

SOUTH AYRSHIRE LICENSING REPORT 2023 - 2024



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

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Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the Annual Licensing Report for 2023/24, in accordance with Section 12(A) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

Since taking up the position of Chief Constable of Police Scotland in October 2023 I have been committed to focusing on working closely with communities to solve problems through proactivity.

In respect of Licensing, this has been made possible with the continued support of the 32 local authorities across Scotland as well as many other associated national and local partnerships.

This collaborative working ensures a fair approach to licensing for the benefit of the licensed trade while simultaneously preventing alcohol fuelled violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour.

In the year ahead our approach will remain focused on prevention and collaboration to ensure high standards of service delivery. I will continue to encourage officers and staff to utilise the range of options available to them to maintain and improve licensing standards and to positively influence behaviour in and around all licensed premises throughout Scotland.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local partnerships for their contribution to maintaining high standards and driving improvement where necessary within the Licensed Trade for the benefit of the communities we all serve.



Chief Constable Jo Farrell

Police Service of Scotland

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Police Scotland Licensing Overview

The Violence Prevention and Licensing Co-ordination Unit (VPLCU) sits within Policing Together, based at Dalmarnock Police Station, Glasgow.

The VPLCU upholds the two tier structure for licensing which supports both national and local priorities through service delivery. They have overall responsibility for determining and delivering national licensing strategy and policy, by providing advice, guidance and support to divisional licensing teams as well as undertaking other specialist functions.

The Violence Prevention and Licensing Co-ordination Unit is a specialist department which consists of a small team of officers, based in Glasgow. The officers within the unit work with divisional licensing teams and partner agencies to help shape policy and strategy around the police licensing function. They provide practical and tactical advice to police licensing practitioners, operational officers, supervisors and policing commanders.

The VPLCU seek to ensure that legislation governing the sale and supply of alcohol is applied consistently across the country and all opportunities are taken to stop the illegal or irresponsible sale, supply or consumption of alcohol with the intention of preventing and reducing crime and disorder.

During 2023/2024, from a licensing perspective, our particular focus was on the following;

- Scrutiny of the serious incidents of violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour linked to licensed premises.
- Governance and ongoing development of the National ICT Licensing System, known as “Inn Keeper”, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of liquor and civic licensing administration and management. Police Scotland are currently working on upgrade to the National ICT system to ensure compliance with GDPR legislation.

Each of the 13 Local Policing Divisions have a licensing team responsible for the day to day management of licensing administration, complying with statutory requirements as well as addressing any issues that may arise within licensed premises in their local area.

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LICENSING BOARD AREA

The Licensing Board area is policed by South Ayrshire Sub-Division. Chief Superintendent Raymond Higgins is the Local Police Commander who has the responsibility for all day-to-day policing functions.

Senior Officers

The senior officers who hold responsibility for licensing within the area of South Ayrshire are as follows:

Chief Inspector Kevin Lammie	Area Commander
Inspector Derek McDonald	Head of the Licensing Department
Sergeant Sheryl Syme	Licensing Department

Local Policing Priorities

Following our public consultation process, the policing priorities for South Ayrshire Sub-Division as set out in our Local Policing Plan are as follows:

- Serious and Organised Crime
- Safer Communities
- Acquisitive Crime
- Community Wellbeing
- Road Safety

Description of Board Area

There are a total of 388 Licensed Premises in South Ayrshire:

103 On-Sales
165 On/Off Sales
120 Off-Sales

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OPERATION OF THE LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005

Introduction

Alcohol pervades across a wide range of issues in our society and, as you know, is often a factor in violence, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour; incidents that the Police Service of Scotland deals with every day in each area of the country. Therefore, licensed premises are carefully monitored with all incidents in and around such premises scrutinised to ensure compliance with the licensing objectives, resulting in a greater knowledge and understanding of potential problematic premises.

A problem solving approach is implemented in conjunction with the Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Managers. Premises that continue to fall below expected standards can be subject of formal police interventions and in some cases, a review being submitted to the Licensing Board.

Ayrshire Divisional Licensing Department utilises the Innkeeper database to highlight monitored and problematic premises, this allows our officers to focus their attention on the premises requiring the most support and attention.

Board Decisions

Application for a Premise Licence

In the South Ayrshire board area during the reporting year, there have been no premises licence objections submitted to the South Ayrshire Licensing Board by Police Service of Scotland.

Application for Review of Licence

In the South Ayrshire board area during the reporting year, there have been no premises licence reviews submitted to the South Ayrshire Licensing Board by Police Service of Scotland.

Variation to a Premise Licence

During the reporting year, there has been one representation to variation of a licenced premise licence submitted to South Ayrshire Licensing Board by Police Service of Scotland.

Personal Licences

Personal licences are carefully considered by Ayrshire Division Licensing in line with policy and legislation before being returned to the local authority. In the reporting year, there have been no personal licence objections submitted to South Ayrshire Licensing Board.

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Personal Licence Reviews

During the reporting year, there have been no Personal Licence reviews submitted to South Ayrshire Licensing Board.

Formal Police Interventions

Our focus is to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places, and communities in South Ayrshire by focusing on keeping people safe. This is done by local officers who are proactively identifying and addressing concerns regarding licensed premises at an early stage. Through early intervention and working in partnership with Designated Premise Managers and Premise Licence Holders, areas of concern have been successfully resolved without the requirement for a premises or personal licence review.

