

## The Highland Licensing Board

Meeting – 31 March 2026

Agenda Item	6
Report No	HLB/17/26

### Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

#### General extension of licensed hours – FIFA World Cup 2026

#### Report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board

##### Summary

To allow Members to consider whether to grant a general extension of licensed hours.

### 1. Background

**1.1** In terms of section 67 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 (“the 2005 Act”), the Licensing Board, may if it considers it appropriate to do so in connection with a special event of local or national significance make a determination extending licensed hours by such period as the Board may specify in the determination.

**1.2** A determination under section 67 may apply to:

- (i) the whole of the Licensing Board’s area or only to specified parts of the area;
- (ii) licensed hours generally or only to specified descriptions of licensed hours; and
- (iii) all licensed premises in the Board’s area or only to specified descriptions of such premises.

**1.3** Any such determination shall have effect for such period as the Board may specify.

Where the Board makes such a determination, it is required to give notice to:

- the Chief Constable; and
- the holders of premises licences and occasional licences in respect of premises to which the determination applies

The Licensing Board must also publicise it in such manner as the Board sees fit.

**1.4** Section 68 of the 2005 Act, alternatively, enables the holder of a premises licence to make an individual application in respect of a licensed premises to extend its licensed hours for that particular premises by such period as is specified in the application or such other period as the Board considers appropriate for a special event of local or national significance.

**1.5** The key differences between a section 67 general extension and a section 68 occasional extension are set out in **Appendix 1**.

## **2. FIFA Men's Football World Cup 2026**

**2.1** The FIFA Men's Football World Cup ("World Cup") is due to take place from 11 June 2026 to 19 July 2026, with matches taking place across Mexico, USA and Canada.

**2.2** This is the first World Cup that Scotland have qualified for since 1998. A copy of the fixture list and match times for the tournament are set out in **Appendix 2**.

**2.3** The main issue is around the UK time for kick off for certain matches due to the time difference. Some matches will kick off outwith the operating hours on premises licences issued by the Board, and, outwith the terms of the Board's current Licensing Policy Statement. The Board's Licensing Policy Statement sets out the core hours for on sales premises. These are 11am to 1am for general on sales premises and for late opening premises 11am to 1am (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) and 11am to 3am (Thursday, Friday and Saturday).

A copy of the Board's Policy Statement can be found here:

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/1130/highland-licensing-board>

**2.4** The Scottish Government has produced a guidance note for Licensing Boards in relation to their powers to determine a general extension of hours for the World Cup 2026. This is intended to assist Licensing Boards as they carry out their responsibilities under the 2005 Act.

The guidance makes it clear that Scotland qualifying for the World Cup represents an event with national significance and that the people of Scotland should be given as much opportunity as possible to watch Scotland play including in places where they can come together with fellow fans to watch the games.

In addition to Scotland games, Licensing Boards may also wish to give consideration to allowing licensed premises to stay open to show other games during the World Cup.

A copy of the Scottish Government guidance is attached as **Appendix 3**.

## **3. Premises licence operating plans**

**3.1** Operating plans require licensees to provide specific information regarding the activities permitted on the premises. One of the activities provided for in the operating plan is televised sport.

Within The Highland Licensing Board area, 537 on-sales premises have televised sport included in their operating plans, both within and outwith core licensed hours. Of these, 172 premises do not have permission for televised sport outwith core licensed hours.

In total, 945 premises are currently licensed for the sale of alcohol, both on-sales and on and off sales.

#### **4. Fan zones/occasional licences**

- 4.1** It should be noted that any general extension of licensed hours granted will not apply to temporary events seeking to apply for occasional licences. Any such applications will require to be considered on a case by case basis. It is likely additional licences under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 would also be required to facilitate the provision of entertainment and/or catering for such events.

#### **5. Options**

- 5.1** There are two options for the Licensing Board to consider in relation to extended hours for the World Cup:

##### **Option 1:**

Not to grant a general extension of licensed hours for on sales premises under section 67 of the 2005 Act but note the existing delegated powers to grant individual applications for extended hours on specific on sales premises under section 68 of the 2005 Act and on sales occasional licences under section 56 of the Act.

In terms of the Board's Scheme of Delegation, for any extended hours application or occasional licence application applied for outwith policy or there is a notice of objection from the Chief Constable, then the application will be referred to the Convenor for a decision.

