



HILLINGDON
LONDON

Hearing Protocol

This protocol outlines the procedures that will be followed in relation to hearings held under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 and the Gambling Act 2005 (Proceedings of Licensing Committees and Sub-committees) (Premises Licences and Provisional Statements) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 ("together hereafter the Regulations") provide that a Licensing Authority shall, subject to the provisions of those Regulations, determine for itself the procedure to be followed at a hearing.
- 1.2 These procedures set out the way in which the Licensing Authority will conduct hearings under the Licensing Act 2003 ("hereinafter the 2003 Act") and the Gambling Act 2005 ("hereafter 2005 Act") and the associated Regulations.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 of this protocol includes the procedure that will be adopted by the Licensing Authority in the event that an interim hearing must be held following notice of a Summary Review pursuant to Section 53A of the Act.

2. Timescales

- 2.1 Most hearings under the 2003 Act must take place within 20 working days from the last date in which representations can be made.
- 2.2 Exceptions under the 2003 Act:
 - Within 10 working days from the day after the Authority receives the notice for a review of the premises licence following a Closure Order.
 - Within 7 working days from after the end of the period within which the police can object to:
A temporary event notice (the police must give notice of their objection within 3 working days of being given a copy of the notice); and
 - Within 5 working days beginning with the day after the end of the last date for the police to object to an interim authority notice (the police must give notice of their objection within 2 working days of being given a copy of the notice).
- 2.3 For applications made under the 2005 Act the Authority must commence a hearing as soon as reasonably practicable after the expiry of the statutory period where representations can be received.
- 2.4 These matters are more fully set out in the Regulations.
- 2.5 Where a hearing will take more than one working day, the Authority must arrange for the hearing to take place on consecutive working days.

3. Timescales for Notice of Hearing to be given

3.1 In most cases, the Authority shall give notice of a hearing no later than 10 working days before the first day on which the hearing is to be held.

3.2 Exceptions under the 2003 Act:

- Review of a premises licence following a Closure Order;
- Summary Review of premises licence

At least two working days notice must be given to the parties to a hearing for determination of:

- Police objection to an Interim Authority Notice;
- Police objection to a Temporary Event Notice.

4. Persons who must be notified of a hearing

4.1 The persons who must be notified of a hearing are set out below as a summary:

- Any applicant for any licence, provisional statement or review made under the 2003 Act and the 2005 Act;
- The premises user who submitted the temporary event notice under the 2003 Act;
- Any person who has made relevant representations about an application for a licence or provisional statement or review;
 - Any police officer who has given notice of objection under the 2003 Act to a person specified as a Designated Premises Supervisor;
 - An interim authority;
 - Transfer of a premises licence;
 - Transfer of a club premises licence;
 - Transfer of a club premises certificate;
 - A temporary event notice;
 - A personal licence.
 - Any holder of a premises licence or club premises certificate when an application is made for review.

5. Information to be provided in a Notice of Hearing

5.1 The information and documentation that must accompany the Notice of Hearing relating to an application or notice under the 2003 Act includes:

- The procedure to be followed at the hearing;
- The right of the party to attend and to be assisted or represented by any person whether legally qualified or not;

- The ability to give further information in support of their application where the Authority has sought clarification;
- The right to question any other party;
- The right to address the Authority;
- Notice of any particular on which the Authority will want clarification at the hearing;
- The consequences if a party does not attend or is not represented at the hearing;

5.2 The information and documentation that must accompany the Notice of Hearing relating to an application under the 2005 Act includes:

- The consequences where a party informs the Sub-Committee that he/she does not wish to attend or be represented at the hearing or fails to inform the Sub-Committee whether he/she will attend or be represented at the hearing;
- The requirements imposed on the Sub-Committee in conducting a hearing as set out in the Regulations;
- The consequences where a party has indicated that he/she wishes to attend or be represented at the hearing, but fails to attend or be represented at the hearing;
- The procedure to be followed at the hearing;
- The time limit and method by which a party should inform the Sub-Committee that he/she wishes to be assisted or represented by another person;
- The time limit and method by which a party should inform the Licensing Authority that he/she will want to call a witness to give evidence at the hearing, and the matters in relation to which he/she will want to call a witness to give evidence at the hearing and the matters in relation to which he/she wishes that witness to give evidence;
- The time limit and method by which a party should inform the Sub-Committee that he/she is willing to consent to the application being determined without a hearing;
- The matters on which the Sub-Committee considers at the time that it will want clarification at the hearing from a party.

