

The Highland Licensing Board

Meeting – 4 August 2026

Agenda Item	6.1
Report No	HLB/72/26

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

Voyager of Loch Ness, Canal Side, Fort Augustus, PH32 4BD

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 Voyager of Loch Ness, Canal Side, Fort Augustus, PH32 4BD

1.0 Description of premises

- 1.1 The Voyager of Loch Ness is situated in Fort Augustus and consists of a passenger cruise ship.

2.0 Operating hours

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

On sales:

Monday to Sunday: 1100 hours to 2400 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 2 June 2026 the Licensing Board received an application for the grant of a premises licence from Cruise Loch Ness Limited.
- 3.2 The application was accompanied by the necessary Disabled Access Statement.
- 3.3 The application was publicised during the period 15 June until 6 July 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
 - 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) Application for the grant of a new premises licence has been received from Cruise Loch Ness Limited for Motor Vessel Voyager of Loch Ness. The vessel is a cruise boat with a capacity to carry 240 passengers with 4 crew, offering tours of Loch Ness and the Caledonian Canal. When not cruising, the home berth of the vessel will be Canal Side, Fort Augustus.

The applicant has previously been the holder of a premises licence in respect of passenger cruise vessels namely, 'Royal Scot', 'Caledonian Spirit' and Legend of Loch Ness, all based in Fort Augustus. Following the sale of Legend of Loch Ness the premises licence has been surrendered, and this application is in respect of its replacement vessel.

(ii) Application has been made within the application to permit the sale of alcohol by way of on and off sales as follows;

On Sales - Monday to Sunday: 1100 hours to 2400 hours
Off Sales - Monday to Sunday: 1000 hours to 2200 hours

(iii) The applicant is excused the need to supply Section 50 certificates and layout plans with the premises being a vessel which is not permanently moored or berthed. A disabled access statement has been submitted.

(iv) The children and young persons policy proposed is considered suitable and is within the Highland Licensing Board policy.

(v) 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.

(vi) 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

No local conditions are considered necessary.

7.3 Special conditions

No special conditions are considered necessary.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to determine the above application.

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/723
Date: 22 July 2026
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