A copy of the Board's Scheme of Delegation can be found here:

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/1130/highland-licensing-board>

This would, however, significantly increase the workload for Licensing Staff and the Convenor of the Board. It would also incur a £10 application fee for premises licence holders per application. In addition, as matches beyond the group stages are unknown, there could be no guarantee that applications for extended hours or occasional licences for specific matches could be processed as applicants would be unable to submit their applications in time to comply with statutory processing requirements.

## Option 2:

To grant a general extension of licenced hours for all on sales premises under section 67 of the 2005 Act.

If Members are minded to grant a general extension of licensed hours for on sales premises under section 67, certain factors needs to be considered:

- Should this apply only to matches which involve Scotland?
- Should this include all home nations?
- Should this include all matches or matches at a particular stage of the tournament?
- The duration of any general extension
- The terminal hour of any general extension
- Should this only apply to on sales premises that hold a full premises licence?
- Should this only apply to those on sales premises which include the activity of televised sport within their operating plan?

Premises would be reminded to ensure adequate management arrangements are in place and consider, where appropriate, providing additional stewarding.

It would be recommended that any licensed premises seeking to use any general extension granted completes a notification form which, could be provided online. This would enable both the Licensing Board and the Police to ensure resources are correctly targeted to ensure compliance.

**5.2** A summary of decisions made by other Licensing Boards is set out at **Appendix 4.**

**5.3** The Licensing Standards Officers have also had informal engagement with a number of licensed premises in their area in relation to the possibility of extending licensed hours and will be able to provide a verbal update on the day of the meeting.

### **Recommendation:**

Members are asked to consider the options set out at paragraph 5 of the report and, if minded to make a general extension, confirm the extent of the extension and description of licensed premises to which it applies and, thereafter, instruct the Clerk to give notice of the determination in the required terms.

**Author:** Claire McArthur, Clerk to The Highland Licensing Board

**Date:** 5 March 2026

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Differences between a general extension and occasional extensions

Appendix 2 – World cup fixture list and timings

Appendix 3 – Scottish Government guidance for Licensing Boards

## Appendix 4 – List of other Licensing Board decisions

## World Cup 2026

11 June 2026 – 19 July 2026

(5.5 weeks)

## APPENDIX 1

### Potential options

1. A general extension is granted by the Board (s.67 power to grant)
2. Individual premises can apply for extended hours for specific dates/times (s.68 application)

	<b>GENERAL EXTENSION – s.67</b>	<b>INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS – s.68</b>
<b>Implication</b>	Premises do not have to apply for individual extended hours application. There is no consideration of applications by the Board. A general extension applies automatically as specified, once determined. Applications for extended hours outwith the general extension would be considered on a case-by-case basis by way of a s.68 application.	Premises licence holder or their agent submits an application at least 14 days in advance of the event.
<b>Applies to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the whole of the Licensing Board's area or only to specified parts of the area</li><li>• licensed hours generally or only to specified descriptions of licensed hours</li><li>• all licensed premises in the Board's area or only to specified descriptions of such premises</li></ul>	Individual premises that submitted an extended hours application.
<b>Duration</b>	As long as specified in any general extension granted.	The duration applied for may not exceed a period of one month.

<b>Consultation</b>	No formal consultation process. The Chief Constable is not empowered to object to the making of the determination.	Licensing Standards Officer Chief Constable
<b>Determination</b>	Board decision at a meeting of the Highland Licensing Board on 31 March 2026.	If the hours applied for are outwith policy or there is a notice of objection from the Chief Constable, then the application will be referred to the Convener for a decision.  If the hours are within policy and there is no notice of objection from the Chief Constable, it can be granted under delegated powers.
<b>Notification of determination/ decision</b>	Police Premises licence holders and occasional licence holders affected by the determination.	Police Scotland Applicant
<b>Publication</b>	On the Licensing Board's webpage.	Public register
<b>Conditions</b>	Existing conditions of the premises would still apply.  Licensing Boards cannot attach additional conditions to a general extension.	Appropriate conditions to be attached by the Licensing Standards Officers. This could include late opening conditions.
<b>Implication</b>	Nothing in any determination is to be taken as requiring any licensed premises to be open for the sale of alcohol during the period of any general extension of licensed hours.	It is at the applicant's discretion to use the full hours applied for.