5.3 The Notice of Hearing will ask all parties to attend a briefing session 20 minutes before the hearing begins. At this briefing the Council's Legal Advisor will be available to answer questions or provide any clarification.

6. Notice of Reply

6.1 On receipt of the Notice of Hearing, all parties must inform the Authority whether they:

- Intend to attend or be represented at the hearing;
- Consider a hearing to be unnecessary; and
- Wish to request that another person appear at the hearing (other than their representative) as a witness. If such a request is made, it should be accompanied by details of the name of that person and a brief description of the point or points about which that person may be able to assist the hearing.

6.2 In the case of a hearing under-

- Section 48(3)(a) cancellation of interim authority notice following police objection; or
 - Section 105(2)(a) counter notice following police objection to Temporary Event Notice
- The party must return the notice no later than one working day before the day of the hearing.
 - In the case of a hearing under-
 - Section 167(5)(a) review of a premises licence following a closure order ; or
 - Section 53C review of premises licence following review notice; or
 - Paragraph 4(3)(a) of Schedule 8 conversion of an existing licence; or
 - Paragraph 16(3)(a) of Schedule 8 conversion of an existing club licence; or
 - Paragraph 26(3)(a) of Schedule 8 determination of application by holder of justices' licence for grant of personal licence
 - The party must return the notice no later than two working days before the day of the hearing.
 - In any other case, the party must give no later than five working days before the day of the hearing.

7. Failure of parties to attend the hearing

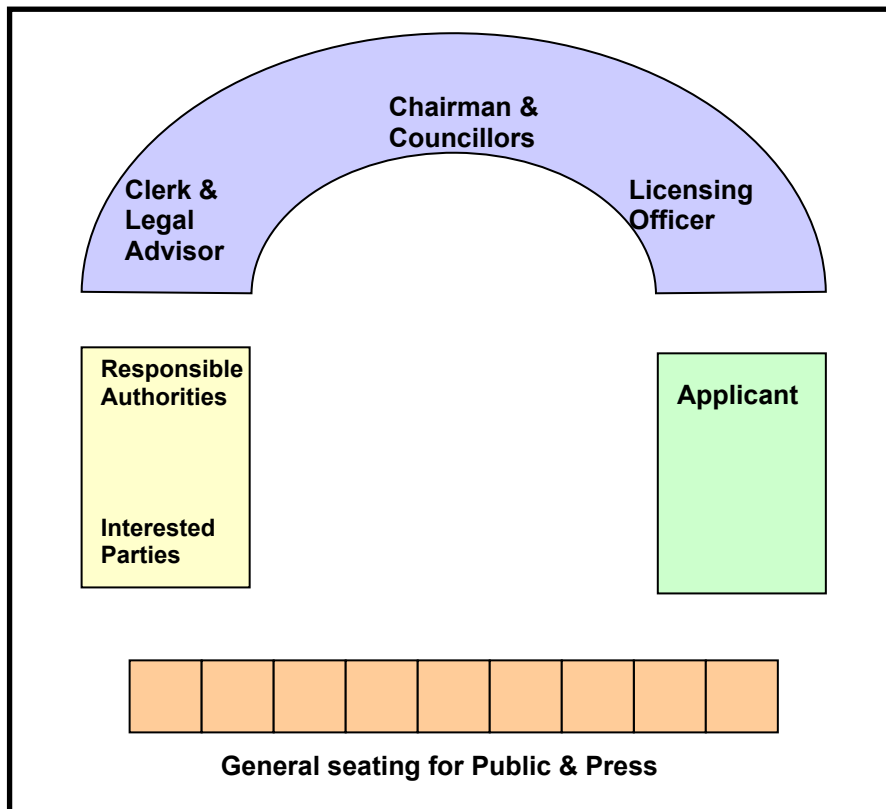
- 7.1 If a party has informed the Authority that they will not be attending or be represented at the hearing it may proceed in their absence.
- 7.2 If a party does not give notice that they will not be attending but fails to attend and is not represented the Authority may either:
- (a) Adjourn the hearing if it considers it to be necessary in the public interest; or
 - (b) Hold the hearing in the party's absence.
- 7.3 If the Authority holds the hearing in the absence of a party, it will consider at the hearing the application, the representation or notice given by the party.
- 7.4 If the Authority adjourns the hearing to a specified date it must forthwith (as soon as reasonably practicable under the Gambling Act regulations) notify the parties of the date, time and place to which the hearing has been adjourned.

