

# Wellington District Licensing Committee Annual Report

For the year 2019-2020

Our responses to the questions posed by the Alcohol Regulatory Licensing Authority are as follows:

**1. Name of the District Licensing Committee:**

Wellington District Licensing Committee

**2. Name, email and contact number of the Committee's Secretary:**

Gwen Mans

[Gwen.mans@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Gwen.mans@wcc.govt.nz)

021 418 636

**3. Name of each licensing inspector, their email and contact phone number:**

Kay Sedcole Chief licensing inspector	<a href="mailto:Kay.sedcole@wcc.govt.nz">Kay.sedcole@wcc.govt.nz</a>	021 247 9732
Joanne Burt	<a href="mailto:Joanne.burt@wcc.govt.nz">Joanne.burt@wcc.govt.nz</a>	021 227 8272
Philma Whelan	<a href="mailto:Phil.whelan@wcc.govt.nz">Phil.whelan@wcc.govt.nz</a>	027 334 6616
Karen Binnie	<a href="mailto:Karen.binnie@wcc.govt.nz">Karen.binnie@wcc.govt.nz</a>	027 803 0032
Nick Wright	<a href="mailto:Nick.wright@wcc.govt.nz">Nick.wright@wcc.govt.nz</a>	021 227 8036
Lewis Howells	<a href="mailto:Lewis.howells@wcc.govt.nz">Lewis.howells@wcc.govt.nz</a>	021 227 8304

**4. The following data relates to the number of licences and managers certificates issued and refused by the Wellington District Licensing Committee in the 2019-2020 financial year:**

*Note: the 2019-2020 financial year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020*

**Licenses 2019-2020**

**Number of on-licences issued by the Committee:**

65

**Number of applications for on-licences refused by the Committee:**

0

**Number of off-licences issued by the Committee:**

16

**Number of applications for off-licences refused by the Committee:**

1

**Number of club licences issued by the Committee:**

2

**Number of applications for club licences refused by the Committee:**

0

**Managers certificates 2019-2020**

**Number of managers certificates issued by the Committee:**

587

**Number of applications for managers certificates refused by the Committee:**

1

**Number of manager certificate applications that were withdrawn:**

3

**Licence renewals 2019-2020**

**Number of licence renewals issued by the Committee:**

190

**Number of applications for licence renewals refused by the Committee:**

1

**5. Commentary on any changes or trends in the Committee's workload in 2019-2020:**

There have been no significant changes in the DLC workload when compared to previous years

**6. Commentary on any new initiatives the Committee has developed /adopted in 2019-2020:**

When this Report was presented to Council there was some discussion around Council's concern about the expense and expertise needed for communities to be involved in the alcohol licensing process.

DLC Chairs have been working on developing best practice to ensure that public objectors are treated in a consistent way. The Secretary to the DLC has been collaborating with a representative from the Health Promotion Agency who are funding a project to make public participation in alcohol licence applications more transparent and less intimidating. This has been via a review of information on Wellington City Council's website and determining the best way to inform the public when a licence application has been submitted.

## **7. Local Alcohol Policy:**

Wellington City Council does not have a local alcohol policy

## **8. Commentary on the manner in which COVID-19 has impacted on DLC operations:**

- During the lockdown period we were unable to hold any hearings
- We saw a drop off in the number of specials being processed as events were cancelled
- We noticed an increase in off licence applications as premises sought alternative ways to keep their business afloat (through online delivery options)
- Due to the pandemic response legislation a backlog of applications were unable to be processed, as the reporting times for the police and the Medical Officer of Health were extended.

## **9. Commentary on the ways in which the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 is achieving it's object:**

*The object of the Act is that:*

- a) The sale, supply and consumption of alcohol should be undertaken safely and responsibly; and*
- b) The harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol should be minimised.*

The Act is achieving its objective through enabling community participation in the licensing application process. We have observed a growing increase in the number of public objections to applications. This has resulted in a small number of

applications being refused but can also be observed through licences being granted with lesser licensing hours or through the applicant negotiating with objectors to reach licensing conditions that are agreeable to both sides.

**10. Commentary on the whether the achievement of the object of the Act may have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic:**

During the COVID-19 lockdown period there was some ambiguity over a few issues which would have benefited from national guidance and would have avoided a great deal of misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the Act. One of these issues was whether on-licence holders could be permitted to deliver alcohol alongside food deliveries