APPENDIX 2

LIST OF WORLD CUP FIXTURES

DATE	TEAMS	UK KICK OFF TIME
Thursday 11 June	Mexico v South Africa	8pm
Friday 12 June	Korea Republic v Czechia/Denmark/North Macedonia/Republic of Ireland Canada v Bosnia and Herzegovina/Italy/Northern Ireland/Wales	3am 8pm
Saturday 13 June	USA v Paraguay Qatar v Switzerland Brazil v Morocco	2am 8pm 11pm
Sunday 14 June	<b>Haiti v Scotland</b> Australia v Kosovo/Romania/Slovakia/Turkiye Germany v Curacao Netherlands v Japan	<b>2am</b> 5am 6pm 9pm
Monday 15 June	Ivory Coast v Ecuador Albania/Poland/Sweden/Ukraine v Tunisia Spain v Cape Verde Belgium v Egypt Saudi Arabia v Uruguay	12am 3am 5pm 8pm 11pm
Tuesday 16 June	IR Iran v New Zealand France v Senegal Bolivia/Iraq/Suriname v Norway	2am 8pm 11pm
Wednesday 17 June	Argentina v Algeria Austria v Jordan Portugal v Congo DR/Jamaica/New Caledonia England v Croatia	2am 5am 6pm 9pm
Thursday 18 June	Ghana v Panama Uzbekistan v Colombia Czechia/Denmark/North Macedonia/Republic of Ireland v South Africa	12am 3am 5pm

	Switzerland v Bosnia and Herzegovina/Italy/Northern Ireland/Wales Canada v Qatar	8pm 11pm
Friday 19 June	Mexico v Korea Republic USA v Australia <b>Scotland v Morocco</b>	2am 8pm <b>11pm</b>
Saturday 20 June	Brazil v Haiti Kosovo/Romania/Slovakia/Türkiye v Paraguay Netherlands v Albania/Poland/Sweden/Ukraine Germany v Côte d'Ivoire	2am 5am 6pm 9pm
Sunday 21 June	Ecuador v Curaçao Tunisia v Japan Spain v Saudi Arabia Belgium v IR Iran Uruguay v Cape Verde	1am 5am 5pm 8pm 11pm
Monday 22 June	New Zealand v Egypt Argentina v Austria France v Bolivia/Iraq/Suriname	2am 6pm 10pm
Tuesday 23 June	Norway v Senegal Jordan v Algeria Portugal v Uzbekistan England v Ghana	1am 4am 6pm 9pm
Wednesday 24 June	Panama v Croatia Colombia v Congo DR/Jamaica/New Caledonia Switzerland v Canada Bosnia and Herzegovina/Italy/Northern Ireland/Wales v Qatar Morocco v Haiti <b>Scotland v Brazil</b>	12am 3am 8pm 8pm 11pm <b>11pm</b>
Thursday 25 June	South Africa v Korea Republic Czechia/Denmark/North Macedonia/Republic of Ireland v Mexico Curaçao v Ivory Coast Ecuador v Germany	2am 2am 9pm 9pm
Friday 26 June	Tunisia v Netherlands Japan v Albania/Poland/Sweden/Ukraine Kosovo/Romania/Slovakia/Türkiye v USA Paraguay v Australia Norway v France Senegal v Bolivia/Iraq/Suriname	12am 12am 3am 3am 8pm 8pm

Saturday 27 June	Cape Verde v Saudi Arabia Uruguay v Spain New Zealand v Belgium Egypt v IR Iran Panama v England Croatia v Ghana	1am 1am 4am 4am 10pm 10pm
Sunday 28 June	Colombia v Portugal Congo DR/Jamaica/New Caledonia v Uzbekistan Algeria v Austria Jordan v Argentina	12:30am 12:30am 3am 3am
<b>(ROUND OF 32)</b>	Group A runners-up v Group B runners-up	8pm
Monday 29 June	Group C winners v Group F runners-up Group E winners v Group A/B/C/D/F third place	6pm 9:30pm
Tuesday 30 June	Group F winners v Group C runners-up Group E runners up v Group I runners-up Group I winners v Group C/D/F/G/H third place	2am 6pm 10pm
Wednesday 1 July	Group A winners v Group C/E/F/H/I third place Group L winners v Group E/H/I/J/K third place Group G winners v Group A/E/H/I/J third place	2am 5pm 9pm
Thursday 2 July	Group D winners v Group B/E/F/I/J third place Group H winners v Group J runners-up	1am 8pm
Friday 3 July	Group K runners-up v Group L runners-up Group B winners v Group E/F/G/I/J third place Group D runners-up v Group G runners-up Group J winners v Group H runners-up	12am 4am 7pm 11pm
Saturday 4 July <b>(ROUND OF 16)</b>	Group K winners v Group D/E/I/J/L third place Winner match 74 v Winner match 77 Winner match 73 v Winner match 75	2:30am 6pm 10pm
Sunday 5 July	Winner match 76 v Winner match 78	<b>9pm</b>

