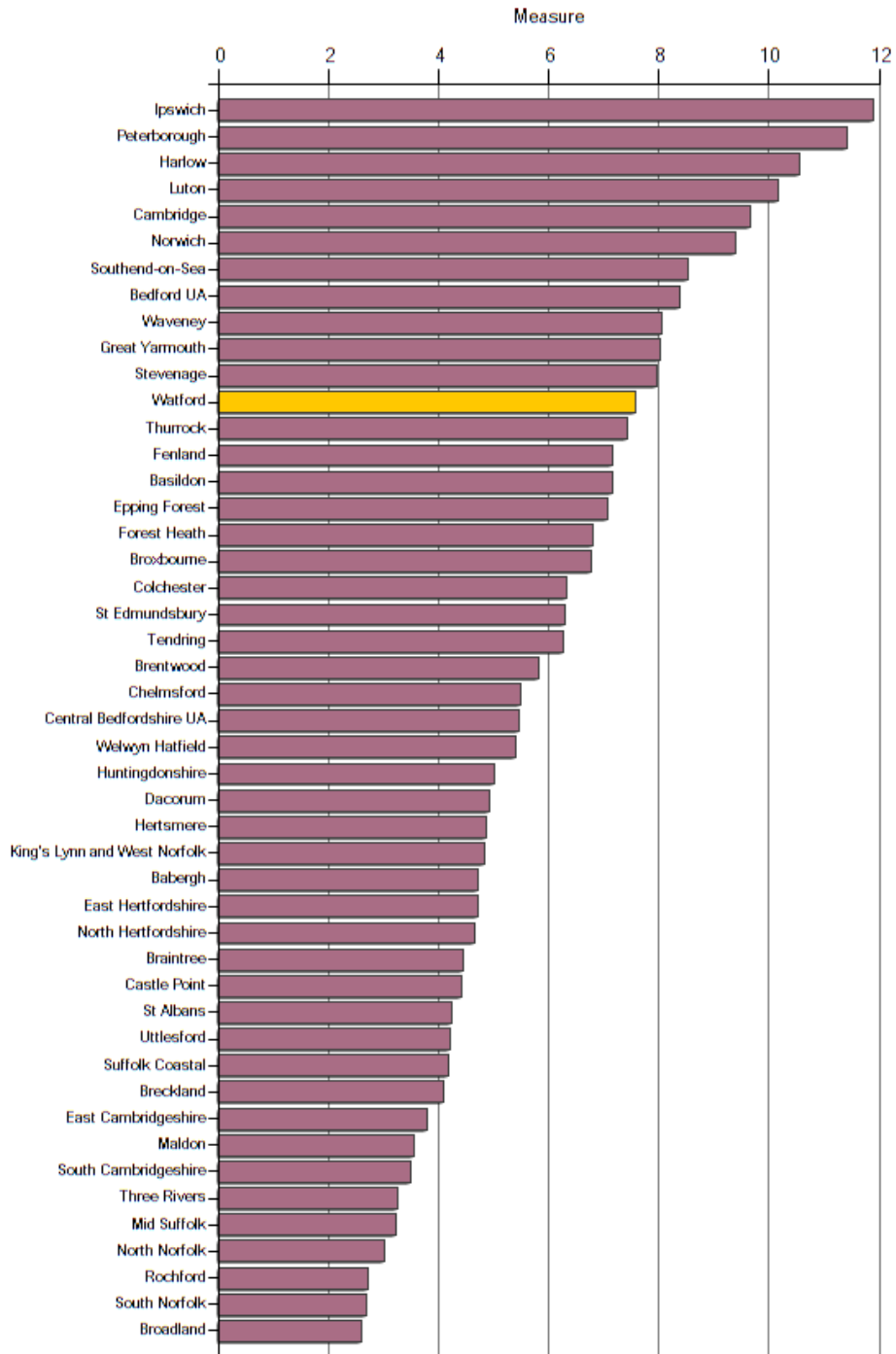
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Appendix 2

