

HIGHLAND LICENSING BOARD

Minute of the meeting of the **Highland Licensing Board** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Tuesday, 31 March 2026 at 9.30am.

Present:

Dr C Birt, Mrs J Hendry (Convener), Mr S Kennedy, Ms E Knox (from Item 7.2), Ms K MacLean, Mr K Rosie.

In Attendance:

Ms C McArthur, Principal Solicitor, Clerk to the Board
Ms M Duffy, Solicitor
Mr G Cameron, Licensing Standards Officer
Mr S Campbell, Licensing Standards Officer
Mr E Mackinnon, Licensing Standards Officer
Mrs G MacPherson, Committee Officer

Also In Attendance:

Sergeant Paterson, Police Scotland

Item 7.1: Mamta Patel, Applicant, Audrey Junner, Applicant's Agent

Item 7.2: Andrew Hunter, Applicant's Solicitor, Alasdair Looms, Director

Item 8.1: Chris Grunnert, Applicant's Solicitor, Owen Ellender, Senior Development Manager, Whitbread Group

Items 9.1 and 11.1: Priyanka Selvachandran, Licence Holder

Item 10.1: Gary Stewart, Applicant

Briefing on Protocol for Webcasting of Meetings

The Convener advised the Board that the meeting would be filmed and broadcast over the internet on the Highland Council website and would be archived and available for viewing for 12 months.

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr J Bruce, Mr J Grafton, Mr D Macpherson and Mr D Millar.

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Confirmation of minutes Dearbhadh a' gheàrr-chunntais

There was submitted for confirmation as a correct record the minute of the meeting of the Highland Licensing Board held on 24 February 2026.

The Minutes were held as read and **APPROVED**.

**4. Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005
Licences granted under delegated powers
Achd Ceadachd (Alba) 2005
Ceadachdan a bhuilicheadh fo ùghdarras air a thiomnadh**

There had been circulated Report No HLB/15/26 detailing all Licences which had been granted under delegated powers to the Clerk during the period 12 February 2026 to 18 March 2026.

The Board **NOTED** the Report.

**5. Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005
Occasional licences and extended hours granted under delegated powers
Achd Ceadachd (Alba) 2005
Ceadachdan Corra-uair agus uairean sìnte a bhuilicheadh fo ùghdarras air a thiomnadh**

There had been circulated Report No HLB/16/26 detailing Occasional Licences and Extended Hours Applications which had been granted under delegated powers by the Clerk to the Board during the period 12 February 2026 to 18 March 2026.

The Board **NOTED** the Report.

**6. Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005
General extension of licensed hours – FIFA World Cup 2026
Achd Ceadachd (Alba) 2005
Leudachadh coitcheann air uairean ceadachd – Cupa na Cruinne 2026 aig FIFA**

There had been circulated Report No HLB/17/26 by the Clerk inviting the Board to consider whether to grant a general extension of licensed hours during the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The Board heard from the Licensing Sergeant. Of particular relevance to the Police from the report was the possibility that licensed premises could remain open up to 30 minutes after the final whistle for all Scotland group matches, and any subsequent knock out fixtures should Scotland qualify.

Prior to discussion, and in terms of option 2 in section 5.1 of the report, the Convener proposed the following recommendation:-

In relation to licensed premises that had a full premises licence and had televised sport in their operating plan, if a Scotland match was to be played beyond their core licensing hours, that there be late opening until 30 minutes after the final whistle. This would cover any weather related delays, extra time or penalty shoot outs. In addition, if Scotland progressed further in the tournament, that the same rules applied if beyond the core licensing hours, that there be late opening until 30 minutes after the final whistle. If a licensed premises wished to show any other matches out with the Scotland games, they

must apply individually for separate extended hours for each of these matches and the usual rules would apply in terms of applying for those licences.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- in terms of any extended hours applications for matches not involving Scotland, the Clerk clarified that applications would be assessed against the licensing objectives as per the Highland Licensing Board's Scheme of Delegation. Feedback provided to the Licensing Standards Officer (LSO) from licensed premises suggested that there was little appetite for these matches;
- key games such as the semi-final stages were within licensed hours;
- the termination time of 30 minutes after the final whistle was important and fair; and
- in response to a question regarding increased noise monitoring, the Licensing Sergeant confirmed that all licensed premises held the responsibility for their premises and the immediate vicinity outside, however, it was a consideration for the Police in addition to their patrols to check and monitor premises who did adopt an extended licence for the games. It was also confirmed that all licensed premises would be operating under their normal licensing conditions.

