

Licensing Sub-Committee Hearings

This guide details the procedure for Licensing Sub-Committee hearings under the Licensing Act 2003. Whilst this will be used in most cases, the procedure will be altered in exceptional circumstances and when for example Personal Licences, Temporary Event Notices and Reviews are considered.

A Licensing Sub-Committee will be held if:

- The applicant has applied for a Premises Licence, Provisional Statement, Club Premises Certificate or expressed their intention to vary their existing licence/certificate and has advertised this in a local newspaper and displayed a distinctive blue notice at the premises, following which representations have been made by a Responsible Authority or Other Person/s.
- A Review has been requested by a Responsible Authority or Other Person/s and the Review has been advertised by displaying a distinctive blue notice at the premises and also at the Council's office and website.
- An application is made to transfer a Premises Licence or for interim authority and the Police have issued an objection
- The applicant has made a Personal Licence application and the Police have objected to the Licence being granted.
- A Temporary Event Notice has been given and the Police and/or those in the Council that exercise environmental health functions have issued an objection.

Prior to your item being heard:

- The Licensing team upon receiving representations will form a view as to whether the representations are irrelevant, frivolous, vexatious or for review applications; repetitious.
- The Licensing team would have provided written notice to all parties in advance of the hearing and would have responded to any request relating to personal details being removed from the agenda.
- If you do not believe this to have happened, please contact the Licensing Service on 020 8356 4970 or email licensing@hackney.gov.uk as soon as possible. For further information on the application process, please see the guidance notes at www.hackney.gov.uk/licensing.

Making decisions on the items being heard:

Hearings will normally be held in public unless the Sub-Committee believe it not to be in the public interest to do so. Although the Chair will try to make the proceedings as informal as possible, these hearings are of a quasi-judicial nature, and the rules of natural justice shall apply.

Only those Responsible Authorities and Other Persons who have made a relevant representation in writing at the consultation stage **can register to speak at a subsequent hearing**. Applicants, Other Persons and Responsible Authorities will all be given a fair opportunity to put their case and the Sub-Committee will take these representations into account when making their decision. The Sub-Committee may still make a decision on any matter even if any party fails to attend the hearing. However, in these circumstances, it will only be that party's written representation that may be taken into account.

For new applications relating to Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates, Members can grant with additional conditions attached to the licence, exclude any licensable activities, refuse a Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) if appropriate or reject the application.

Members when making decisions on variation applications regarding a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate, can modify (add, delete or amend) conditions on the licence or reject the application in whole or part. Members will be considering the request for a variation and the impact that this may have. Therefore, representations should be focused on the impact of the variation, although concerns relating to the existing terms of the licence may be relevant in considering the track record of the applicant. However, Members may consider other issues which relate to the promotion of the licensing objectives, although only if it is reasonable and proportionate to do so.

For Provisional Statements, Members can consider any steps that are necessary having regard to the representations made in order to ensure the licensing objectives are not undermined.

Members when deciding a Review application can modify (add, delete or amend) the conditions of the licence, exclude any licensable activities, remove a DPS if appropriate, suspend the licence/certificate for up to 3 months or revoke the licence/certificate completely.

For transfer of Premises Licences, interim authority requests and Personal Licence applications Members can only refuse or grant the application.

Members when deciding on an objection made against a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) will determine whether or not to issue a Counter Notice, which if issued will prevent the proposed event from proceeding. If a TEN has been given for a premises that already has a licence/certificate, Members may impose any of those conditions from the existing licence/certificate to the TEN.

Before the meeting starts:

The Sub-Committee Members are requested to report for business no more than half an hour before the meeting starts to deal with any administrative/procedural issues. This will allow Members to consider;

- the appointment for any substitutes if required
- the appointment of the chair
- any procedural issues

- obtain the list of attendees
- late documents delivered prior to the meeting and to ensure all the paperwork is in order

The Sub-Committee will not be considering any of the actual points raised within the Report itself and no Responsible Authority or Other Person/s shall be present when the Sub-Committee deals with the above issues.

Attending the hearing that concerns you:

All Applicants, Other Persons and Responsible Authorities involved will be informed in writing of the date and time that their application will be considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee. Please contact the Licensing Service on 020 8356 4970 or email licensing@hackney.gov.uk to confirm whether you wish to attend and/or register to speak at the Sub-Committee hearing or if you wish for someone else to speak on your behalf. If you are unable to attend, the application may be heard in your absence.

All parties should arrive promptly at the outset of the scheduled meeting regardless of when the item is listed to be heard on the agenda.