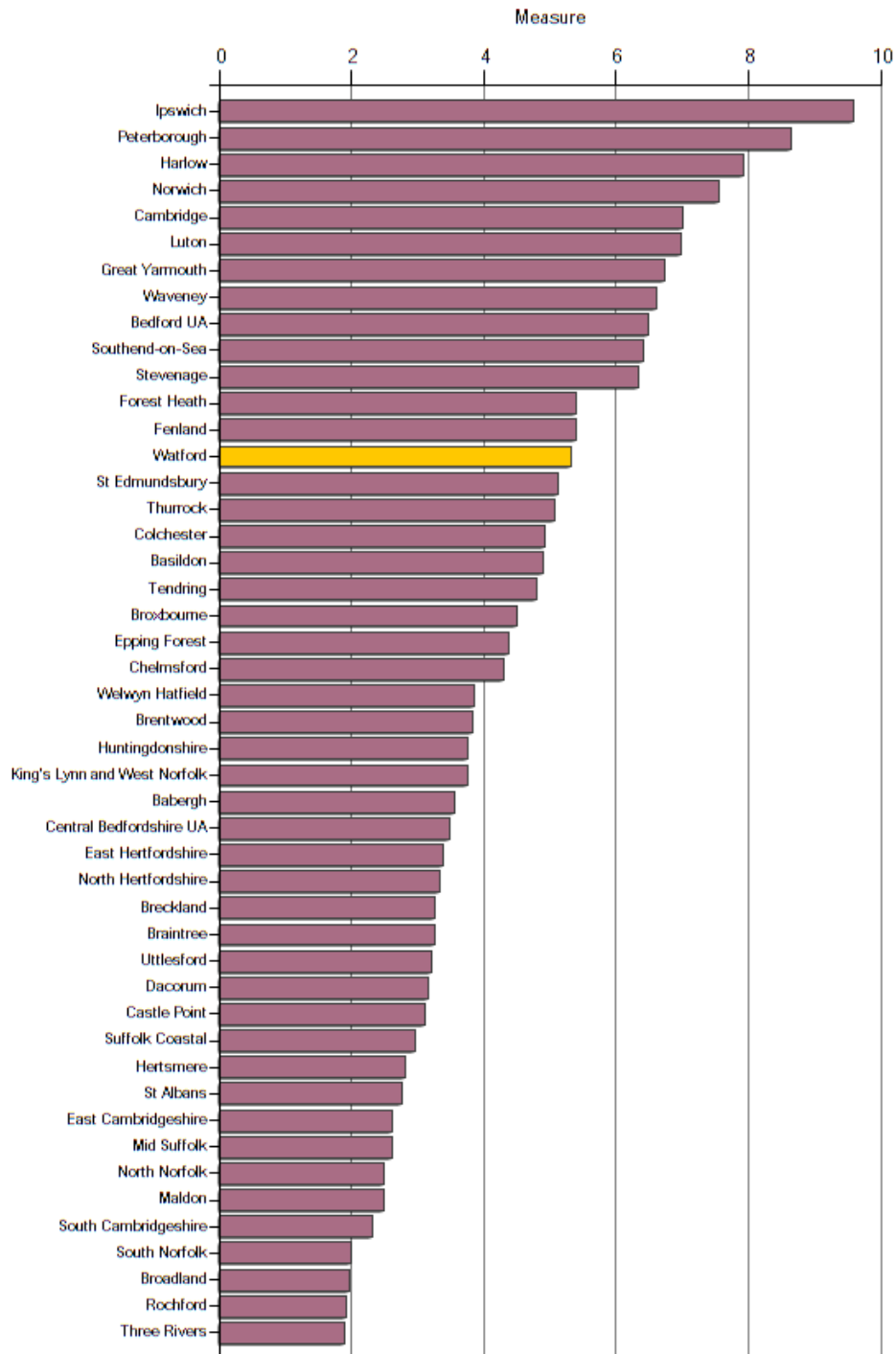
Alcohol-specific hospital admission - under 18s – Watford compared to other Easter region authorities 2011



