

LICENSING ACT 2003: MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION

SCRUTINY COUNCIL INITIATIVE: PROGRESS REPORT: 1 APRIL 06

1. Background

DCMS officials and Scrutiny Councils (SCs) held further meetings in February and March 06 to discuss emerging issues identified in the first progress report, as well as other issues of interest to each SC and their responsible authorities.

2. Plenary meeting

2.1 On 16 March 06 a plenary meeting was held at DCMS attended by DCMS officials, representatives of all ten SCs, the Local Government Association, Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS), the Home Office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

2.2 DCMS officials provided updates on the progress of the SC initiative, review of Guidance and the review of fees by Sir Les Elton's independent fees review panel. A brief outline was also given of linked work streams across Government.

2.3 The plenary then divided into smaller groups to discuss in greater depth five topic areas. These were:

- advertising arrangements;
- Temporary Event Notices (TENs);
- licence application forms;
- key messages and best practice in managing night time economies
- data collection

3. Feedback

3.1 SCs said that they had found the meeting very useful and particularly appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues with other licensing authorities that have had different experiences. The general feeling was that the SC initiative was a very good example of central and local government working together in partnership.

3.2 The initiative is producing good qualitative and quantitative data which is informing the review of Guidance and the Department's wider monitoring and evaluation of the Act. It is also feeding into the cross-Government alcohol strategy group.

3.3 DCMS officials reported to the group that Ministers were encouraged by SCs positive engagement during the initiative and valued their input on a range of issues.

4. Future work

4.1. It was agreed that plenary meetings such as this were very valuable for all involved to allow a better understanding of implementation and the issues arising out of it across all SCs.

4.2 It was also felt that smaller group meetings of three or four SCs located in the same geographical area would be a useful opportunity for in-depth consideration of topics and exchange of views.

4.3 It was agreed that DCMS would arrange a final plenary meeting for all SCs in June and explore the possibility of regional meetings.

Scrutiny Council Headline Data at 1 March 2006

	Birming Ham (at 1 Feb)	Black pool	Brighton & Hove	Bristol (at 1 Feb)	Cardiff	Havering	Manchester	Newcastle	Nottingham	Taunton Deane
Premises licences	2705	1670	1208	1457	1067	567	1739	988	1335	377
Club premises certificates	Included above	42	50	124	82	35	82	91	53	32
Personal licences	2166	1914	1823	1639	1227	482	1268	925	1161	514
Hearings held	113	111	191	-	296 (inc where agreement reached prior to hearing)	104	334	96	80	23
Appeals completed	14	2	7	0	22	-	27	3	-	2
Closure orders	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Complete reviews	0	0	2	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
TENS given	161	94	180	112	265	194	337	215	-	75