

SPECIAL ANGUS LICENSING BOARD – 20 JUNE 2023

PREMISES LICENCE REVIEW APPLICATION

REPORT BY CLERK TO THE BOARD

ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this report is to provide updated information and for the Board to consider and determine what Order, if any, requires to be made in the Premises Licence Review Application hearing under Section 36 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, (“the 2005 Act”).

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board continue the Premises Licence review hearing and consider all information including: -

- (i) the original correspondence sent on behalf of the Chief Constable dated 22 August 2022 applying for review of the premises licence as detailed in **Appendix 2**;
- (ii) the updated information from the Chief Constable dated 28 March 2023 as detailed in **Appendix 3**;
- (iii) any notice received from the Scottish Courts Service
- (iv) the original Licensing Standards Officer’s Report and recent Licensing Standard’s Officer Report as detailed in **Appendices 4 and 5**.
- (v) to determine, whether to:-
 - a. issue a written warning to the licenceholder;
 - b. make a variation of the licence;
 - c. suspend the licence for such period as the Board may determine; or
 - d. revoke the licence; or
 - e. take no further action
- (vi) determine, whether to make a finding that any personal licence holder who is, or who was, working in the licensed premises may have acted in a manner which was inconsistent with any of the licensing objectives and thereafter hold a hearing in order to consider further action against the Personal Licence Holder.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Clerk received a Premises Licence Review Application dated 22 August 2022 under Section 36 of the 2005 Act on behalf of the Chief Constable, Iain Livingstone, QPM, in respect of Buick Lounge, Arbroath which are premises licensed by Angus Licensing Board. **A copy of the Review Application shall be circulated to Board members prior to the meeting as detailed in Appendix 2.**
- 2.2 The Review application came before the Board on 15 September 2022. The Board determined that the application was not vexatious or frivolous, that a matter relevant to one of the grounds of review had been disclosed and determined to hold a Premises Licence Review Hearing in respect of the premises. The review application relates to allegations which were subject to ongoing court proceedings at that time and the Board agreed to defer further consideration until the Court had disposed of the case.
- 2.3 On 28 March 2023 an email was received from Police Scotland informing of the conclusion and outcome of the court proceedings **(which will be circulated to members prior to the meeting as detailed in Appendix 3).**

3. LEGAL

3.1 The grounds for review in terms of s36(3) of the 2005 Act are:-

(za) that, having regard to the licensing objectives, the licence holder is not a fit and proper person to be the holder of a premises licence, or

(a) that one or more of the conditions to which the premises licence is subject has been breached, or

(b) any other ground relevant to one or more of the licensing objectives which are:-

- i. preventing crime and disorder
- ii. securing public safety
- iii. preventing public nuisance
- iv. protecting and improving public health; and
- v. protecting children and young persons from harm

3.2 The Board should be aware that any grounds relevant to the Licensing objectives mean that there has to be a direct and material link thereto brought about through the sale of alcohol.

3.3 Having previously determined that the application is neither frivolous nor vexatious, nor does not disclose any matter relevant to any ground for review, the Board require to hold a hearing.

3.4 Where a review hearing is to be held, the Board, must, in the case of a premises licence review application, give notice of the hearing to:

- a. the applicant
- b. the licence holder, who must also receive a copy of the premises licence review application, and
- c. any Licensing Standards Officer for the area in which the premises concerned are situated.

3.5 Where the Licensing Standards Officer receives a copy of the premises review application the Officer must, before the review hearing, prepare and submit to the Board a report on the application, and the Board must take the report into account at the hearing.

3.6 The Board may, for the purposes of the review hearing, obtain further information from such persons, and in such manner, as the Board thinks fit, and take the information into account. In particular, the Board may request, the attendance at the review hearing of any person for the purpose of providing information, and the production at the review hearing by any person of any documents in that person's possession or under that person's control. The Board may take into account any information relevant to any ground for review even though it is not relevant to any circumstances alleged in the review proposal or application under consideration.

3.7 At a review hearing in relation to any premises licence, the Board may, if satisfied that a ground for review is established (whether or not on the basis of any circumstances alleged in the premises licence review application considered at the hearing) take certain steps as the Board considers necessary or appropriate for the purposes of any of the licensing objectives. Those steps are:-

- a. issue a written warning to the licence holder;
- b. make a variation of the licence for such period as the Board may determine;
- c. suspend the licence for such period as the Board may determine;
- d. revoke the licence.

If the Board are satisfied that the ground noted at Section 2.2 (za) is established (i.e the fit and proper person test), the Board must revoke the Licence.

3.8 On making a variation noted at 3.7. b. above, the Board may provide for the variation to apply only for such period as they may determine.

3.9 If, in the course of a review hearing in respect of any premises licence, the Board makes a finding that a person holding a personal licence, while working in the licensed premises to which the review hearing related may have acted in a manner which was inconsistent with

any of the licensing objectives, then it must hold a hearing in relation to that finding in respect of that person's personal licence. The requirement to hold a hearing only applies if the personal licence holder concerned is still working in licensed premises in this Board's area at the time of the finding, or if the personal licence was issued by this Board and the person is not working at licensed premises situated in the area of another Board.

- 3.10 If the Board believe that the person is no longer working in licensed premises in this Board's area, is working at licensed premises situated in the area of another Licensing Board, or is not known to be working in licensed premises, then the Board is required to give notice of their finding to the Licensing Board where the person is working or to the Licensing Board which issued the personal licence (as appropriate) together with a recommendation as to whether the personal licence held by the licence holder concerned should be revoked, suspended or endorsed.
- 3.11 The Board may therefore wish to ask appropriate questions to establish which personal licence holder/s may have been on duty when the incident which led to the application for a premises licence review was alleged to have occurred.
- 3.12 Where the Board has made a variation or suspended the licence, under 3.7 b. or 3.7 c. above respectively, the Board may, on the application of the licence holder, and, if satisfied that, by reason of a change of circumstances, the variation or suspension is no longer necessary, revoke the variation or suspension

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising out of this Report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

In dealing with the matters as set out in this report, the Board will have regard to any human rights issues in relation to the premises licence holder.

Members are advised that Article 1 of the First Protocol of the European Convention of Human Rights (i.e. protection of property) applies in relation to this Report. The licence holder is considered to be the owner of the licence and as such is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his/her possession. However, Angus Licensing Board may take such action as it deems necessary to control the use of the property in accordance with the general interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law. Article 14 requires non-discriminatory treatment of individuals in the enjoyment of their rights.

The legal basis for taking any action in connection with this Report is in terms of the 2005 Act.

Any actions considered by the Licensing Board must be proportionate, i.e. there should be as little intervention as possible to achieve the Board's desired aim. If the Board is minded to suspend the licence, members must first consider the Board's desired aim in imposing a period of suspension and must also consider an appropriate period of suspension taking into account the guidance on proportionality and must ensure that their decision does not discriminate against the licence holder.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

7. CONCLUSION

The Board is requested to review the premises licence and determine what steps, if any, they consider to be necessary for the purposes of the licensing objectives.

8. NOTIFICATION

The premises licence holder has been given a copy of the Premises Licence Review Application and copy of this report. Police Scotland have been given a copy of this report. The Licensing Standards Officer has been given a copy of the Premises Licence Review Application and copy of this report. All have been invited to attend the Board.

REPORT AUTHOR: Jennifer Burns, Solicitor

E-MAIL: LEGDEM@angus.gov.uk

NOTE: The background papers (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report