

**NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council**

**Joint Director of Public Health**



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Date 19.10.2018

Your Ref

Our Ref TP/SMP

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Dear Chair

**Application to Scottish Borders Licensing Board**

**Application for a variation of Premises Licence, for County Hotel, Peebles**

I am writing to you in my role as Joint Director of Public Health and chief advisor on public health matters to both NHS Borders and Scottish Borders Council with regards to the above application for variation of Premises Licence, received on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 by NHS Borders.

I am writing to make observations that should be considered prior to the granting of the above licence on the basis that this is contrary to the Licensing Objective of *Protecting Children From Harm*.

**Access for Children & Young People**

It is noted that this premises is requesting a variation to their operating plan which would enable access for children and young people to all public areas before 8pm.

Within the Board Policy it states:

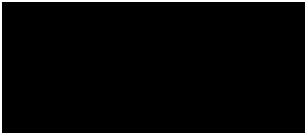
*The Board expects that children and young person's will normally only be admitted to licensed premises for the purpose of consuming light refreshments or a meal, partaking in a relevant sporting activity or attending a pre-arranged function or event*

If approved this variation would allow access to the premises for a child (0-17yrs) from 11.00am – 8.00pm whilst the accompanying adult drank alcohol only (without the prerequisite of having a light refreshment of a meal).

Exposure to alcohol and witnessing adult drinking can influence our children's future drinking habits. Our children and young people have the right to grow up in an environment where communities are safe, thriving and are able to grow up safe from alcohol-related harm.

I would recommend that amendments are made to the application within section 6b to ensure clarity of terms of access for the purpose of consuming light refreshments or a meal, unless attending a pre-arranged function.

Yours sincerely



Dr Tim Patterson  
Interim Joint Director of Public Health  
Scottish Borders Council/NHS Borders