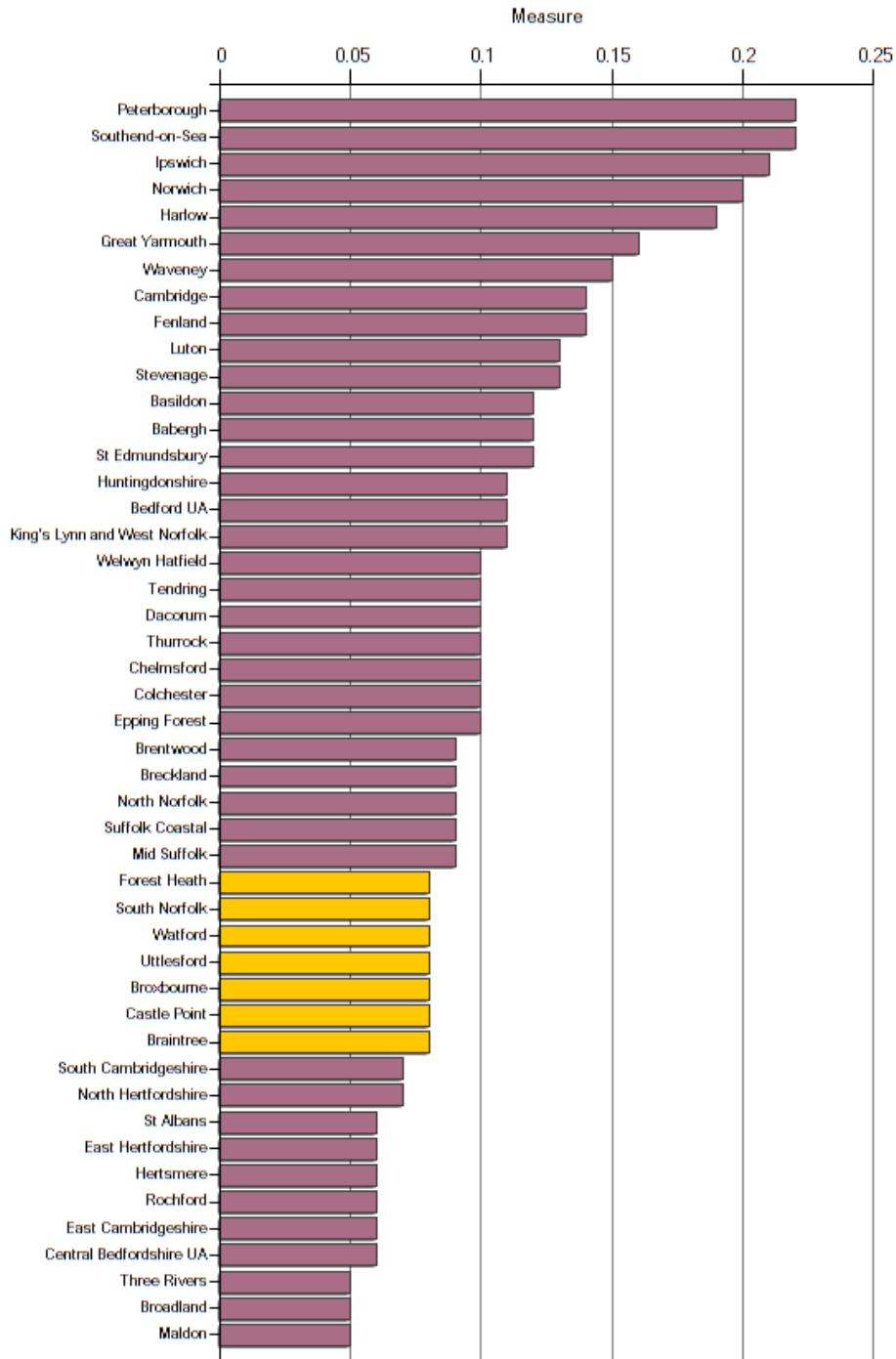
Alcohol-related recorded crimes – Watford compared to other Eastern region authorities 2011



