The Highland Licensing Board

Agenda Item	**6.1**
Report No	**HLB/102/26**

Meeting – 1 December 2026

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

Thingvoll Grog & Plunder, 59 High Street, Dingwall

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 Thingvoll Grog & Plunder, 59 High Street, Dingwall.

1.0 Description of premises

1.1 The premises is a specialist alcohol off sales shop located in the ground floor of a two storey semi-detached building in the centre of Dingwall. Internet and telephone sales will also be offered from the premises.

2.0 Operating hours

2.1 The applicant seeks the following hours:

Off sales:

Monday to Sunday: 1000 hrs to 2200 hrs

3.0 Background

3.1 On 5 October 2026 the Licensing Board received an application for the grant of a premises licence from Robert Macleod.

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

3.3 The application was publicised during the period from 23 October to 13 November 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.

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:-

a) Thingvall Grog and Plunder is a new business, which is based upon the off sale of alcohol to customers attending the shop premises and online and telephone sales only. The premises have operated on Occasional Licences for some time without issue.
b) The business is to be based in a two storey semi-detached building in Dingwall High Street. The ground floor being the premises applied for and the second floor a flat.
c) All activities applied for are within the policy of the Highland Licensing Board.
d) The activities sought would appear to be reasonable and appropriate for the proposed operation of the premises.
e) The layout plan submitted complies with the required specifications.
f) The off sale display area extends to 5.66m^2 well within Highland Licensing Board Policy.
g) There would not appear to be any matter contained within the application that is inconsistent with the licensing objectives.
h) I have no objection to this application.

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

None to apply.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to determine the above application and if minded to grant the 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/CSR/2186
Date: 17 November 2026
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