



**Address for Correspondence**

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Date 07/06/2022

Your Ref

Our Ref TP/SMP

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Legal and Licensing Services  
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Dear Chair

**Application for Occasional Licence: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Volunteer Hall, Duns, Berwickshire, TD11 3AF**

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 grant of Occasional Licence.

I am writing to object to the granting of the above license on the basis that this is contrary to the Licensing Objective of *Protecting Children and Young People From Harm*.

**Protecting Children From Harm**

It is noted that this application is proposing to sell and supply alcohol at a film showing within the Volunteer Hall, Duns on 15<sup>th</sup> July between 1700hrs till 1915hrs. The film likely to be screened is the Walt Disney animated film Encanto (or similar) and is targeted at a child audience with an anticipated 50 children and 10 young people attending.

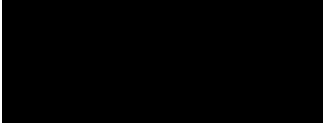
As per the Scottish Borders Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy 2018 - 2023, the Licensing Board would expect an organisation considering applying, to take into account whether or not it is appropriate to have the sale of alcohol forming part of an event, particularly child centred events. My observations are that this event is child centred and therefore does not require the sale of alcohol.

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. We should be creating communities where alcohol is not required as part of a family fun event. I would hope the Licensing

Board use the powers available to improve our community's relationship with alcohol and implement its Licensing Policy in this regard.

I would ask the Licensing Board to consider this evidence prior to any decision being made.

Yours sincerely



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