Please contact the Licensing Service for advice within 4 working days from the date on the notice letter if any of the following apply;

- you have special requirements to help make your representation, because of a disability or you need a translator for example
- you wish to supply additional [documentary] information such as photographs and videos/DVDs

Please note that if you wish to provide additional relevant information, this should be given at least **5 working days** before the hearing. Any additional information provided once the hearing has started will only be accepted if all parties agree. Please note that the use of videos/DVDs is at the Sub-Committee's discretion – requests to show these should be made in advance to the Committee Officer.

Timings

In most cases the application will last no longer than 1 hour, and the times to be allocated to each section are shown on the relevant hearing procedure. If you think that your evidence is likely to exceed this time period, please let the Licensing Service know **within 4 working days of the date on the notice letter** and the Sub-Committee will be advised. If your request is agreed, all parties will also be granted the same extension of time.

Rights of Press and Public to Report on Meetings

Where a meeting of the Council and its committees are open to the public, the press and public are welcome to report on meetings of the Council and its committees, through any audio, visual

or written methods and may use digital and social media providing they do not disturb the conduct of the meeting and providing that the person reporting or providing the commentary is present at the meeting.

Those wishing to film, photograph or audio record a meeting are asked to notify the Council's Monitoring Officer by noon on the day of the meeting, if possible, or any time prior to the start of the meeting or notify the Chair at the start of the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer, or the Chair of the meeting, may designate a set area from which all recording must take place at a meeting.

The Council will endeavour to provide reasonable space and seating to view, hear and record the meeting. If those intending to record a meeting require any other reasonable facilities, notice should be given to the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting and will only be provided if practicable to do so.

The Chair shall have discretion to regulate the behaviour of all those present recording a meeting in the interests of the efficient conduct of the meeting. Anyone acting in a disruptive manner may be required by the Chair to cease recording or may be excluded from the meeting. Disruptive behaviour may include: moving from any designated recording area; causing excessive noise; intrusive lighting; interrupting the meeting; or filming members of the public who have asked not to be filmed.

All those visually recording a meeting are requested to only focus on recording councillors, officers and the public who are directly involved in the conduct of the meeting. The Chair of the meeting will ask any members of the public present if they have objections to being visually recorded. Those visually recording a meeting are asked to respect the wishes of those who do not wish to be filmed or photographed. Failure by someone recording a meeting to respect the wishes of those who do not wish to be filmed and photographed may result in the Chair instructing them to cease recording or in their exclusion from the meeting.

If a meeting passes a motion to exclude the press and public then in order to consider confidential or exempt information, all recording must cease and all recording equipment must be removed from the meeting room. The press and public are not permitted to use any means which might enable them to see or hear the proceedings whilst they are excluded from a meeting and confidential or exempt information is under consideration.

Providing oral commentary during a meeting is not permitted.

Lobbying of Councillors

If a person or an organisation wants to make a representation to the Licensing Sub-Committee, they must **NOT** contact Sub-Committee Members directly. Licensing Sub-Committee Members have to retain an open mind on any application and determine it on its merits. Members can not be in anyway biased towards a party. Therefore, if a Member of the Sub-Committee has had any prior involvement they must ensure that they come to the hearing with an open mind.

Local ward councillors may be able to speak on behalf of objectors if requested to do so, provided that if they have a disclosable pecuniary interest they leave the meeting room when the application is being considered unless they have been granted dispensation.

Reports

Agendas and Reports for Licensing Sub-Committees are published on the Council's website (www.hackney.gov.uk) 5 working days before the hearing takes place. Copies are also available by contacting Governance Services on 0208 356 3578 or email governance@hackney.gov.uk. Copies of applications together with the details of any objections will be included in the report.

Appeals

Applicants or any party to the hearing can appeal against the decision made by the Sub-Committee. The appeal to the Thames Magistrates Court must be made within 21 days of the decision being sent formally in writing. However, TEN's have the added restriction that no appeals can be made later than 5 working days before the event is scheduled to take place.

Withdrawal of an Item or Cancellation of a Hearing

An item may be withdrawn from the agenda of a Licensing Sub-Committee meeting at short notice due to the withdrawal or resolution of the representations or objections to an application or notice. A hearing by the Licensing Sub-Committee may therefore be cancelled at short notice if there are no substantive items remaining on the agenda.

As much advance notice as is practicable of the withdrawal of an item on the agenda or cancellation of a meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee will be provided on the Council's website but please note that this might be as little as a few hours before the hearing if the applicant chooses to leave it that late to satisfactorily address any representation or objection giving rise to the need for a hearing.

Facilities

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in the Assembly Halls, rooms 101, 102 & 103 and the Council Chamber. Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

Contacts

If you have a query about Licensing Sub-Committee procedures and protocols then please contact Governance Services –

Governance Services
2nd Floor Room 118
Hackney Town Hall
Mare Street E8 1EA
Telephone: 020 8356 1266
Email: governance@hackney.gov.uk

If your query relates to general licensing matters or to specific applications then you are advised to speak to the Licensing Service. They can be contacted at:

Licensing Service
Hackney Service Centre
1 Hillman Street London
E8 1DY

Telephone: 020 8356 4970
Fax: 020 8356 4974 E-mail: licensing@hackney.gov.uk

Relevant Extracts from Hackney's Statement of Licensing Policy

Please find below relevant extracts from the Statement of Licensing Policy 2018.

