

Wellington District Licensing Committee Annual Report to the Alcohol Regulatory Licensing Authority for the period 1st July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Questions:

1. Please provide the name of your District Licensing Committee, and a generic email address to which general correspondence will be certain of a response.

Wellington District Licensing Committee: secretarydlc@wcc.govt.nz

2. Please provide the name, email, and contact phone number of your Committee's Secretary.

Gwen Mans : gwen.mans@wcc.govt.nz tel: 021 418 636

3. Please name each of your licensing inspectors and provide their email and contact phone number.

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4. The following questions relate to the number of licences and managers' certificates your Committee issued and refused in the 2021-2022 financial year.

Note: the 2021-2022 financial year runs from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Licences 2021-2022

4A: In the 2021-2022 year, how many total Applications did your committee grant for New 'on licences' and to renew existing 'on licences'?

169

4B: In the 2021-2022 year, how many total Applications did your committee refuse for New 'on licences' and to renew existing 'on licences'?

0

4C: In the 2021-2022 year, how many total Applications did your committee grant for New 'off licences' and to renew existing 'off licences'?

45

4D: In the 2021-2022 year, how many total Applications did your committee refuse for New 'off licences' and to renew existing 'off licences'?

0

4E: In the 2021-2022 year, how many total Applications did your committee grant for New 'club licences' and to renew existing 'club licences'

24

4F: In the 2021-2022 year, how many total Applications did your committee refuse for New 'club licences' and to renew existing 'club licences'

0

Managers' certificates 2021-2022

4G: In the 2021-2022 year, how many managers' certificates did your Committee issue?

941

4H: In the 2021-2022 year, how many applications for managers' certificates did your Committee refuse?

0

4I: In the 2021-2022 year, how many applications for managers' certificates were withdrawn?

70

Renewals 2021-2022

4J: In the 2021-2022 year, how many licence renewals did your Committee issue?

175

4K: In the 2021-2022 year, how many licence renewals did your Committee refuse?

0

4L: In the 2021-2022 year, how many managers' certificate renewals did your committee issue?

484

4M: In the 2021-2022 year, how many managers' certificate renewals did your committee refuse?

0

4N: As at 30 June 2022 what is the total number of On-Licences (new and existing) in your licensing district?

523

4O: As at 30 June 2022 what is the total number of Off-Licences (new and existing) in your licensing district?

120

4P: As at 30 June 2022 what is the total number of Club-Licences (new and existing) in your licensing district?

51

5. Please comment on any changes or trends in the Committee's workload in 2021-2022.

- The workload was impacted, with a lower number of applications and an interrupted workflow. Significant drop in large special events, lots of events being cancelled and an increase in

postponement requests. Special licence applications for both small and large events, now appear to be returning to pre-pandemic levels.

- The ability to hear opposed applications has been impacted by Covid. Long delays with getting parties, mainly reporting agencies to agree to dates to appear at hearings.
- Covid appears to have further drained the resources of the reporting agencies whose reports, where relevant, provide valuable information on the effects of alcohol on the amenity and good order in the community. In some cases, this may have affected the weight of material information before a DLC and ultimately its decision to grant or refuse a licence.
- The number of new manager certificates issued for people holding working visas has significantly reduced.

6. Please comment on any new initiatives the Committee has developed/adopted in 2021-2022.

- Like many other jurisdictions, the Committee is developing the ability to hold online hearings to address the Covid issues. This has been in instances where parties have had to isolate at short notice and has avoided the need to adjourn a fixture. Several hearings have proceeded where several of the parties have been unable to attend and were provided with the alternative of attending the hearing virtually when they cannot attend the hearing.
- Some manager interviews are now being held remotely.
- Consideration given to Committee deliberations for contested applications being held remotely.
- Virtual hearings have the potential to increase community participation in applications by allowing objectors to join hearings. Overall, however the Committee favours hearing a matter in person.

7A. Has your Committee developed a Local Alcohol Policy?

No

7B. If the answer is yes, what stage is your Local Alcohol Policy at?

N/A

8. If the answer to **7** is Yes, what effect do you consider your Local Alcohol Policy is having?

N/A

9. If the answer to **7A** is 'in force', is your Local Alcohol Policy due for review?

N/A

10. If the answer to **9** is Yes, has such a review been undertaken; and, if so with what result?

N/A

11. Please comment on the manner in which Covid-19 has impacted on DLC operations.

- Covid has delayed the setting down of hearings and processing applications. The Medical Officer of Health has been unable to report to a large number of applications in a timely manner.
- There has been an increase in applications for waivers (for late applications) with timeframes being missed due to Covid related reasons.

12. Please comment on the ways in which you believe the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 is, or is not, achieving its object. Note: the object of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 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.

- No specific comments. Refer to earlier observations from previous years.

13. To what extent, if any, do you consider that achievement of the object of the Act may have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic?

- Alcohol consumption may have dropped overall at licensed premises due to many late-night premises, especially night clubs, either not opening or just not attracting the same number of clientele, particularly when there was only table service allowed.
- Reporting Agencies have redeployed resources to deal with the pandemic elsewhere and the focus in the interim has moved away from alcohol-related harm issues. Inner Wellington has changed as a large number of motels etc are being used for short term housing solutions.
- Licensing Inspectors have not been able to carry out the same levels of site monitoring pre Covid.
- Remote sales for off-licence sales have increased during lockdowns and have continued.

14. What changes or trends in licensing have you seen since the Act came into force?

- Change in amounts of alcohol being sold remotely

15. What changes to practices and procedures under the Act would you find beneficial?

- Greater need for certified managers to ensure compliance with the Act for remote licences. Consider making it compulsory for a Duty Manager to be on duty when a remote seller of alcohol is selling alcohol or introducing some tighter rules about checking ID when remote sales of alcohol are delivered.
- Changes to enhance better community participation: Although the 2012 Act signalled a "new community orientated approach" as characterised by the caselaw, there remains barriers to meaningful community participation. A lack of ability or resources to work through the objection process seems to be some of the issue. This was illustrated in a recent off-licence application which had been objected to by two members of the community, based on alcohol-related harm. However, both objectors failed to give evidence or attend the hearing, due to either being busy with their own affairs or an incorrect expectation that the agencies would cover the position for them. Assistance from Community Law, who seem to have become aware of the hearing in the last stages of the process, was offered but this was not taken

up. Some assistance through Community Law services from the very early stages of an application might be useful.