The Board **AGREED** to grant a general extension of licensed hours for all on sales premises under section 67 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 which had:

1. a full premises licence; and
2. televised sport included in their operating plan

for the Scotland group stage matches and any further Scotland fixtures should they progress within the tournament, until 30 minutes after the final whistle/end of play.

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

The Board would request that any on sales licensed premises seeking to use the general extension completed a notification form so both the Licensing Board and the Police could ensure resources were correctly targeted, to ensure compliance.

**7. Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005
Applications for provisional premises licences
Achd Ceadachd (Alba) 2005
Iarrtas airson ceadachdan thogalaichean le cumha**

7.1 Ref: HC/CSR/2163

Applicant: Mamta Ramanbhai Patel

Premises: Braemore Square House, Lochbroom, Garve

Type: On and off sales

There had been circulated Report No HLB/18/26 by the Clerk.

The applicant's agent spoke in support of the application.

The applicant and her family purchased the property 5 years ago. They lived in part of the property and wished to utilise the other part as a multi-purpose venue with guest accommodation, to be used exclusively for social events such as weddings, birthday parties and retreats for up to 80 people. Alcohol would be ancillary to the events and there would be no permanent bar. It was the applicant's intention to apply for a full licence once the required certification had been awarded.

The Board **AGREED** to **GRANT** the application for provisional premises licence subject to the mandatory conditions and the local conditions set out at 7.2 of the report.

7.2 Ref: HC/CSR/2163(2)

Applicant: Anderson & Moore Limited

Premises: Blue Door Burgers and Shakes, Riverside Road, Thurso

Type: On sales

There had been circulated Report No HLB/19/26 by the Clerk.

The applicant's solicitor spoke in support of the application.

This was a restaurant-led American diner-style premises. The application requested flexibility to operate longer hours during busier seasons. Section 50 certification had already been awarded and the applicant would be applying for a full licence subject to the Board's approval of the provisional licence.

The Board **AGREED** to **GRANT** the application for provisional premises licence subject to the mandatory conditions and the local condition set out at 7.2 of the report.

8. Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

Applications for variation (major) to premises licences

Achd Ceadachd (Alba) 2005

Iarrtasan airson Caochladh (Mòr) a thaobh ceadachdan thogalaichean

8.1 Ref: HC/INBS/497

Applicant: Whitbread Group PLC, Houghton Hall Business Park, Porz Avenue, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU5 5XE

Premises: Premier Inn, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5TD

Type: On and off sales

There had been circulated Report No HLB/20/26 by the Clerk.

The applicant's solicitor spoke in support of the application.

As part of a wider restructure by Whitbread Group, this premises was undergoing a repurpose and rebrand. Details were shared with the Board in terms of internal alterations to the premises, which included a reduction of the food and beverage trading space and the creation of a 2-storey annex, to

increase the number of bedrooms. A breakdown in terms of internal and external occupancy was provided. The food and beverage area would be open to the public but would primarily focus on hotel guests.

The Board **AGREED** to **GRANT** the application for provisional premises licence subject to the mandatory conditions and the existing local conditions.

**9. Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005
Premises licence review hearings
Achd Cheadachd (Alba) 2005
Iarrtasan airson èisteachd ath-bhreithneachail air ceadachd togalaich**

9.1 Ref: HC/CSR/1252

Licence Holder: Priyanka Selvachandran

Premises: Maryburgh Stores, Proby Street, Maryburgh

Type: Off sales

There had been circulated Report No HLB/21/26 by the Clerk.

