**THE HIGHLAND LICENSING BOARD**

**CONSULTATION ON INTRODUCTION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY POLICY STATEMENT : EXTENDED HOURS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS OF LOCAL OR NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**

**Background**

The Highland Licensing Board’s Policy Statement 2013-16, section 2.3, specifies that over the Christmas and New Year period applications under section 68 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 (the “Act”) to extend licensed hours to 0400 hours for late-opening premises and 0200 hours for other on-sales premises will generally be granted unless, in any particular case, the Board consider that there are material reasons to refuse the application.

It further provides that premises which have, within the “Seasonal Variations” section of their operating plan, a statement to the effect that they will open for such extended hours as the Board may agree each festive period will not require to lodge applications under section 68 for these festive period terminal hours. They will, however, be subject to a condition requiring prior notification to the Board and to Police Scotland of the dates within the festive period on which the premises will be open until the festive period terminal hours.

In either case, the statement also provides that the Board may impose such Late Opening Conditions as it considers necessary or expedient for the purposes of any of the licensing objectives.

No similar provision is made in the Policy Statement indicating the extended hours which will generally be granted for other special events of local or national significance, such as Halloween, Burns Night, the National Mod, etc. Licensees accordingly have no advance indication of what extended hours they may be granted for such other special events and it is recognised that this may create advance planning difficulties, particularly where pre-advertised parties or functions are proposed.

The Board has agreed therefore to consult with its statutory consultees and the wider public on whether to introduce a supplementary policy statement to provide greater certainty for licensees on the extended hours they can generally expect to be allowed for particular special events of local or national significance.

Set out below is a consultation questionnaire which you are invited to complete and return to **Susan Blease, Depute Clerk, The Highland Licensing Board, Council Offices, High Street, Dingwall IV15 9QN**

**Email:** **susan.blease@highland.gov.uk** **Tel: 01349 868 538**

All consultation responses received by **5 pm on FRIDAY 17 APRIL 2015** will be considered by the Board before it reaches a decision on whether to introduce a supplementary policy statement and, if so, which special events of local or national significance should be included.

**Consultation Questionnaire**

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| **Respondent’s details:** |
| Name: |
| Address: |
| Email: |
| Tel: |
| Date of submission of consultation response: |

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| 1. **Do you consider that the Highland Licensing Board should introduce a supplementary policy statement identifying the special events of local or national significance, in addition to the festive period, for which applications for extended terminal hours will generally be considered favourably?**
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| Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |

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| 1. **If your answer to Question 1. is yes, do you consider that the following are special events of local or national significance which should be included?**
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| **Easter weekend**(Friday and Saturday night) | Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |
| **Halloween**(31 October and the Friday and Saturday nights immediately before and after 31 October) | Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |
| **The 6 day trials, Fort William** | Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |
| **The Downhill Bike Championships, Fort William** | Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |
| **The National Mod** | Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |
| **Burns Night**(25 January and the Friday and Saturday nights immediately before and after 25 January) | Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |
| **St Andrews Night**(30 November and the Friday and Saturday nights immediately before and after 30 November) | Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |
| **Sporting events in Highland which the Board considers to be major events** | Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |

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| 1. **What, if any, other special events of local and national significance do you consider should be included and why? (You can add more comments on this at Box 7 below if you run out of space here)**
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| 1. **Do you agree that the following extended terminal hours should generally be granted for any special events to be included in a supplementary policy:**
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| **Late opening premises** (i.e. premises which offer significant entertainment and which are already licensed to open on Thursdays to Saturdays until 0300 hours the following day) | **0400 hours** | Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |
| **Other on-sales premises** | **0200 hours** | Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |

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| 1. **For special events of only local significance, should extended terminal hours in terms of any supplementary policy statement be restricted to premises which the Board considers lie within the locality of the event?**

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| Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |

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| 1. **Should licence holders be permitted to avoid having to lodge individual applications for extended hours for the special events specified in any supplementary policy statement by varying their operating plan to include a statement that they will open, during those events, for such extended hours as the Board has agreed in its supplementary policy?**
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| Yes: | No: |
| Reasons: |

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| 1. **Please use the space below to include any other comments you wish the Board to consider in relation to this matter. Continue on a separate sheet if required.**
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