Monday 6 July	Winner match 79 v Winner match 80 Winner match 83 v Winner match 84	1am 8pm
Tuesday 7 July	Winner match 81 v Winner match 82 Winner match 86 v Winner match 88 Winner match 85 v Winner match 87	1am 5pm 9pm
Thursday 9 July	Quarter Final	9pm
Friday 10 July	Quarter Final	8pm
Saturday 11 July	Quarter Final	10pm
Sunday 12 July	Quarter Final	2am
Tuesday 14 July	Semi Final	8pm
Wednesday 15 July	Semi Final	8pm
Saturday 18 July	Third place playoff	10pm
Sunday 19 July	Final	8pm

# **Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 Section 142 Guidance for Licensing Boards -**

## **Licensing Board powers to determine a general extension of hours - FIFA World Cup 2026**

## Introduction

Under section 142 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 (“the 2005 Act”), the Scottish Ministers may issue guidance to Licensing Boards as to the exercise of their functions under the 2005 Act. Section 142 of the 2005 Act requires Licensing Boards to have regard to the guidance. Any guidance is intended to assist Licensing Boards as they carry out their responsibilities under the 2005 Act.

The Scottish Government published [updated section 142 guidance in January 2023](#).

This guidance is temporary supplementary guidance and relates to consideration of relevant issues to help facilitate a Licensing Board being able to determine extensions to licensed hours for games during the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The Men’s World Cup will take place in Canada, Mexico and the United States of America between 11 June 2026 – 19 July 2026.

Scotland play three games in their group:

Sunday 14 June 2026: Scotland vs Haiti – UK kick off time 0200

Friday 19 June 2026: Scotland vs Morocco – UK kick off time 2300

Wednesday 24 June 2026: Scotland vs. Brazil – UK kick off time 2300

Each of these games will likely finish beyond licensed hours for many, if not all, licensed premises within an area.

The issue arises due to UK kick off times for each of Scotland’s games being times that may lead to an issue with licensed premises usual opening hours. In particular, the game on Sunday 14 June is not expected to finish until approximately 0415-0430 (exact time dependent on a number of variables including additional time added by the referee etc.). However, the two other games will also not likely finish until 0115-0130 which will also create issues in terms of many licensed premises usual opening hours.

Licensing Boards may also want to consider extension of hours for further Scotland games if the team qualifies from the Group. The dates and times of such matches are of course still to be confirmed.

In addition to Scotland games, Licensing Boards may also wish to give consideration to allowing licensed premises to stay open to show other games during the World Cup with many late night/early morning kick offs UK time.

Where decisions have already been made, there is no need for re-taking of decisions in light of this guidance. However, for decisions yet to be made, the Scottish Government is keen to see a proportionate approach being taken by Licensing Boards across Scotland which would allow premises, where appropriate, to allow people to come together to watch games in a social environment by remaining open later than normal for the purpose of screening games, whilst maintaining public safety and minimising the risk of public nuisance or disorder.

While the licensing system is decentralised so that local communities are those that influence decisions through Licensing Boards, the 2005 Act envisages a role for Scottish Ministers to assist Licensing Boards in how they carry out functions under the 2005 Act. While not written into section 142 of the 2005 Act itself, where an issue is of national relevance then it may be considered there may be merit in Scottish Ministers providing further guidance to Licensing Boards as to the exercise of their functions in that regard.

The following information is intended to assist Licensing Boards in approaching consideration of determinations to grant extension of hours to on-sales of alcohol within Licensing Board areas during the World Cup.