8. Procedure at the hearing

- 8.1 Composition of Sub-Committee
- 8.2 The Sub-Committee will, usually consist of three members appointed from members of the Authority's Licensing Committee.

8.3 No business shall be transacted unless at least two members of the Sub-Committee are present and able to form a properly constituted Sub-Committee.

8.4 The usual room layout for the hearing will be as outlined below:



8.5 The usual order of proceedings will be as set out below:

Order of proceedings

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee will open the hearing by introducing the Councillors, explaining the purpose of the proceedings and the general procedure. The Chairman will then check that there are no additions or alterations to the list of those appearing at the hearing.

Introduction by the Council's Licensing Officer



The Applicant



Responsible Authorities (if present)



Interested Parties' Case (residents etc...)



DISCUSSION LED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman will lead the discussion. This will be a chance for all parties to provide comments on any submissions that have been made to the Sub-Committee.



Closing remarks from each party



Sub-Committee deliberates



Chairman announces the decision

The Licensing Officer will introduce the report and will outline the matter before the Sub-Committee, giving any relevant background information. The Sub-Committee may ask questions of the officer.

The Applicant or the person representing him/her will be invited to address the Sub-Committee. The Applicant will normally be allowed [minutes] to present his/her case. The Sub-Committee may ask questions.

Responsible Authorities will be invited to address the Sub-Committee and will normally be allowed [minutes]. The Sub-Committee may ask questions of the Responsible Authorities.

Interested parties will be invited to address the Sub-Committee. Where there are a number of parties making similar representations the Chairman will expect the parties to nominate a spokesperson to make the representations and will be allowed [minutes]. The Sub-Committee may ask questions of the Interested Parties.

The Chairman will invite the Responsible Authorities and Interested Parties to make brief closing remarks on the application. The Applicant makes the final closing remarks.

The Sub-Committee will remain in the room to deliberate and make their decision, with only the Legal Advisor and the Clerk to the Sub-Committee remaining. All others present will be asked to leave the room.

Parties may return to the room when invited to do so and the Chairman will announce the decision. The Chairman will remind the Applicant that the decision will be sent to them in writing. There can be no further questions or statements.