The Board heard from the Licensing Sergeant who advised, in terms of Section 36(1) and (3)(b) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, that an application for review of the premises licence in respect of Maryburgh Stores had been made. Details were provided to the Board for consideration.

In response to a question, the Licensing Sergeant confirmed that the child had not carried out a test purchase. They had entered the premises and bought alcohol. The parent later discovered this had occurred and contacted the Police. The child provided to Police that they had not been asked for identification when they purchased the alcohol.

The licence holder apologised for the incident and advised the Board that she took full responsibility. As soon as she had been informed of the matter, she took immediate action which included removing the staff member involved and strengthening procedures. Challenge 25 training had since been provided and would continue regularly. The premises was committed to following the law, the incident was a one-off mistake and it did not reflect how the business was run.

In response to a question, the licence holder confirmed that the premises had a refusals book and it was used.

The Clerk clarified the options available to the Board, as per section 2.2 of the report.

During discussion, Members were satisfied that the statutory grounds for review had been met, particularly in terms of protecting children and young people from harm. It was recognised that Maryburgh Stores was the only shop in a small community and that the licence holder had taken the correct steps to avoid a further occurrence.

Thereafter, the Board **AGREED**:-

- i. that the grounds for review under section 36(3)(b) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 had been established, namely that the conduct was relevant to one or more of the licensing objectives (preventing crime and disorder and protecting children and young persons from harm); and
- ii. it was necessary for the purposes of the licensing objectives (preventing crime and disorder and protecting children and young persons from harm) to issue a written warning to the licence holder.

9.2 Non-payment of annual premises licence fees

There had been circulated Report No HLB/22/26 by the Clerk inviting the Board to hold premises licence review hearings in respect of each of the premises listed in the report, further to the review proposals made by the Board on 26 February 2026.

The Board **NOTED** that the review hearings were no longer required as The Coach House had surrendered their licence and the Glencoe Village Store had now paid their annual fee.

10. Application for personal licence Iarrtas airson ceadachd phearsanta

10.1 Applicant: Gary Stewart

There had been circulated Report No HLB/23/26 by the Clerk.

The Board heard from the Licensing Sergeant who advised, in terms of Section 73(3)(b) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, that the applicant had been convicted of a relevant offence. Information was provided in relation to the offence and the Police made no recommendation.

The applicant spoke in support of his application and provided context in relation to the offence.

The Convener referred to a reference from his employer, Alness Golf Club, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Alness Golf Club had held a full premises licence since 2016 and fully supported this application.

The Board **AGREED** to **GRANT** the application for a personal licence.

11. Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 Section 84 – conduct inconsistent with the licensing objectives Achd Cheadachd (Alba) 2005, Earrann 84 – giùlan neo-chunbhalach ris na h-amasan ceadachd

11.1 Personal Licence Holder: Priyanka Selvachandran

There had been circulated Report No HLB/24/26 by the Clerk.

The Board heard from the Licensing Sergeant who advised, in terms of Section 84(a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, that the licence holder had acted in

a manner inconsistent with the licensing objectives, namely preventing crime and disorder and protecting children and young people from harm. Details of the incident had been provided during Item 9.1.

Following a brief discussion, the Board **AGREED** to take no action.

11.2 Personal Licence Holder: Amanda Simpson

There had been circulated Report No HLB/25/26 by the Clerk.

The Board heard from the Licensing Sergeant who advised, in terms of Section 84(a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, that the licence holder had acted in a manner inconsistent with the licensing objectives, namely preventing crime and disorder and securing public safety. Information was provided in relation to the offence.

The Clerk clarified the options available to the Board as per Section 84(7) and (7)(a) of the Act.

The applicant was not present although had indicated that she would attend the hearing.

The Board **AGREED** to **DEFER** the hearing until the next Licensing Board meeting on 12 May 2026 to give the applicant a further opportunity to be present.

12. Surrender of premises licence Gèilleadh ceadachd togalaich

12.1 Premises: West Coast Delicatessen, 5 Argyle Street, Ullapool
Licence Holder: Shan Tunsley

The above Premises Licences had been surrendered in terms of Section 28(5)(f).

The meeting closed at 11.10am.