## **Historic achievement of national significance**

The qualification of the Scotland Men's team to the World Cup represents the first time this century that the team has qualified. This is a significant achievement by the team that people across Scotland are very proud of and it is the first time under the 2005 Act where consideration can be given to determining extension of licensed hours for the on-sale of alcohol in the context of Scotland being involved in the Men's World Cup.

Section 67 of the 2005 Act provides a power for Licensing Boards to grant general extensions to licensed hours in connection with special events of local or national significance if they consider it appropriate to do so.

Scotland qualifying for the World Cup clearly represents an event with national significance.

The Scottish Ministers are clear that the people of Scotland should be given as much opportunity as possible to watch Scotland play including in places where they can come together with fellow fans to enjoy the games. Given many licensed premises already allow fans of many different sports to come together to socialise while watching sport, the issue that arises is, given the times these games are being shown, whether action should be taken to allow relevant premises to be open when games are taking place.

## **2005 Act Framework**

In considering whether to allow licensed premises in their locality to stay open later during the World Cup, Licensing Boards should have regard to the licensing objectives of the 2005 Act, and their Statements of Licensing Policy.

The five licensing objectives are:

- preventing crime and disorder;
- securing public safety;

- preventing public nuisance;
- protecting and improving public health; and
- protecting children and young persons from harm.

Each objective is equally important. No one licensing objective carries more weight than any other and it is always a matter for Licensing Boards to weigh up these objectives when making decisions under the 2005 Act.

## **General extension of hours – section 67 of the 2005 Act**

In the section 142 guidance published by the Scottish Government in January 2023, general extensions of licensing hours is covered as follows:

“9.25 The licensed hours for occasional licences require to be set out in the application for the licence and incorporated into the licence if granted. Section 67 of the 2005 Act provides Licensing Boards with a power to grant general extensions to licensed hours in connection with special events of local or national significance. However, licensed premises are not obliged to remain open for the period of any such extension. Section 68 of the 2005 Act which makes provision for extended hours applications does not apply to occasional licences.”

The 2005 Act refers to a Licensing Board making a ‘determination’ to grant general extensions to licensed hours.

A determination can apply to –

- the whole of the Licensing Board's area or only to specified parts,
- licensed hours generally or only to specified descriptions of those hours, and
- all licensed premises in the Licensing Board's area or only to specified descriptions of such premises.

The Scottish Parliament approved these powers to be contained within the 2005 Act so that they were ready to be considered for use as needed for special events of local or national significance as they occur.

The Scottish Ministers would expect each Licensing Board to consider whether to extend hours.

The decision in each board area is a matter for the Licensing Board, but given the national significance of the Scotland team’s achievement, the Scottish Government would guide Licensing Boards to consider use of the powers in section 67 of the 2005 Act as a matter of course.

It should be noted that where an extension of hours is granted, such a determination does not require any licensed premises to be open for the sale of alcohol during any or all of the period of extension hours specified. The effect of granting an extension means that individual premises can make their own decision whether to remain

open, but that if they wish to do then they do not require to make their own individual request for extended hours.

This flexibility of approach would give greater freedom to licensed premises to make their own decision on opening while reducing the bureaucratic burden falling on business (by avoiding the need to apply for extended hours).

It is a matter for Licensing Boards to decide on how they further publicise the granting of a general extension of hours. At a minimum the Licensing Board may wish to post details on its website.

Licensing Boards are under a statutory duty to notify the chief constable and the appropriate licence holders to whom the determination applies.

Separate to notification once a determination has been made, we would guide Licensing Boards to consider what engagement they should undertake prior to making a decision on a determination.

Although section 67 of the 2005 Act does not require such engagement, it is considered appropriate to do with, as a suggested minimum, the chief constable given a general extension of hours in the early hours will have relevance for the operation of policing.

## **Conditions/ safeguards for licensed premises**

Licensing Boards may wish to consider the extent to which later opening can be supported in meeting the licensing objectives by appropriate controls, and whether this is best addressed through a co-ordinated approach within a licensing board area or through premises-specific applications determined on their merits.

