

Is there a need for improved access to licensing data?

The availability of good quality data has been associated with successes in addressing the objectives of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005¹ - enabling local issues to be identified and trends monitored over time. However, on the whole, national and local data relevant to licensing is not being collected consistently or in a manner which allows for meaningful comparisons. For example, capacity data is not currently being collected in a standardised way,² which can make assessments of overprovision more difficult. In addition, data collected at local and national level is not always readily accessible to potential users, or presented in the most suitable way for the data to be used effectively.

What is Inn Keeper?

Inn Keeper is an IT software solution for recording liquor and civic licensing issues, which combines administrative licensing data with information on alcohol-related crime and disorder or issues. It allows the Police to receive licensing applications from local authorities electronically, to process these directly onto Inn Keeper and make the necessary enquiries, and then reply with the Police response, with any letters of objection, representation or other correspondence attached. It can also be used to record information and track premises, people and activities related to liquor and civic licensing. Data is input by Police staff at a local level, but can be viewed nationally and broken down by locality.

What types of information does Inn Keeper contain?

All information related to licensed premises is recorded on the software. Examples of the types of information it contains include:

- Numbers of licensed premises (also including data about occasional licenses)
- Operating schedules and layout plans
- Details of breaches of licensing conditions
- Information regarding anti-social behaviour related to alcohol
- Details of any inspections to licensed premises by police
- Details about premises including capacity

Who might find this information useful?

The police already share data from Inn Keeper with key stakeholders as part of the licensing process e.g. when providing comment to licensing boards on individual licensing applications. However, some of the data contained on Inn Keeper could be useful to other individuals and agencies involved in licensing, whether directly commenting on applications or contributing to the development of licensing policy more broadly. This could include:

¹ An evaluation of the implementation of, and compliance with, the objectives of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005: Final Report May 2013, NHS Health Scotland

² An evaluation of the implementation of, and compliance with, the objectives of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005: Final Report May 2013, NHS Health Scotland

- **Local Licensing Forums** which keep under review the operation of the Act by the Licensing Board in their area.
- **Licensing Standards Officers** who provide guidance, ensure compliance, and mediate on licensing matters.
- **Community Safety Partnerships** which work to reduce anti-social behaviour and fear of crime and to promote safer, more inclusive and healthier communities.
- **Community Planning Partnerships** which co-ordinate public services for a particular area.
- **Alcohol and Drug Partnerships** which are responsible for drawing-up joint strategies for tackling alcohol and drug use in their communities.
- **Community Health Partnerships** which develop local community health services.
- **Community Councils** which represent the community to the local authority.
- **Academics and researchers** who evaluate alcohol related policy and practice.

Questions for stakeholders

Based on the information above, AFS is asking the following questions:

- 1) What types of information, if any, would you wish to access from Inn Keeper?
- 2) For what purposes and in which ways would you use this information?
- 3) Are there any other stakeholders you think may benefit from access to the information contained on Inn Keeper?

Please email your response to aidan.collins@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk by **Friday 7th October 2016**

We will collate all responses we receive and provide this information to Police Scotland for their consideration.