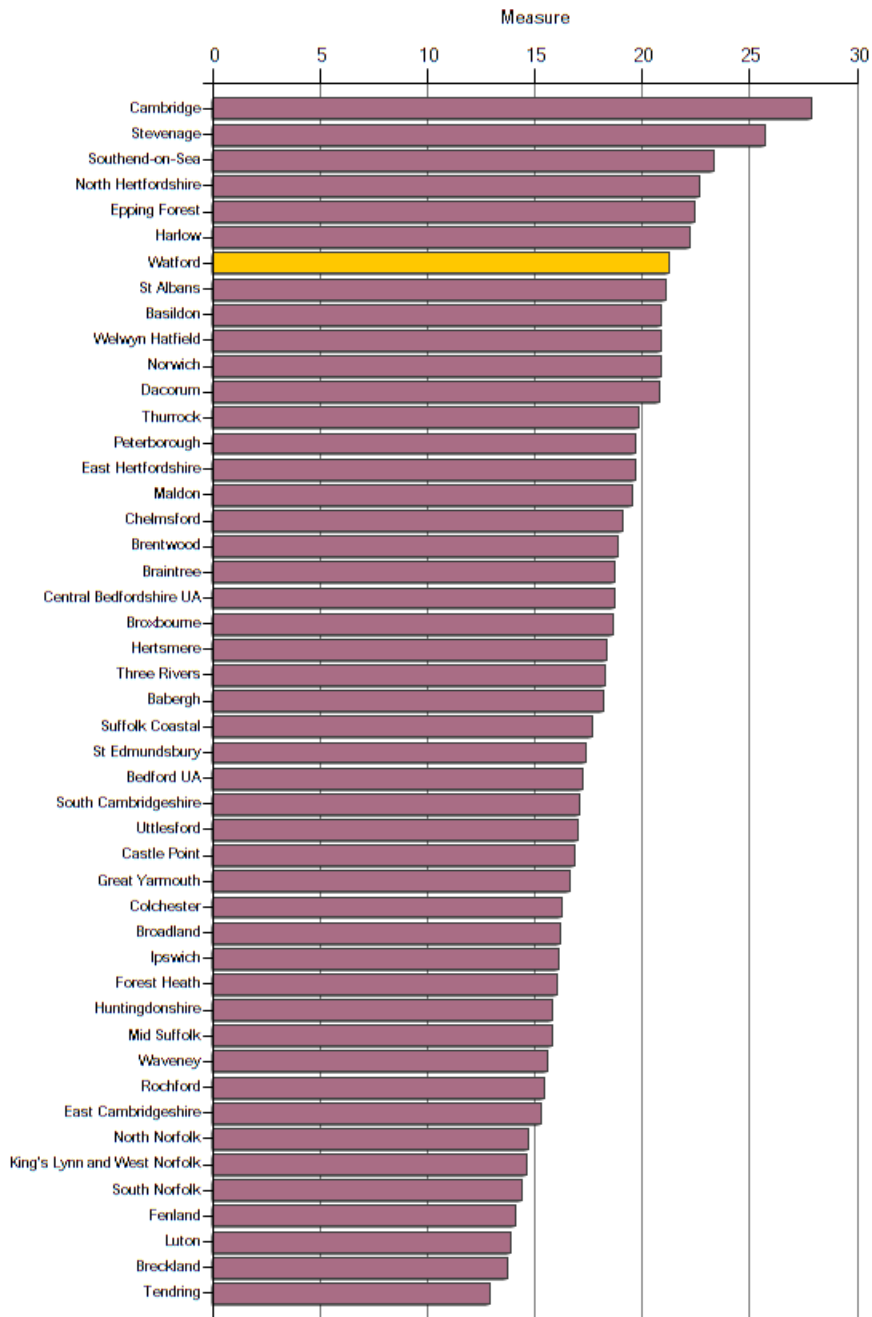
Alcohol-related violent crimes - Watford



Alcohol-related sexual offences – Watford compared to other Eastern region authorities