Issues that Licensing Boards may wish to consider before permitting a licensed premises to stay open later to show matches could include:

- The licensed premises where relevant, has appropriate permissions obtained to broadcast sports.
- Ticketed entry to support monitoring of maximum capacity.
- Last entry aligned with match kick off times.
- Sufficient SIA approved stewarding.
- Use of reusable plastic cups for the duration of the extended licence.
- No under 18's permitted on the premises out with their normal approved hours
- Continued adherence to existing external licensing conditions, for example, beer gardens.
- Premises to close no later than 30 minutes after the final whilst to allow appropriate dispersal.
- Any additional local considerations specific to problematic premises or relevant intelligence.
- Having regard to the availability of local public transport provision .

Section 27A of the 2005 Act allows Licensing Boards to make a variation of premises licence conditions where they are satisfied that it is necessary or expedient for the purposes of any of the licensing objectives. Such a variation may apply to all licensed premises, particular licensed premises, licensed premises within a particular area or of a particular description. Further detail about the publication and notification requirements can be found in paragraphs 8.64-8.65 of the 2023 guidance.

Licensing Boards may wish to consider whether any variation of licensed conditions is appropriate if granting an extension for these purposes. Examples of possible draft conditions/ safeguards that Licensing Boards may wish to consider for licensed premises showing matches are attached as an **Annex** to this guidance.

These draft conditions/ safeguards are provided to support a proportionate approach for later opening which focuses on possible key risks and how to mitigate them.

### **Extended hours applications – section 68 of the 2005 Act**

Alternatively, section 68 of the 2005 Act provides a power for Licensing Boards, on the application of a premises licence holder, to grant extensions to licensed hours for the premises to cater for special events or occasions.

A premises licence holder may apply for extended hours authorising the premises to remain open later than the time specified in the premises licence.

Such applications are determined by a Licensing Board having regard to the licensing objectives and the Licensing Boards Policy and may be granted or refused. Where granted, the Licensing Board may vary the licence conditions as it considers necessary or expedient for the purposes of any of the licensing objectives,.

## **Annex**

### **Draft Standard Conditions/ Safeguards for World Cup 2026 Matches**

For Section 68 applications these draft conditions/ safeguards are provided to support a consistent and proportionate approach for later opening connected with the screening of FIFA World Cup 2026 matches. These are intended to be potential additional conditions which may be imposed and are not intended to replace the mandatory licence conditions or other existing conditions.

#### **Children and Young Persons**

Children and young persons under the age of 18 shall not be admitted to the premises/ venue during any period of later opening connected with World Cup matches.

#### **Purpose and Scope**

Later opening is authorised solely for the purpose of screening World Cup matches and associated customer management and dispersal.

The premises/ organiser shall ensure that the event is conducted in a manner consistent with the licensing objectives, including the prevention of crime and disorder, securing public safety, preventing public nuisance and protecting and improving public health.

#### **Authorisation to Screen**

For premises licence holders, the premises shall only operate later for match screening where the premises already has a relevant licence and is already authorised within its operating plan to provide televised sport/ television (or where an appropriate variation has been granted).

#### **Management and Supervision**

A designated manager/ event lead shall be on duty from 22.00 hours until close and shall be responsible for compliance with these conditions and for liaison with Police Scotland, the Licensing Standards Officer and licensing officers where required.

Prior to the commencement of each event night, staff shall be briefed on admission controls, capacity management, noise control and dispersal arrangements, and incident escalation procedures.

A personal licence holder shall be present on the premises from 22.00 hours until close.

The premises/ organiser shall ensure that sufficient staff are on duty to manage the premises/ venue safely, having regard to the expected attendance, capacity and terminal hour.

### **Capacity and Queue Management**

The premises/ organiser shall ensure that the permitted capacity is not exceeded at any time and shall deploy sufficient staff to monitor and control occupancy throughout.

Where high attendance is anticipated, the premises/ organiser shall implement controlled admission and queue management measures to prevent obstruction, disorder and nuisance at the frontage.

The premises/ organiser shall ensure that any temporary arrangements associated with the screening (including seating, barriers and queuing systems) do not compromise safe means of escape.

The premises/ organiser shall ensure that patrons waiting to gain entry are managed so as to avoid public nuisance, disorder or obstruction, including at the frontage and in any nearby public areas.

No alcohol shall be sold or supplied for consumption off the premises during any period of later opening connected with matches.

The premises/ organiser shall operate a refusals policy and shall record refusals of alcohol and any incidents arising.