- 8.6 The Sub-Committee may allow the parties to question any other party (if permission is given) and to address the Sub-Committee, but will seek in all cases to avoid repetition of matters (whether included in written material or otherwise) irrelevancy or any abuse of procedure.
- 8.7 The Sub-Committee will be guided by legal principles by determining whether evidence is relevant and fairly admissible. In particular, hearsay evidence may be admitted before the Sub-Committee but consideration will always be given to the degree of weight, if any, to be attached to such evidence in all the relevant circumstances.
- 8.8 When considering any representations or notice made by a party, the Authority may take into account documentary or other information produced by a party in support of their application, representation or notice, either:
- (a) Before the hearing; or
 - (b) With the consent of all other parties at the hearing.
- 8.9 If documentary or other evidence is submitted late or at the hearing, the Sub-Committee may decide to adjourn the hearing so as to allow Members and any other party time to consider the information and that may involve an adjournment of proceedings to another date. The Sub-Committee may decide not to consider the information if no satisfactory explanation is provided for its late submission.
- 8.10 Any party may withdraw their representations by contacting the Democratic Services Department by phone, letter or email, providing they give notice no later than 24 hours before the first day of the hearing. If, during the hearing, any party wishes to withdraw their representations they may do so orally by informing the Chairman.
- 8.11 The Sub-Committee when determining an application or notice under the provisions of the 2003 Act will disregard any information given by a party, or any other person appearing at the hearing which is not relevant to:
- (a) Their application, representation or notice;
 - (b) In the case of another person, the application representation or notice of the party requesting their appearance;
 - (c) The promotion of the licensing objectives; or
 - (d) In relation to a hearing to consider a notice given by the Police the crime prevention objective.
- 8.12 A hearing under the 2003 Act shall take place in public save that:
- (a) The Sub-Committee may exclude the public from all or part of a hearing where it considers that, on balance, it is in the public interest to do so;

(b) The parties and any person representing them may be excluded in the same way as another member of the public.

8.13 A hearing under the 2005 Act shall take place in public save that:

(a) The Sub-Committee may direct that all or part of a hearing must be in private if it is satisfied that it is necessary in all circumstances of the case, having regard to:

- Any unfairness to a party that is likely to result from a hearing in public; and
- The need to protect as far as possible, the commercial or other legitimate interests of a party.

8.14 The Sub-Committee may require any person attending the hearing who in their opinion is behaving in a disruptive manner to leave the hearing and may:

- (a) Refuse to permit the person to return; or
- (b) Allow them to return only on such conditions as the Authority may specify.

8.15 Any person excluded may, before the end of the hearing, submit to the Sub-Committee in writing, any information which, they would have been entitled to give orally had they not been required to leave and the Sub-Committee will take that information into account in reaching a determination of the application or review.

9 Determination of the application and time limits

9.1 For applications determined under the 2003 Act the Sub-Committee must make its determination at the conclusion of the hearing where the application is for:

- (a) A review of a premises licence following a closure order;
- (b) A summary review of a premises licence
- (c) A personal licence by the holder of a justices licence;
- (d) A counter notice following police objection to a temporary event notice.

9.2 In any other case, the Authority must make its determination within the period of five working days, beginning with the day or the last day on which the hearing was held.

9.3 Where a hearing has been dispensed with because all of the parties have agreed that a hearing is unnecessary (and the Authority has agreed, giving notice to the parties in writing) then the Authority must make its determination for the 2003 Act applications, reviews and notices within 10 working days beginning with the day the Authority gives such notices to the parties.

10 Record of Proceedings

10.1 The Authority must arrange for a record to be taken of the hearing in a permanent and intelligible form and for that record to be kept for six years from the date of determination.

Where an appeal is brought against a determination by the Authority, the record must be kept for six years from the date of disposal of the appeal.

11 Irregularities

11.1 Proceedings will not be rendered void only as the result of failure to comply with any provision of the Regulations.

11.1 Where the Authority considers that any person may have been prejudiced as a result of an irregularity relating to the Regulations, it will take such steps, as it thinks fit to cure the irregularity, before reaching its determination.

11.2 Clerical mistakes in any document recording a determination of the Authority or errors arising in such a document as a result of an accidental slip or omission may be corrected by the Authority.

12 Notices

12.1 Any notices under these regulations will be given in writing. Such a notice may be sent electronically, providing:

- (a) It can be accessed by the recipient in a legible form;
- (b) It is capable of being reproduced as a document for future reference;
- (c) The recipient has agreed in advance to receive it in such form;
- (d) A copy is sent in documentary form forthwith to the recipient.

13 Appeals.

13.1 Either those that have made an application or those who have made representations on an application may have the right to appeal the Authorities decision to the Magistrates' Court.

13.1 An appeal must be commenced within twenty one days beginning with the day on which the appellant was notified by the Licensing Authority of their decision.

