

**Relevant sections of Spelthorne Borough Council's Statement of
Licensing Policy 2019-2024**

- 17.0 Licensing Hours
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- 17.3 Late night takeaways
- 25.7 Public Nuisance
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17.0 Licensing Hours

17.1 General

Longer licensing hours can help to avoid the concentration of customers leaving premises at the same time, leading to friction at late night food outlets, taxi ranks and other sources of transport. It is also recognised that licensing hours should not restrict the development of safe evening and night-time entertainments that are important for investment and employment locally. However, providing consumers with greater choice and flexibility must always be balanced carefully against the rights of local residents to peace and quiet.

There is no general presumption in Spelthorne in favour of lengthening licensing hours: the overriding principle will be the promotion of the four licensing objectives.

Stricter measures for controlling noise are likely to be sought for late licences, particularly in residential areas and/or where there has been a history of noise complaints. Please also see measures outlined under the "Public Nuisance" heading below.

Consideration will always be given to the individual merits of any application.

17.3 Late night takeaways

Applications for premises offering late night take away food and drink will be considered on their individual merits. However, such premises can be the focus of disorder with large numbers of people gathering there after other licensed premises have closed. The density and closing times of other licensed premises in the vicinity will therefore be taken into consideration. Applicants for late night takeaways in Staines Town Centre will also be encouraged to include the provision of CCTV and use of town centre radios on their operating schedules.

25.7 Public Nuisance

Licensed premises can have a significant impact on communities from noise, litter, light, odour and anti-social behaviour.

25.7.1 Noise

It is recommended that operating schedules contain sufficient information for officers to form a view as to whether noise from licensable activities is likely to

cause a problem to people living nearby. Applicants should provide details of proposed noise control measures, particularly if premises are in residential areas where regulated entertainment is being applied for late at night, or where there is a history of noise complaints. The licensing authority will normally apply stricter conditions in these circumstances where relevant representations have been received. Whilst each application will be considered on its individual merits it should be noted that restricting the hours of regulated entertainment may be necessary to prevent public nuisance.

Measures could include:

- A simple requirement to keep doors and windows at the premises closed when music is being played
- Limiting amplified music to a particular area of the building
- Moving speakers away from external walls or walls that abut private premises, or adjusting the direction of the speakers
- Installation of acoustic curtains, seals to doorways, rubber speaker mounts
- Fitting self-closing devices on doors so that they do not stay open.
- Monitoring noise levels at the perimeter of premises and taking action to reduce the volume if it is likely to disturb nearby neighbours, e.g. it could be too loud if the words of the song are clearly audible
- Noise limiters on amplification equipment (if proportionate to the premises – noise limiters are expensive and are likely to be a burden for smaller premises)
- Prominent clear and legible notices displayed at all exits requesting the public to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and the area quietly
- The placing of bottles and cans into bins outside the premises to take place at times that will minimise disturbance to nearby premises