

Questions and Answers

Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Council

29 September 2022

2.1 District Licensing Committee Annual Report 2021-2022

Could we have a graph to show trends over 10 years to show trends particularly growth in on and off licensing growth and locations?

We do not keep historical data on growth of on and off licences in certain areas. With the exception of a couple of years, territorial authorities have been asked by the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority (ARLA) to report on total number of licences in force, by type. See below:

year	On-licences in force	Off-licences in force
2021-22	523	120
2020 -21	508	127
2019 -20	Total no of licences in force not reported	
2018- 19	Total no of licences in force not reported	
2017-18	451	112
2016-17	507	112
2015-16	490	119
2014-15	486	142
2013-14	491	149
2012-13	NB: Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act came into effect on 18/12/2013 - no reporting requirements to ARLA before then	

Is there growth in on and off licensing in certain locations?

We do not capture that data. Anecdotally we have not observed growth in particular areas

Are there caps on off licenses?

No, there are no actual caps on licences granted for any particular area.

How many re issues are bars and restaurants vs new bars restaurants? How many closures were there?

In this reporting year we issued 42 new on licences and renewed 127 on licences. We recorded 126 businesses with alcohol licences as 'no longer operating'

Is the suggestion of Community Law a possibility and can we point people to this on the website?

We have worked with Community Law in the past to improve the information for members of the public wishing to object to an alcohol licence. We can add some commentary on our website about what Community Law can do to help someone wanting to object to an alcohol licence

I am finding this report difficult to understand in regard to benchmarking. Can we review this in the future to supply more trend data over time?

This report is a direct response to questions posed by ARLA. If Council wishes, we can supply additional data in future Council reports regarding observed trends.

Are there any caps on the number of off licenses in any one area? How is this monitored and reported?

There are no caps on any type of licence in any particular area.

2.3 Annual Report on Income received from costs and incurred in alcohol licensing

What is the average turnaround time and expectancy of Duty manager certificates?

When a duty manager certificate is first granted, it lasts for one year. After that the renewal period is every three years. The average turnaround time for a duty manager certificate application is quite variable. However, if there are no issues with an application we would expect to turn it around in 6-ten weeks.

How much of an improvement is this on the normal turnaround time?

Duty manager certificates take less time to process because there is not the legislative requirement to notify the public of the application (as is the case for on, off and club licences) This notification period is 15 days.

Have we refused any Duty Manager certificates? If so, how many?

No – we have not declined any applications for manager's certificates this year

Do we have a personal relationship process with the intention of working with the hospitality industry to make it easier to support them?

Yes – we do work with hospitality on an ad hoc basis to discuss ongoing issues and potential solutions. We have also attended training sessions organised by the police regarding duty manager training. We have ongoing dialogue with representatives from Hospitality NZ

What processes do we have in place to continue and improve service and build relationships?

We are implementing a quality management system to provide more structure and consistency to the alcohol licensing process. We now also track all ongoing application using Microsoft 365 Planner as a workflow tool. We are also reviewing key roles within the alcohol licensing team with the aim of placing a more strategic and customer focussed element to those roles.

2.4 Development Contributions Remission Request for 4 Oxford Terrace

Will the council be providing any further maintenance support for any of the operations of the building i.e. 24 hour bathrooms etc.?

The operation of Whakamaru and all the facilities it will provide to the community will be the responsibility of the Wellington City Mission. WCM will meet all ongoing costs of the building and its services and there will be no funding required from WCC.

Could we see the preliminary Impact Lab report?

The Impact Lab report is still being finalised and is not available for distribution.

They have advised that for the three services valued to date (Transitional Housing, Ta te Manawa, Social Supermarket) the Social Return on Investment (SROI) has been calculated at \$2.45 for every \$1 invested. These services will all be part of Whakamaru.

In addition, they are working with Impact Lab to understand the SROI of the new café facility at Whakamaru. The unique nature of this activity means that Impact Lab's existing costing algorithms don't sufficiently capture the social benefits of the café.

Is the Whakamaru project eligible to apply for funding from other grant pools? Which grants would it be eligible for, when is the next application date for that fund, and how much is available in that fund? In particular, is the Whakamaru project eligible to apply to the new sustainable and accessible building grant fund?

The grants team have confirmed that there are no grants that the development would be able to apply for. We can also confirm that the development would not qualify for the sustainable and accessible building grant.

Can I get some advice on two things touched on in the paper the provision or officer opinion on what is "one of a kind" or "New" Developments.

Under the Policy something can be considered in exceptional circumstances. As there is no guide on what can pass as an exceptional circumstance, Council Officers referred to previous remissions granted by Council. The precedent is that exceptional can be unique in nature. We believe this development has a unique combination of services for the homeless community, as far as we are aware there is no other facility offering this combination of services under one roof. It is not necessarily the individual components of the development, but the combination of them in one development, that makes it unique and thus potentially exceptional.