LP1 General Principles

The Council expects applicants to demonstrate:

- (a) That they have an understanding of the nature of the locality in which the premises are located and that this has been taken into consideration whilst preparing the operating schedule.
- (b) Where the application is for evening and night-time activity, that the proposal reflects the Council's aspiration to diversify the offer, whilst at the same time promoting the licensing objectives.

LP2 Licensing Objectives

Prevention of Crime and Disorder Whether the proposal includes satisfactory measures to mitigate any risk of the proposed operation making an unacceptable contribution to levels of crime and disorder in the locality.

Public Safety

Whether the necessary and satisfactory risk assessments have been undertaken, the management procedures put in place and the relevant certification produced to demonstrate that the public will be kept safe both within and in close proximity to the premises.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

Whether the applicant has addressed the potential for nuisance arising from the characteristics and style of the proposed activity and identified the appropriate steps to reduce the risk of public nuisance occurring.

Protection of Children from Harm

Whether the applicant has identified and addressed any risks with the aim of

protecting children from harm when on the premises or in close proximity to the premises.

LP3 Core Hours

Hours for licensable activity will generally be authorised, subject to demonstrating LP 1 and LP2, as follows:

- Monday to Thursday 08:00 to 23:00
- Friday and Saturday 08:00 to 00:00
- Sunday 10:00 to 22:30

Hours may be more restrictive dependent on the character of the area and if the individual circumstances require it.

Later hours may be considered where the applicant has identified any risk that may undermine the promotion of the licensing objectives and has put in place robust measures to mitigate those risks. *It should be noted that this policy does not apply to those who are making an application within a special policy area (see section 3) unless they have been able to demonstrate that the proposed activity or operation of the premises will not add to the cumulative impact that is already being experienced.*

LP4 Off' Sales of Alcohol

Hours for the supply of alcohol will generally be restricted to between 08:00 and 23:00.

LP5 Planning Status

Licence applications should normally be from premises where:

- (a) The activity to be authorised by the licence is a lawful planning use or is a deemed permitted development pursuant to the General Permitted Development Order (1995) as amended.
- (b) The hours sought do not exceed those authorised by any planning permission.

The Licensing Authority may take into account the lack of planning permission or an established lawful use in deciding whether there is likely to be any harm to the licensing objectives.

LP6 External Areas and Outdoor Events

The Licensing Authority will normally restrict external areas and outdoor activity to

between 08:00 and 22:00 unless the applicant can demonstrate that comprehensive control measures have been implemented that ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives, in particular the public nuisance objective. Notwithstanding any proposed control measures, the Licensing Authority may restrict the hours and/or activity even further.

LP7 Minor Variations

The Council expects applications to be made in the following circumstances only:

- Small changes in the layout/structure of the premises
- The addition of voluntary/agreed conditions
- Removal of conditions that are dated and have no impact on the operation of the premises
- Reduction of hours for any licensable activity

LP8 Temporary Event Notices

When considering an objection to a TEN the Council will:

- Expect that any existing conditions will be maintained (where relevant) in circumstances where an event is to take place at a premises that has an existing authorisation.
- Assess any history of complaints as a result of licensable activity that may or may not have been authorised by a TEN.
- Consider the track record of the premises user
- Consider any other control measures proposed to mitigate the objection

LP9 Personal Licences

(a) The Council will consider whether a refusal of the licence is appropriate for the promotion of the crime prevention objective and will consider the:

- (i) Seriousness and relevance of any conviction(s)
- (ii) The period that has elapsed since committing the offence(s)
- (iii) Any mitigating circumstances that assist in demonstrating that the crime prevention objective will not be undermined.

LP10 Special Policy Areas – Dalston and Shoreditch

It is the Council's policy that where a relevant representation is made to any application within the area of the Dalston SPA or Shoreditch SPA, the applicant will need to demonstrate that the proposed activity and the operation of the premises will

not add to the cumulative impact that is currently being experienced in these areas. This policy is to be strictly applied.

It should also be noted that the;

- quality and track record of the management;
- good character of the applicant; and
- extent of any variation sought

May not be in itself sufficient. *It should be noted that if an applicant can demonstrate that they will not add to the cumulative impact in their operating schedule and at any hearing, then the Core Hours Policy within LP3 will apply.*

LP11 Cumulative Impact – General

The Council will give due regard to any relevant representations received where concerns are raised and supported around the negative cumulative impact the proposed application has on one or more of the licensing objectives.