These agreements are entered into between Premises Licence Holders and Police Scotland and set out areas in which improvement could be made. Each agreement is monitored and reviewed within a specific timescale to ensure that the necessary improvements have been implemented.

The formal intervention process should result in an improvement in standards and practices. The process also ensures that Police Scotland utilises a fair and evidence based approach prior to pursuing a formal review of a premises licence if agreed terms are not being complied with or if there are recurring issues.

There have not been any Formal Police Interventions issued within the South Ayrshire Board Area.

PREVENTING THE SALE OR SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL TO CHILDREN OR YOUNG PEOPLE

In South Ayrshire there have been no reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal for contravention of Section 102 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, which relates to the sale of alcohol to a child or young person.

There has been one report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal for Section 104A(1)(a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 which relates to the persons buying or attempting to buy alcohol for a child.

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TACKLING SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

Serious and Organised Crime (SOCG) presents a clear threat to the Ayrshire Licensing trade and legitimate economy. As a result, Ayrshire Division continues to target known criminality in this area as well as attempting to reduce the opportunity for individuals to exploit legitimate licensing opportunities for their own illegitimate means.

Licensing staff work closely with Divisional Intelligence teams to explore intervention opportunities against Serious and Organised Crime Groups.

At this current time, there are 5 Serious Organised Crime Groups being managed by Ayrshire Division with this group having a known interest in a business requiring some form of licence to operate. Not all groups are based in South Ayrshire but they all operate on a pan-Ayrshire basis.

This involvement in the licensing trade is often a direct result of the expertise or experience of an individual from their group in that business sector, and/or the chosen business, providing an ability to launder criminal proceeds.

Officers in South Ayrshire continue to carry out targeted premises visits whenever possible to ensure that all license conditions are being complied with. Such visits will also involve a range of partner agencies including;

HMRC, DVSA, DVLA, Scottish Power, SEPA, South Ayrshire Council, SIA and others.

Within South Ayrshire, continued scrutiny of problematic premises has in the past had positive results. Licensed premises throughout Ayrshire usually positively engage with Police by not only reporting incidents that occur within the Licensed Premise, but incidents that occur out with the premise, ensuring public safety.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

South Ayrshire Sub-Division will continue to focus on “Keeping People Safe” and will work collaboratively with the licensed trade, partners and local communities to improve standards and compliance across the licensed trade and actively targeting:

- excess alcohol consumption
- vulnerability due to excess alcohol consumption
- sale and supply of alcohol to children and young people
- incidents of crime and offending connected to sale of alcohol

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Operation Inver

Operation Inver is a partnership approach to ensure a focussed and proportionate response to support the nighttime economy in South Ayrshire.

The overarching objective during this time will be to Keep People Safe. The following strategy is implemented for this operation:

- Maximise the safety of the public.
- Minimise disruption to the local communities.
- Ensure public order is maintained, addressing alcohol related violence and anti-social behaviour, particularly in and around licensed premises.
- Ensure licensed premises comply with the current legislation.
- Ensure positive and negative interactions with licensed premises are accurately logged.

Officers are tasked with specific duties including visits to licensed premises to ensure that licensing legislation and responsibilities expected by managers and staff as contained within their license is complied with, and that any instances of anti-social behavior in and around licensed premises is dealt with accordingly.

In engaging members of the public the policing style adopted is friendly and engaging whilst robustly dealing with any instances of anti-social behaviour.

Operation Inver is further enhanced on Saturday nights with the deployment of Taxi marshals, Street pastors and St Andrews Ambulance.

Police Scotland continue to work with the South Ayrshire local Licensing Standards Officers and other partner agencies to ensure public that are visiting South Ayrshire during the evenings can do so safely.

FOCUS ON VULNERABILITY AND DUTY OF CARE IN THE NIGHTTIME ECONOMY – Bystander Training.

Divisional Licensing staff will continue to carryout Bystander training in South Ayrshire This is training offered to Licensed premises to raise the awareness of preventing incidents of vulnerability and related crime, promoting safety by identifying the signs of vulnerability at the earliest opportunity, minimising the risk to themselves or members of the public by:

- Understanding what Vulnerability is
- Recognise the impact factors
- Identify those who may be vulnerable
- Understanding what our duty of care is
- Practical information

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IT'LL COST YOU CAMPAIGN

The 'It'll cost you' alcohol proxy purchase campaign was promoted in South Ayrshire. The aim of this campaign was to raise awareness of the consequences of proxy purchase and

- Reduce the number of proxy purchases of alcohol for under 18's
- Reduce crime and antisocial behaviour
- Make our communities safer
- Protect children and under 18's from harm

This was to target

1. Adult's (anyone over the age of 18) including parents, older siblings, friends and members of the general public, who under 18's may approach to buy alcohol for them.
2. Under 18's - children need to understand that not only are there serious consequences for the adults they ask to make a purchase for them, their actions may inadvertently place them in dangerous or vulnerable situations.

The Licensing Department has signed up to continue to promote this campaign in 2024 along with the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers.

To conclude we would like to thank you for your continued support during what has been another challenging year for all.

We look forward to a safe and healthy 2024/2025.