Binge drinking (synthetic estimate) – Watford compared to other Eastern region authorities



Source: North West Public Health Observatory 2010/11 figures updated December 2011 (www.lape.org.uk downloaded 13/12/11)

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LICENSING ACT 2003

Summary of principle amendments contained in the Policing Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

[NB: No commencement date has yet been announced for the 2011 Act]

	Amendment	Comment
1	The licensing authority itself becomes a responsible authority, able to make representations and apply for reviews in its own right.	This right is delegated to officers to exercise in the council constitution. It is suggested that when officers consider representations are appropriate and when officers consider it is appropriate to withdraw those representations, the Chair is notified on an advisory basis in advance.
2	Individual members of licensing authorities to no longer be interested parties.	Councillors will no longer be able to make representations unless they are fall within the definition of "other persons" living or working in the vicinity of the premises and who are likely to be affected by the application, unless they have been – as currently – been asked to make representations on a residents' behalf.
3	The Primary Care Trust becomes a responsible authority, able to make representations and apply for reviews.	Information leaflets and website pages will need to be amended accordingly; need to identify who in the PCT should receive copies of applications; need to check that PCT receive copies of applications.
3	Definition of "interested parties" deleted	"Any other person" will be able to make representations. This potentially increases the number of people who may representations about licence applications, with the possibility of more representations leading to more contested applications.
4	Notices of applications are to be advertised in a prescribed manner to bring it to the attention of "other persons" - persons who live, or are involved in a business, in the licensing authority area and who are likely to be affected by the application.	The current test of whether someone or not "lives or works in the vicinity of the premises" is usually determined by officers. Can continue with present neighbour letters but will need to amend information leaflets.
5	Regulations must require the licensing authority to advertise applications including reviews in a prescribed form to	This will increase officer costs and times in advertising the applications.

	bring it to the attention of persons who live, or are involved in a business, in the licensing authority area and who are likely to be affected by the application.	
6	The test for whether a decision is needed will be that is “appropriate” for the promotion of the licensing objectives, and not “necessary” as now.	“Necessity” suggests that there is a pressing requirement for a decision to be taken that furthers the objectives. “Appropriate” applies a lower threshold which may be harder to challenge on appeal. Will need to amend information leaflets.
7	EHOs will be able to object to temporary event notices	Officers will have to ensure EHOs are notified of (or have received copies of) TENs. Will have to amend information leaflets.
8	Objections to TENs may be made if they would undermine a licensing objective.	This is an extension from the current position where the police can only object if they feel the TEN would undermine the crime prevention objective. It may potentially increase EHO workload and the number of LSC hearings. Will have to amend information leaflets.
9	Counter notices where permitted levels exceeded for the number of TENs allowed in a calendar year must also be sent to EHOs	Slight increase in licensing officer work
10	A LSC may impose conditions on a TEN following a hearing where (a) it is appropriate to do so and (b) that those conditions are already included on a premises licence/club premises certificate for those premises and (c) it would not be inconsistent with carrying out the licensable activities under the TEN. For example, a licence condition to use door supervisors can be extended to include the period covered by the TEN.	May require more compliance checks to ensure conditions on TENs have been met. Will require slightly more time in preparing reports for LSC as the relationship between the TEN and the premises licence/club premises certificate will have to be included as well.
11	A separate statement of conditions applicable to the TEN must be given to the premises user, police and EHOs.	There will be a slight increase in officer time to produce these.

