

Spelthorne's Statement of Licensing Policy

The following sections of Spelthorne's Statement of Licensing Policy are relevant to this application:

- Section 8 gives advice on appropriate and proportionate use of conditions
- 24.7.1 in relation to noise

8.0 Conditions

Measures offered by applicants on their operating schedule will normally become licence conditions. They must be enforceable and the meaning must be clear and unambiguous. The authority may therefore alter the wording of a condition to achieve this. The context or meaning of the condition will not be changed.

The Licensing Authority may only attach conditions to a premises licence where "relevant representations" have been received. Relevant representations are those that relate to the licensing objectives, are about the particular application and relate to the particular premises.

Conditions will only be attached to a licence where they are appropriate for the promotion of one or more of the licensing objectives. They will focus on matters that are within the control of individual licensees and that are relevant to the type of premises and licensable activities that take place. 9

When considering conditions, the Licensing Authority will take into account the direct impact of the activities taking place at licensed premises on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned.

Conditions that duplicate provisions in other legislation would not normally be added to licences.

8.1 Authorisation of Sales

There is a mandatory condition on all premises licences that permit the sale of alcohol that all such sales must be authorised by a person who holds a personal licence. It is recommended that this authorisation be given in writing and that this written authorisation be available for inspection by police officers (including suitably authorised police staff), trading standards or licensing officers.

24.7.1 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

National Guidance

The following sections of the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 are relevant in the consideration of this application:

- Section 6 of the Guidance explains the status of Club premises certificates
- 15.52 refers to conditions

6. Club premises certificates

6.1 This Chapter covers the administration of the processes for issuing, varying, and reviewing club premises certificates and other associated procedures.

General

6.2 Clubs are organisations where members have joined together for particular social, sporting or political purposes. They may then combine to buy alcohol in bulk as members of the organisation to supply in the club.

6.3 Technically the club only sells alcohol by retail at such premises to guests. Where members purchase alcohol, there is no sale (as the member owns part of the alcohol stock) and the money passing across the bar is merely a mechanism to preserve equity between members where one may consume more than another.

6.4 Only 'qualifying' clubs may hold club premises certificates. In order to be a qualifying club, a club must have at least 25 members and meet the qualifying conditions set out in paragraph 6.9. The grant of a club premises certificate means that a qualifying club is entitled to certain benefits. These include:

- the authority to supply alcohol to members and sell it to guests on the premises to which the certificate relates without the need for any member or employee to hold a personal licence;
- the authority to provide late night refreshment to members of the club without requiring additional authorisation;
- more limited rights of entry for the police and authorised persons because the premises are considered private and not generally open to the public;
- exemption from police powers of instant closure on grounds of disorder and noise nuisance (except when being used under the authority of a temporary event notice or premises licence) because they operate under their codes of discipline and rules; and
- exemption from orders of the magistrates' court for the closure of all licensed premises in an area when disorder is happening or expected.

6.5 Qualifying clubs should not be confused with proprietary clubs, which are clubs run commercially by individuals, partnerships or businesses for profit. These require a premises licence and are not qualifying clubs.

6.6 A qualifying club will be permitted under the terms of a club premises certificate to sell and supply alcohol to its members and their guests only. Instant membership is not permitted and members must wait at least two days between their application and their admission to the club. A qualifying club may choose to apply for a premises licence if it decides that it wishes to offer its facilities commercially for use by the general public, including the sale of alcohol to them. However, an individual on behalf of a club may give temporary event notices. See Chapter 7.

6.7 The 2003 Act does not prevent visitors to a qualifying club being supplied with alcohol as long as they are 'guests' of any member of the club or the club collectively, and nothing in the 2003 Act prevents the admission of such people as guests without prior notice. The 2003 Act does not define "guest" and whether or not somebody is a genuine guest would in all cases be a question of fact.

6.8 There is no mandatory requirement under the 2003 Act for guests to be signed in by a member of the club. However, a point may be reached where a club is providing commercial services to the general public in a way that is contrary to its qualifying club status. It is at this point that the club would no longer be conducted in "good faith" and would no longer meet "general condition 3" for qualifying clubs in section 62 of the 2003 Act. Under the 2003 Act, the licensing authority must decide when a club has ceased to operate in "good faith" and give the club a notice withdrawing the club premises certificate. The club is entitled to appeal against such a decision to a magistrates' court. Unless the appeal is successful, the club would need to apply for a premises licence to authorise licensable activities taking place there.

Qualifying conditions

6.9 Section 62 of the 2003 Act sets out five general conditions which a relevant club must meet to be a qualifying club. Section 63 also sets out specified matters for licensing authorities to enable them to determine whether a club is established and conducted in good faith – the third qualifying condition. Section 64 sets out additional conditions which only need to be met by clubs intending to supply alcohol to members and guests. Section 90 of the 2003 Act gives powers to the licensing authority to issue a notice to a club withdrawing its certificate where it appears that it has ceased to meet the qualifying conditions. There is a right of appeal against such a decision.

Associate members and guests

6.10 As well as their own members and guests, qualifying clubs are also able to admit associate members and their guests (i.e. members and guests from another 'recognised club' as defined by section 193 of the 2003 Act) to the club premises when qualifying club activities are being carried on without compromising the use of their club premises certificate.

Applications for the grant or variation of club premises certificates

6.11 The arrangements for applying for or seeking to vary club premises certificates are extremely similar to those for a premises licence. Clubs may also use the minor variation process to make small changes to their certificates as long as these could have no adverse impact on the licensing objectives. Licensing authorities should refer to Chapter 8 of this Guidance on the handling of such applications.

6.12 In addition to a plan of the premises and a club operating schedule, clubs must also include the rules of the club with their application (as well as making a declaration to the licensing authority in accordance with regulations made under the 2003 Act). On notifying any alteration to these rules to the licensing authority, the club is required to pay a fee set down in regulations. Licensing authorities cannot require any changes to the rules to be made as a condition of receiving a certificate unless relevant representations have been made. However, if a licensing authority is satisfied that the rules of a club indicate that it does not meet the qualifying conditions in the 2003 Act, a club premises certificate should not be granted.

Steps needed to promote the licensing objectives

6.13 Club operating schedules prepared by clubs, must include the steps it intends to take to promote the licensing objectives. These will be translated into conditions included in the certificate, unless the conditions have been modified by the licensing authority following consideration of relevant representations. Guidance on these conditions is given in Chapter 10 of this Guidance.

Conditions relating to other non-licensable activities

15.52 If appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, and if there is a link to remaining licensable activities, conditions that relate to non-licensable activities can be added to or altered on that premises licence or club premises certificate at

review following problems occurring at the premises. This has been a feature of licence conditions since the 2003 Act came into force. A relevant example could be the use of conditions relating to large screen broadcasts of certain sporting events which, combined with alcohol consumption, could create a genuine risk to the promotion of the licensing objectives. It is also not uncommon for licence conditions relating to the sale of alcohol to restrict access to outside areas, such as unlicensed beer gardens, after a certain time