

The Clerk to the Justices,  
The Clerk to the Magistrates' Courts Committee,  
The Chief Officer of Police in England and Wales,  
The Chief Executive of:  
County and County Borough Councils in Wales  
    London Borough Councils  
    Metropolitan District Councils  
    District Councils  
The Town Clerk of the City of London,

16 October 2001

Dear Sir or Madam,

**DCMS LICENSING CIRCULAR NO: 01/2001**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND POLICE ACT 2001**

**Section 17 – Police Power to Close Disorderly and Noisy On-Licensed Premises**

I am writing to draw your attention to the provisions of sections 17 and 18 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, which are expected to be brought into force by commencement order on 1 December 2001. These provisions will introduce a new power for the police in England and Wales to close premises which have an on-licence to sell alcohol, for up to 24 hours, because of disorder or unreasonable disturbance to local residents. **The text of the Act can be read or downloaded from the HMSO web-site ([www.hmso.gov.uk](http://www.hmso.gov.uk)).**

2. Attached, as an addendum to this circular, is a guidance note for the police service. This includes detailed guidance which is aimed at assisting police officers to interpret and implement the rules and procedures contained in sections 17 and 18 of the Act.
3. Please note that responsibility for licensing law was transferred from the Home Office to the DCMS with effect from 8 June.
4. Any enquiries about this circular should be addressed to Naim Siddiqui at the above address, or by telephoning 0207 211 6351 (fax 0207 211 6319).

Yours faithfully

Naim Siddiqui