12	<p>There will be different routes to give a TEN:</p> <p>(a) electronically or in writing no later than 10 working days before the event begins or</p> <p>(b) electronically to the licensing authority, no earlier than 9 working days before the event and no later than 5 working days before the event begins (“a late TEN”) or</p> <p>(c) in writing to the licensing authority, police and EHO no later than five working days before the event begins and to at least one of those no earlier than nine working days before the event begins (“a late TEN”).</p>	<p>Late TENs are probably going to become the norm, which makes it easier for premises users but may put more pressure on officers. This will be quite complicated and information leaflets etc will need amending.</p>
13	<p>Officers must give a counter notice where an objection notice has been received from the police or EHO in respect of a late TEN.</p>	<p>This is likely to increase the workload on officers.</p>
14	<p>In addition to the current 50 standard TENs that a personal licence holder can give a year, and the five standard TENs a non-personal licence holder can give a year, they will also be able to give a further ten and two late TENs respectively.</p>	<p>This may lead to an increase in the number of TENs received.</p>
15	<p>TENs will be able to last for a maximum of 168 hours (1 week), rather than the existing 96 hours (4 days), and premises can be used for up to 21 days a year (rather than the existing 21 days).</p>	<p>Most TENs only apply for a few hours, so extending them to 168 hours is only likely to be of assistance at Christmas when premises may want to have a whole week of extended time.</p>
16	<p>The police and EHOs will have three working days in which to object to a TEN as opposed to the current two working days for the police.</p>	
17	<p>Fines for persistently selling alcohol to children will increase from £10,000 to £20,000.</p> <p>The period that offenders can be ordered to cease selling alcohol by a</p>	<p>It is well-documented nationally that courts do not give out anywhere near the current maximum penalties, and the closure notices are seldom used.</p>

	constable or trading standards officers in those circumstances is varied from a maximum 48 hours to a minimum of 48 hours and a maximum of 336 hours (14 days).	
18	<p>Where it is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, a licensing authority may make an early morning alcohol restriction order to prohibit the sale or supply of alcohol between midnight and 6 am as specified in the order.</p> <p>The order can specify the days, times, or parts of the authority's areas to which it applies, and may be on a temporary basis. They may be varied or revoked, and may contain exemptions in prescribed cases or circumstances.</p>	An order may not be made unless the proposal has first been duly advertised and representations considered in accordance with statutory regulations. There is a need for considerable public consultation before an order can be made.
19	Premises licences and club premises certificates must be suspended no less than two working days after the annual fee not being paid within 21 days of it being due. Receipts must be issued within two working days.	There will need to be compliance checks where the fee remains unpaid. Need to ensure the invoicing and income process is more efficient. There will be an increase in work in October – December when most fees will become due.
20	Subject to ministerial approval, the licensing authority will have the power to set certain fees on a cost-recovery basis. The costs may also include the costs of acting as other responsible authorities under the Act, eg planning authority.	
21.	Licensing policy statements can now be reviewed every five years instead of every three years, such period starting from a date of the licensing authority's choosing which must be stated within the policy statement. A five year period means subsequent periods ending 6 January 2016.	This will represent a saving in not having to review policies as frequently, providing the risk of ensuring policies are relevant and up-to-date is managed. The Act allows existing policies determined and published for the three year period starting 7 January 2011 to last for five years if the policy states it should last for five years.
22.	Further relevant offences have been added to those that may potentially disqualify people from holding personal licences:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - failing to co-operate with preliminary breath tests for drink-driving - attempting to commit any relevant offence - conspiracy to commit any relevant offence - common law offence of conspiracy to defraud. <p>Once the section is commenced, this applies to personal licences granted or renewed before, on or after that date, and to offences committed before, on or after the commencement date.</p>	
23.	The Secretary of State must carry out a review of the amending provisions contained in the Act, and set out the conclusions in a report to Parliament, as soon as reasonably practicable five years after all the amendments have been brought into force.	

NEW PROVISIONS INTRODUCED IN POLICING REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT 2011

1.	<p>Licensing authorities may decide that a late night levy is to apply in its area, after considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) policing and other costs for reducing or preventing alcohol-related crime and disorder between midnight and 6 am (b) and the desirability of raising revenue in accordance with regulation, of which not less than 70 per cent must be applied to the local policing body. 	
2.	The late night levy must apply to the whole of the licensing area, subject to any time restrictions of premises liable to pay for it; any “permitted exemption categories” (if any), and “permitted reduction categories” (if any).	
3.	The licensing authority may determine the time of day between midnight and 6 am during which the late-night levy may apply, which must be the same throughout a “payment year”.	“Payment years” in relation to premises licences and club premises certificates are to be determined in regulations. This may either be linked to the annual fees under ss55(2) and 92(2), LA03 or may be

