

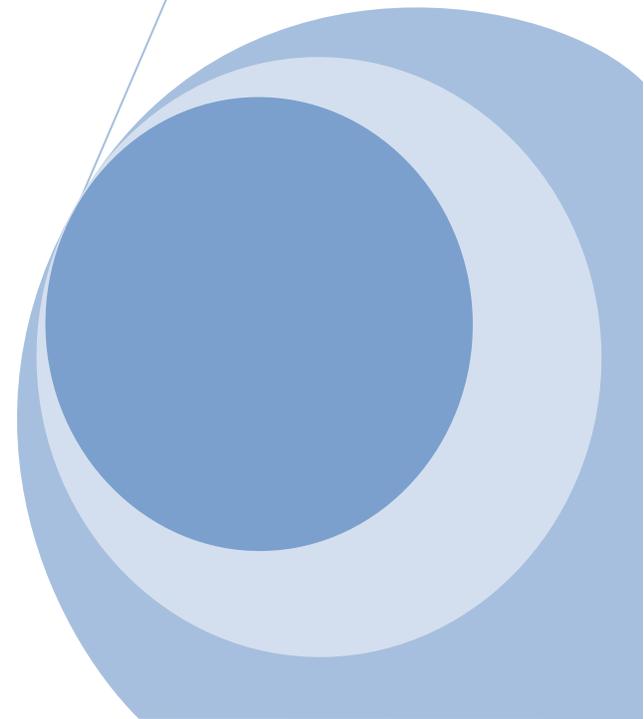
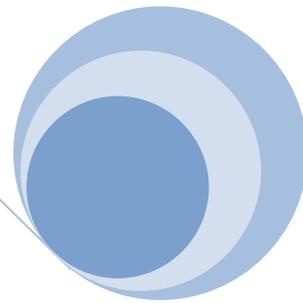


# Scottish Borders Licensing Forum

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## Annual Report 2018 – 19 - 20

December 2020



## **Introduction**

Over the previous two years, the forum has continued to be active and carry out the function of the Scottish Borders Local Licensing Forum: October 2018-October 2020.

Membership has changed over the period with several new members being recruited. The Police Scotland representative has changed to P.C. Sharon Lackenby on her appointment as the areas Licensing Officer and Mark Hay was appointed as convener in January 2019 and has remained in that role to date.

Ongoing support has continued via Alcohol Focus Scotland throughout 2016 which the Forum would like to acknowledge.

## **Overview of activity:**

### **Licensing Board Attendance**

Forum members have continued to struggle to attend regular Licensing Board meetings however the Licensing Board minutes continue as a standing item at Forum meetings which allows discussion on decisions made.

### **Continuous Professional Development**

The forum is kept up to date on national and local developments and this year has received inputs on :

Underage Drinking Don't Buy it, Don't Supply It – This campaign continued from the previous year and was again supported by the Licensing Standards Officer who updated the Forum on activities around the usual major events in the Scottish Borders.

Best Bar None Scotland – Safer Communities, Scottish Borders Council. This national voluntary accredited award scheme was again successfully supported in the area with a record number of awards gained.

Equalities Training – (Joint CPD session with Licensing Board members.) – Simone Doyle, Equalities and diversity officer, Scottish Borders Council.

'Alcohol Byelaws' - Ron Kirk, Scottish Borders Council. Mr. Kirk gave a presentation on the proposed introduction of alcohol byelaws and the required consultation process to be followed. (Members of the forum were encouraged to participate in the consultation process with members attending the public meetings and presentations.

### **National Update and Learning and Development Needs**

Aiden Collins, Alcohol Focus Scotland was welcomed to a meeting in October 2019. He gave a worthwhile presentation on Licensing Developments with the three main

subjects being, The Boards Annual Functions Report, New Policy Statements and, work to update Licensing Act guidance.

### **Occasional Licence Fee – Consultation**

The Scottish Government consultation on reviewing the fee for occasional licences along with limiting numbers and duration was considered by the Forum. The views of the forum were submitted as a response to the Consultation. The general view of the Forum was that the current £10 fee was inadequate and a fee of £50 was more appropriate, it was not felt that numbers of applications should be limited.

### **Alcohol Profile**

The annual Alcohol Profile was again updated and remains a useful tool for the Board to use in their decision making particularly with reference to the requirement to consider Overprovision.

The Profile is referenced within Alcohol Focus Scotland's Toolkit as good practice.

### **General**

Obviously the normal functions of the Forum and the Licensing Board have been somewhat restricted since the last joint meeting, firstly due to the General Election and then the Pandemic and its resulting lock down and associated restrictions, we hopefully can now look forward to getting back to something like normal in the coming year and to continued working together in the interest of all in the Scottish Borders.