

Increase the weight licensing authorities will have to give to relevant representations and objection notices from the police

What is a relevant representation?

These are written representations, about the likely effect of the grant of an application for, or variation to a premises licence or club premises certificate, on the promotion of the licensing objectives. Responsible authorities and interested parties, such as local residents, make representations regarding licensing functions. To be considered relevant, representations must have regard to the potential impact of the licensing determination on the promotion of the licensing objectives.

The four licensing objectives are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- Public safety;
- The prevention of public nuisance;
- The protection of children from harm.

For a representation to be relevant it must be centred around the likely effect of the application on the promotion of one or more of the four licensing objectives.

What is the policy aim?

When determining an application for a premises licence, an application for a licence review or the granting of a personal licence, the licensing authority must have regard to relevant representations or objection notices (in the case of personal licence applications) from the chief officer of police.

We propose to strengthen the weight that licensing authorities must give to police representations (including those voiced by the police at a hearing) and objection notices by amending the statutory guidance to require licensing authorities to accept all representations and notices and adopt all recommendations from the police, unless there is clear evidence that these are not relevant.

Why should police representations be given more weight than those from other responsible authorities?

We want to reduce alcohol related crime and disorder and the police have a wealth of experience in relation to this. Too often police evidence is dismissed

by counter objections from other interested parties.

However, it is vital that licensing authorities consider relevant representations on the impact of crime and disorder from **all** responsible authorities.

Does this mean that the licensing authority will have to accept all representations and objection notices from the police?

No. Licensing Authorities will make licensing decisions based on all the evidence that they have available.

Why is this only being taken forward in statutory guidance?

The policy objective can be achieved through statutory guidance; otherwise this would make primary legislation unnecessarily burdensome.