### **Safety, Security and Welfare**

Door supervision shall be provided from 23.00 hours until close where required by risk assessment having regard to the nature, location and capacity of the premises/ venue, anticipated attendance and the terminal hour sought, and shall be increased where Police Scotland advise that such measures are necessary to support the licensing objectives.

A person trained in first aid shall be present on the premises/at the event from 23.00 hours until close.

An incident/ refusals record shall be maintained for each event night and shall be produced to Police Scotland and/ or Licensing Standards Officers (Isos) on request.

The premises/ organiser shall operate a zero-tolerance approach to drugs and weapons, with staff instructed to contact Police Scotland where appropriate.

The premises/ organiser shall take reasonable steps to prevent the consumption or possession of illegal drugs on the premises/ at the event and shall co-operate with Police Scotland in any enforcement action.

## **Noise Control and Prevention of Public Nuisance**

Doors and windows shall be managed to minimise noise breakout after 22.00 hours, particularly during/ after the match and during dispersal.

Any external smoking/ vaping area shall be supervised and managed to prevent nuisance, disorder and obstruction.

External areas (including smoking/ vaping areas) shall be actively monitored and managed to prevent nuisance and disorder. Patrons shall not be permitted to congregate out with the premises in a manner likely to cause nuisance.

No amplified music or commentary shall be played in any external area during the period of later opening.

The premises/ organiser shall ensure that any noise-generating activities associated with the screening (including chanting or announcements) are managed so as to minimise disturbance to nearby residents.

## **Dispersal**

A written safety dispersal plan shall be in place for each event night where later opening is authorised. The plan shall cover staffing at exits at closing, management of external areas and frontage, and steps to minimise noise and disorder in the vicinity. More generally, wider consideration of local transport plans and availability of public transport service provision should also be considered.

The premises/ organiser shall actively manage dispersal at the end of the event/ closing time by deploying staff (and door staff where engaged) at exits and the immediate frontage to encourage prompt and quiet departure and to prevent patrons lingering.

Clear closing/ dispersal announcements shall be made in advance of closing to support orderly winding-down and departure.



© Crown copyright 2026



This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-80643-931-7 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, March 2026

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA  
PPDAS1720646 (03/26)

## APPENDIX 4

### SUMMARY OF DECISIONS MADE BY SOME LICENSING BOARDS TO DATE

LICENSING BOARD	DECISION
Aberdeen City	Granted a general extension for all licensed on sales premises until 3am for the duration of the tournament and, for Scotland matches, a blanket extension until 30 minutes after the final whistle.
Aberdeenshire	Granted a general extension for licensed premises to screen World Cup matches, allowing licensed premises to stay open late for home nation games and key tournament fixtures. Venues can stay open for 30 minutes after the final whistle.
Dumfries and Galloway	Granted a general extension for licensed premises to open until 30 minutes after the final whistle for all Scotland fixtures, covering any premises already licensed to show televised sport.
Dundee	<p>All premises with an “on-sales” facility may open beyond their existing terminal hour, provided the premises have permission to show televised sport and appropriate conditions for access for children and young persons on their operating plan.</p> <p>For all tournament matchdays, qualifying premises may open until 01.00 hours for the purposes of televising any fixtures, or 30 minutes after any 11.00 p.m. kick-off match ends, whichever is the later.</p> <p>Where the fixtures involve the Scotland Mens National Team, premises may remain open until 30 minutes after the match ends even if this is after the closing hours permitted under Paragraph 2. above.</p> <p>Any premises which wish to remain open beyond the hours stated above will require to make an application for extended hours under Section 68 of the 2005 Act.</p> <p>All qualifying premises which wish to open in accordance with the terms of this general extension are reminded that the conditions of their premises licence remain in force whilst they are open and appropriate risk assessments should be undertaken to seek to ensure compliance with the 5 licensing objectives during the</p>

