



Date: 26th October, 2018
Our Ref: MB/LMcG

Legal and Licensing Services
Regulatory Services
Council Headquarters
Newtown St Boswells
Melrose
TD6 0SA

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 Independent Chair of the Child Protection Committee with regards to the above application for variation of Premises Licence.

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 persons 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

**MICHAEL BATTY
INDEPENDENT CHAIR
SCOTTISH BORDERS CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**