

The Highland Licensing Board

Meeting – 5 August 2025

Agenda Item	7.2
Report No	HLB/59/25

Application for the provisional grant of a premises licence under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

Dramnation, 51 Church Street, Inverness, IV1 1DR

Report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board

Summary

This report relates to an application for the grant of a premises licence in respect of Dramnation, 51 Church Street, Inverness, IV1 1DR

1.0 Description of premises

1.1 The Dramnation is situated in Inverness City Centre and consists of a bar and tasting room.

2.0 Operating hours

2.1 The applicant seeks the following **on-sale** hours:

On sales:

Monday to Sunday: 1100 hours to 0100 hours

The applicant seeks the following **off-sale** hours:

Off sales:

Monday to Sunday: 1000 hours to 2200 hours

3.0 Background

3.1 On 25 May 2025 the Licensing Board received an application for the provisional grant of a premises licence from MRG Holdings (Inverness) Ltd.

3.2 The application was accompanied by the necessary section 50 certification in terms of Planning, together with a Disabled Access Statement.

3.3 The application was publicised during the period 16 June until 7 July 2025 and confirmation that the site notice was displayed has been received.

3.4 In accordance with standard procedure, Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and the Council's Community Services (Environmental Health)

and Planning and Building Standards were consulted on the application.

- 3.5 Notification of the application was also sent to NHS Highland and the local Community Council.
- 3.6 Further to this publication and consultation process, no timeous objections or representations have been received.
- 3.7 The applicant must nevertheless be given the opportunity to be heard before the Board determines the application and has accordingly been invited to the meeting. The applicant has been advised of the hearings procedure which may also be viewed via the following link:

[Highland Licensing Board - Hearings](#)

4.0 Legislation

- 4.1 The Licensing Board must, in considering and determining the application, consider whether any grounds of refusal apply and, if none of them applies, the Board must grant the application.

Relevant grounds of refusal are: -

1. that the premises are excluded premises;
 2. that the Board considers, having regard to the licensing objectives, that the applicant is not a fit and proper person to be the holder of a premises licence;
 3. that the grant of the application would be inconsistent with one or more of the licensing objectives;
 4. that having regard to;
 - (i) the nature of the activities proposed to be carried on in the subject premises,
 - (ii) the location character and condition of the premises, and
 - (iii) the persons likely to frequent the premises,the Board considers the premises are unsuitable for use for the sale of alcohol, or
 5. that the Board considers that, if the application were to be granted, there would, as a result, be overprovision of licensed premises, or licensed premises of the same or similar description as the subject premises, in the locality.
- 4.2 For the purposes of the Act, the licensing objectives are-
 - (a) preventing crime and disorder,
 - (b) securing public safety,

- (c) preventing public nuisance,
- (d) protecting and improving public health, and
- (e) protecting children and young persons from harm.

4.3 If the Board would refuse the application as made, but a modification is proposed by them and accepted by the applicant, the application can be granted as so modified.

5.0 Licensing Standards Officer

5.1 The LSO has provided the following comments:-

(i) An application has been made for the grant of a provisional premises licence for a former shop premises at 51 Church Street, Inverness. The premises have been visited by the LSO and whilst not yet fitted out, the premises are in the opinion of the LSO, suitable for the sale of alcohol as described by the applicant within the operating plan.

(ii) The premises which will be marketed as a boutique malt whisky bar will sell both on and off sales and will trade over two floors, with a whisky bar on the ground floor and tasting room and sensory experience in the basement. The premises will trade in mainly high-end spirits attractive to the whisky enthusiasts. Tutored whisky tastings may also be held on the premises under the supervision of trained staff.

(iii) The hours requested are within the policy hours of the Highland Licensing Board.

(iv) The capacity for alcohol display for off sales is 26.5 m² which is within the threshold of 30 m² set by the Highland Licensing Board, for the consideration of the question of over provision.

(v) The application has been accompanied by the necessary Section 50 certificate relating for planning, a disabled access statement and competent layout plans.

(vi) The operating plan has been reviewed by the LSO, who is of the opinion that it is compliant with the 5 licensing objectives.

(vii) During the statutory consultation period no objections or representations have been received by the Highland Licensing Board.

6.0 HLB local policies

6.1 The following policies are relevant to the application:-

- (1) Highland Licensing Board Policy Statement 2023-28
- (2) Highland Licensing Board Equality Strategy

7.0 Conditions

7.1 Mandatory conditions

If the application is approved the mandatory conditions set out in Schedule 3 of the Act will apply.

7.2 Local conditions

Should the Board grant the application as applied for, the Board may wish to consider attaching the following condition(s) from the schedule of local conditions:

(k) The licence holder shall submit to the Board and to Police Scotland, prior to 1 December each year, notice of the dates within the festive period on which it is intended that the premises remain open until the festive period terminal hour stated for that category of premises in the Board's Policy Statement. The premises may remain open until the festive period terminal hour only on those dates for which notice has been given by the licence holder to the Board and to Police Scotland in accordance with this condition.

Late Opening conditions

(1) First Aider must be present on the premises from 0100 hours on any day when the premises are open at 0100 hours, until the time at which the premises next close.

(2) A designated person who is the holder of a personal licence must be present on the premises from 0100 hours on any day when the premises are open at 0100 hours until the time at which the premises next close.

7.3 Special conditions

No special conditions are considered necessary.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to determine the above application and if minded to grant the application, to agree the proposed local conditions detailed at para. 7.2 above.

If the Board is minded to refuse the application, the Board must specify the ground for refusal and, if the ground for refusal is in relation to a licensing objective, the Board must specify the objective in question.

Reference: HC/INBS/713
Date: 21 July 2025
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