Some Cllrs would say this is the appropriate way for WCC to support the Dev - what would you say to this?

Council Officers note that it is not the purpose of the remission process under the DC Policy to provide development support. As such a grant would be an appropriate way to support this development. However, there is no existing grants that the applicant could apply for which only leaves the development contributions remission process.

2.6 End of Triennium Report

Regarding the Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Joint Committee (WRWMMPJC), will new positions need to be reset in the new triennium?

Correct – after the election on 8 October 2022, the territorial authorities that are members of the WRWMMPJC will need to appoint new members to the Joint Committee for the 2022-2025 triennium. Current members Cr Steve Taylor (Upper Hutt City Council), Cr Pam Colenso (South Wairarapa District Council) and Cr Frazer Mailman (Masterton District Council) are not standing for re-election (though Cr Taylor is standing for Greater Wellington Regional Council).

Councillors will be appointed to the WRWMMPJC by their respective territorial authority at their first ordinary Council meeting, and at the first meeting of the WRWMMPJC in the new triennium, appointed members will elect a Chair and Deputy Chair for the Joint Committee.

Can we please get additional information about how the delegation to the Chief Executive would affect the handling of any post balance date events between now and the adoption of the audited annual report.

Any significant or material post balance date events will be monitored up until the Financial Statements are adopted on 15 December 2022. Any additional events that require reporting will be discussed with Audit NZ for their significance and impact. An update of any additional post balance date events will be provided at the Council meeting on 15 December 2022.

2.7 Actions Tracking

Foon: Aho Tini 2030 Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy and Action Plan clause 7: Agree officers to report back to Committee by March 2022 on how better access to Council venues and community facilities can be achieved for the local arts and creative community groups and audiences. The review should include whether the venues and community facilities subsidies are equitable across the city and are the most appropriate mechanism of support and whether other models could better support the local community, arts and creative sectors; and local audiences.

Can we please have more of a detailed update on this work please? Including an update on the timeline of when this work will be completed and made public? When will this work be brought back to the Council?

Action is being taken by officers on several fronts to increase access to rehearsal, development and performance spaces for many art forms and cultural groups.

Reopening the Hannah Playhouse

Council has formed a partnership with the Hannah Playhouse Trust to reopen the Hannah Playhouse. The building will operate as a specialist development laboratory and performance space and will welcome actors, directors, choreographers, dancers, musicians, composers, literary performers as well as the City's arts organisations. The Trust will forgo annual rent, provide technical infrastructure and undertake upgrades to restore flexibility to the performance space over the three-year programme. Council will run this as a pilot programme for an initial three years, and will contribute \$200,000 per annum to employ a manager, cover operating costs and keep hireage rates affordable.

Those using the Hannah will pay hireage fees based on a sliding scale to assist access for independent and local artists. We have been interviewing for a manager and will be announcing the successful candidate shortly. At the moment we are busy bringing the theatre back to operating standard, and there is a “soft launch” this side of Christmas with the Hannah open for business from January. The re-opening plan has been very well received by the sector.

Creative Spaces brokering

Officers have created a specialist position within Creative Capital to match requests from the sector to properties owned or leased by the Council across the region. Several groups have been shepherded into halls and spaces for temporary rehearsal periods including dance groups into Newtown Pipe Band Hall, or the use of Martin Luckie Park, by Barbarian Productions for a summer project. Last week we announced that Disabled artists group Silver Noodle Soup has an agreement to access the Newtown National Hockey stadium over the summer period. More work is needed to ensure the needs of the sector are systematically understood by wider council staff and custodians for longer term access. A second stage new service offering is under development.

Venues review

This work has now been expanded to include work required for the LTP as well as the access question. The scope and terms of reference will be going through Procurement in the next week or so. The review and subsequent framework is intended to provide advice and options on how to develop operating models that promote access and meet the creative, community and cultural needs of our creative sector and their audiences. It will include examination of operating models from other cities here and in Australia. The scope has been developed with Economic Wellbeing, Creative Capital and WellingtonNZ.

Venue subsidy scheme

This fund subsidises hireage rates (for creative and community sector groups) charged at WellingtonNZ-operated civic venues. As at 13 September, Council has allocated \$87,488 of \$243,000 of this year’s fund. Last year’s fund was underspent, but it was an unusual year due to COVID and significantly depressed levels of activity.

Te Whaea Precinct

Officers are working across Council to start some preliminary investigation into potential options to enhance the Te Whaea site as a performing arts precinct, again to increase access.

Toi Pōneke 2.0

Early research and engagement work is underway to evaluate and prepare residents for a new arts hub that will meet the needs of manawhenua and more people in the arts sector. This is planned to align with the ending of the lease in June 2025.