



Coventry City Council

Licensing Act 2003

Briefing Note 3 – Hearing to Consider a Premises Licence Variation Application

Background

The holder of a premises licence can apply to vary the terms of that licence. A variation application cannot be used to extend the life of a time-limited premises licence or to substantially alter the premises covered by the licence. A new premises licence application would be required to achieve this involving a fresh "Operating Schedule" and plan.

A hearing is required because "relevant representations" (i.e. relevant to the licensing objectives) have been made by a "responsible authority" (i.e. police, fire or local government agencies) or any other person or both.

Section 182 Guidance (Mar 2015)

Particular reference should be made to Parts 8.66f, 9 and 10.

Local Statement of Licensing Policy (Jan 2011)

Particular reference should be made to Parts 4, 5, 6, 7

Human Rights Act

The hearing procedure and the availability of a statutory right of appeal comply with the Article 6 requirement to provide a fair hearing when determining the applicant's and objectors' civil rights. A decision to vary a licence will only be regarded as infringing the Article 8 rights of local residents/businesses if any noise/disturbance likely to be caused is of an extreme nature. Given the police powers to close premises in these circumstances this is unlikely to be an issue at application stage.

The Sub-committee's powers

Having heard from the applicant and the other parties the sub-committee may:

- (a) grant the application; or
- (b) grant the application in part or with additional or modified conditions; or
- (c) reject the application outright

Different conditions can be made to apply to different areas of the premises or to different licensable activities taking place on the premises.

Rights of Appeal

An aggrieved applicant can appeal to Coventry Magistrates' Court against any decision made by the sub-committee that falls within (b) and (c) above. An aggrieved objector can also appeal against the grant of an application (i.e. (a) and (b) above).

Monitoring/Enforcement

If an application is approved, monitoring and enforcement of Premises Licence conditions will be carried out in accordance with the Licensing Enforcement Policy.