		potentially be determined at the same time as the authority decides a levy is to apply within its area.
4.	The licensing authority may decide upon “applicable exemption categories” that apply in its area from the levy for the levy year.	This suggests licensing authorities can change the premises exempt from the levy from year to year. The applicable exemption categories will be set out in regulations for the licensing authority to decide whether any particular category applies in its area.
5.	The licensing authority may decide upon “applicable reduction categories” that apply in its area from the levy for the levy year.	The levy is the amount prescribed by, or the amount calculated in accordance with, regulations to be made. The applicable reduction categories will be set out in regulations for the licensing authority to decide whether any particular category applies in its area.
6.	Regulations will specify how payments are collected, administered and enforced, including times for payment. They may also set out how to deal with cases where relevant late-night premises cease or become liable to pay the levy during the payment year, including where an early morning alcohol restriction order has been implemented during that year.	This may inhibit licensing authority flexibility to organise its own affairs in the collection of the levy payments.
5.	Failure to pay the levy may be recovered as a civil debt and lead to suspension of the premises licence/club premises certificate under the new provisions dealing with non-payment of the annual fee.	
6.	Regulations will specify the relevant expenses that may be deducted in calculating the “net amount” of levy payments, may determine the amounts to be taken into account in calculating the net amount, and may determine the periods to which payments or deductions should be attributable. Not less than 70 per cent of the “net amount” must be paid to the local policing body and the remainder applied	

	in accordance with regulations. (Other regulations may amend the specified 70 per cent).	
7.	“Relevant expenses” to calculate the “net amount” means licensing authority administration expenses, particularly the costs of deciding whether to implement, end or amend the levy, and in collecting and enforcing levy payments.	Regulations will also specify the times at which payments are to be made by the licensing authority to the local policing body.
8.	Licensing authorities must publish before the beginning of the levy year a statement of its estimated permitted deductions, and after the end of the levy year a statement of the net amount.	Licensing authorities can decide how to publish those statements.
9.	The licensing authority may decide the date on which the levy is to start; the time period to which it applies; any permitted exemption or reduction categories; and the proportion of the net amount of levy payments to be paid to the relevant local policing body.	
10.	Decisions on the introduction, variation or revocation of a levy will be subject to regulations that in particular must require consultation with the local policing body and chief officer of police; holders of relevant late night authorisations; and other prescribed persons. Notices of such decisions must be published.	
11.	Regulations may also set out the matters of which the licensing authority must be satisfied before deciding that a levy is to apply in its area.	This suggests the link between alcohol and crime and disorder may not be the only consideration, or that crime and disorder has to trigger specific levels before a levy could be introduced.
12.	Late night authorisations may be varied before the start of the levy year without any fee, so as to exempt them from having to pay the levy.	Premises subject to a levy may amend their licence/certificate for free prior to the levy year coming into force. There is no guidance at this stage as to how far in advance such applications may be made, the cost to the licensing authority in the (unlikely) event of a contested application, and if the application seeks to take advantage of amending the licence (such as adding licensable activities to it) at the

		same time as reducing the hours to avoid the levy.
13.	The regulations listing “permitted exemption” and “permitted reduction” categories may relate to taking part in particular arrangements such as taking part in Pubwatch or Best Bar None schemes, or particular descriptions of premises, such as hotels or casinos.	There may be complexities around any individual premises that for example fall within the permitted reduction category
14.	Regulations must specify what the amount of reduction to be enjoyed by those in the permitted reduction categories, or how the reduced amount is to be calculated, which must be the same for all holders of late night authorisations in that category for a levy year.	
15.	The arrangements relating to levies apply to licensed premises on Crown land, and that owned by the Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster.	

Other amendments

1.	The power to designate an alcohol disorder zone under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 is repealed.	
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Jeffrey Leib
Watford Borough Council
September 2011