	<p>extended hours. N.B. The Board does not intend to ask premises to enforce the minimum entry charge in these circumstances.</p>
East Lothian	<p>East Lothian Licensing Board agreed a general extension of licensed hours for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Premises can remain open until 30 minutes after the conclusion of any home nation fixture for the duration of the tournament.</p> <p>The extension will apply to 146 county premises including bars and clubs who state within their operating plan that they show televised sports. It does not apply to alcohol off-sales such as shops or supermarkets.</p>
Edinburgh	<p>At its meeting on 23 February 2026 the City of Edinburgh Licensing Board made a determination extending licensed hours. The general extension will take effect from 11 June to 19 July 2026. This applies as follows:</p> <p>Area: the whole of the City of Edinburgh  Type of Licensed Hours: on-sales  Description of premises: those which have “televised sport” as a listed activity in the operating plan  Effect: premises which meet the listed criteria may remain open for the purpose of screening any World Cup match during the tournament until 30 minutes after the end of the match.  Note: The hours of operation of any outdoor areas, and children and young persons access, are not included in the extension and remain as stated in the premises licence. Premises will be contacted individually and asked to confirm their intention to make use of the extension. Premises are encouraged to implement responsible management arrangements to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives, including ensuring adequate staffing provision, and consideration of stewarding and safety measures. The Board may review and alter the terms of the general extension if required.</p>
Falkirk	<p>Granted a general extension for licensed premises that include televised sport on their operating plan for the Scotland games against Morocco and Brazil but individual extended hours applications would require to be submitted for the Haiti game.</p> <p>Venues that are permitted an extension for the Haiti game can remain open until 30 minutes after the final whistle.</p>

	<p>Should Scotland progress to the knockout stage, the Board granted a general extension of licensed hours for Scotland matches that have televised sport on their operating plan until 30 minutes after the final whistle.</p>
Glasgow	<p>The Licensing Board has determined to grant a general extension until 30 minutes after the final whistle/end of play of a live World Cup 2026 football match where it is being shown within the licensed premises, beyond the terminal hour to all licensed premises with an on-sales facility that have televised sport within its operating plan, from 11 June 2026 to 19 July 2026 (both dates inclusive), with the condition detailed below and subject to the Specific Exclusions mentioned at Section Two of the Festive Policy.</p> <p>Where licensed premises are open after 12 midnight by virtue of the general extension provided, such premises will be expected to comply with the Licensing Board's policy relative to the use of toughened glass, any other recognised safety products in licensed premises as set out in part 10 of its <a href="#">Policy Statement (PDF, 5 MB)(opens new window)</a> and any other conditions attached to the operation of the licensed premises.</p>
Inverclyde	<p>Granted a general extension for all licensed premises showing Scotland matches. The extended opening hours only apply to licensed premises that already have televised sport in their operating plan.</p>
Orkney	<p>Granted a general extension for licensed premises which have televised sport in their operating plan.</p> <p>This includes an extra hour on licences for the duration of the World Cup and 30 minutes after the final whistle for Scotland matches, semi-finals and the final to allow for drinking up and dispersal.</p>
North Ayrshire	<p>No general extension granted. Instead, licensed premises will have to make individual applications to North Ayrshire licensing board to extend their opening hours.</p>
Scottish Borders	<p>Agreed that licensed premises could stay open until half an hour after the final whistle of matches involving any of the home nations.</p> <p>The extended opening option will be in place throughout the tournament - which runs from 11 June to 19 July.</p>

	<p>It will cover late kick-off games involving Scotland and England - and Northern Ireland or Wales if they should qualify via the play-offs.</p> <p>However, for the matches which will not finish until about 04:00 or later, any licensed premises would have to notify licensing board officers of their intention to stay open to allow police to be informed.</p>
South Lanarkshire	<p>The Divisional Licensing Boards have decided to make a determination under Section 67 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 to allow premises which hold a full premises licence which sell alcohol for consumption on the premises and includes a provision in their operating plan to show televised sport to remain open until 30 minutes after the end of the games as follows:</p> <p>South Lanarkshire Licensing Division No. 1 (Clydesdale area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all games in the competition</li> </ul> <p>South Lanarkshire Licensing Division No. 2 (East Kilbride area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scotland games only including group stages and any further stages in the competition as well as the final</li> </ul> <p>South Lanarkshire Licensing Division No. 3 (Hamilton area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all games in the competition</li> </ul> <p>South Lanarkshire Licensing Division No. 4 (Rutherglen and Cambuslang area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scotland games only including group stages and any further stages in the competition as well as the final</li> </ul>
West Lothian	<p>No general extension granted, stating that any venue wishing to open beyond 2am for Scotland's matches must submit an application by 31 March.</p>