

The Highland Licensing Board

Meeting – 23 June 2026

Agenda Item	7.1
Report No	HLB/58/26

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

MV Eilidh Catriona, Dochgarroch Lock, Inverness.

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 MV Eilidh Catriona, Dochgarroch Lock, Inverness IV3 8JG.

1.0 Description of premises

1.1 MV Eilidh Catriona is a Sealine SC42 motor vessel normally berthed on the Caledonian Canal at Dochgarroch Lock, Inverness, undertaking cruises between March and October, and occasionally out with the normal season.

2.0 Operating hours

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

On sales:

Monday to Sunday: 1000 hours to 2200 hours

3.0 Background

3.1 On 31 March 2026 the Licensing Board received an application for the grant of a premises licence from Highland Free Spirits.

3.2 In terms of section 126(6) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, the section 50 certification requirements in respect of Planning, Building Standards and Food Hygiene do not apply. Accordingly, no such certificates were required to accompany the application. A Disabled Access Statement was submitted with the application.

- 3.3 The application was publicised during the period 12 April until 03 May 2026 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

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) Application for the grant of a new premises licence has been received from Highland Free Spirits for Motor Vessel Eilidh Catriona. The vessel is a Sealine SC42 motor vessel with a capacity for no more than 8 guests which will offer luxury guided tours of Loch Ness and the Caledonian Canal. When not cruising, the home berth of the vessel will be Dochgarroch, Inverness.
- (ii) Application has been made within the application to permit the sale of alcohol by way of on sales only as follows:

On Sales - Monday to Sunday: 1000 hours to 2200 hours.
- (iii) The proposed licensed hours are within Board policy for a food-led operation and the sale of any alcohol prior to core hours will be ancillary to food with a buffet style offering available to guests.
- (iv) There is no bar counter, and the provision of alcohol will be made on passenger request to staff to resource the alcohol from a controlled store within the vessel.
- (v) The Children & Young Persons policy proposed is considered suitable and is within the Highland Licensing Board policy.
- (vi) The applicant is excused the need to supply Section 50 certificates being a vessel. Layout plans of acceptable quality have been submitted, as has a disabled access statement.
- (vii) Having overviewed the application the LSO is content that it meets the requirements of the 5 licensing objectives. The operators have the necessary experience in ensuring the requirements of the licensing legislation are appropriately met.
- (viii) Following the public consultation phase of this application no objections or representations have been received by the 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

It is recommended that the following additional local condition(s) are attached:

- e. Premises opening for sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises prior to 1100 hours shall have available a selection of hot and cold food and shall advertise this within the premises.

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 condition 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/722
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