13.2 Notice of appeal should also be sent to the Authority's Legal Services Department.

14. Other information and contact details.

14.1 The minutes of a hearing will be made available on the Council's website at:
www.hillingdon.gov.uk

14.2 Applicants for new premises licences, club premises certificates, applications for provisional statements and applications for variations of existing premises licences or club premises certificates must display a notice on the premises and advertise the application in a local newspaper.

14.3 All applications once they are lodged will be available for viewing on Hillingdon Council's website at www.hillingdon.gov.uk and in the Civic Centre Offices by appointment with the Regulatory Services Department during working hours.

14.4 The address and contact details for Democratic Services are:

Clerk to the Committee
Cabinet Office
3E/05
Civic Centre
Uxbridge
UB8 1UW

14.5 The address and contact details for Legal Services are:

Legal Services Department
3E/04
London Borough of Hillingdon
Civic Centre
Uxbridge
UB8 1UW

DX: 45101 Uxbridge

Appendix 1

**Hearing Protocol for interim hearings held pursuant to
Section 53A to 53C of the Licensing Act 2003.**

1. Introduction.

- 1.1 The powers under Section 53A to 53C of Licensing Act 2003 ("the Act") are aimed at tackling serious crime and serious disorder.
- 1.2 The powers allow the police to trigger a fast track process to review a premises licence where the police consider that the premises are associated with serious crime or serious disorder (or both) and the Licensing Authority to respond by taking interim steps quickly, where appropriate, pending a full review.

2. Triggering the expedited review.

- 2.1 The Chief Officer of Police for the area in which the premises are situated may apply to the Licensing Authority for an expedited licence review if a senior member of the force has issued a certificate that in his/her opinion a licensed premises is associated with serious crime and serious disorder (or both).

3. The Licensing Authority and the interim steps.

- 3.1 Within 48 hours of receipt of the chief officer's application, the licensing authority must give the premises licence holder and the responsible authorities a copy of the application for review and a copy of the certificate and must also consider whether it is necessary to take interim steps pending the determination of the review applied for. When calculating the 48 hour period any non-working day will be disregarded.
- 3.2 Consideration of the interim steps may take place without the holder of the premises licence having been given an opportunity to make representations to the relevant Licensing Sub-Committee. There is no requirement to hold a formal hearing in order to take interim steps. This means that the relevant Sub-Committee members can communicate by telephone or other means in order to reach a decision. In such circumstances, a written record will always be produced as soon as possible after a decision is reached.
- 3.3 The interim steps that the Licensing Authority must consider taking are-
 - The modification of the conditions of the premises licence;
 - The exclusion of the sale of alcohol by retail from the scope of the licence;
 - The removal of the designated premises supervisor from the licence;
 - The suspension of the licence.
- 3.4 In the event that the Licensing Authority decides to take one or more such steps-
 - (a) Its decision takes effect immediately or as soon after that as the Licensing Authority directs; but
 - (b) It must give immediate notice of its decision and of its reasons for making it to-
 - (i) the holder of the premises licence; and

(ii) the Chief Officer of the Police for the area in which the premises are situated.

3.5 The Act does not specify that the immediate notice has to be in writing. Where the Licensing Authority decides that the decision should take immediate effect and the licence holder was not present for the decision, then it will approach the licence holder by telephone and the call will be followed up as soon as possible with a written version of the decision and the reasons which is identical to or not significantly different from the version given by telephone.

4. Making representations against the interim steps.

4.1 The holder of the premises licence may make representations against the interim steps taken by a Licensing Authority.

4.2 There is no time limit for the premises licence holder to make representations on the interim steps, although in practice this would at some point be superseded by the full review which has to be completed within 28 days of the application being received by the Licensing Authority.

4.3 On receipt of a representation the Licensing Authority must, if the representations are not withdrawn, hold a hearing to consider those representations within 48 hours of the time of its receipt.

4.4 The Licensing Authority must give advance notice of the hearing to-

(a) the holder of the premises licence;

(b) the chief officer of police for the area in which the premises are situated.

4.5 At the hearing, the Licensing Authority must -

(a) consider whether interim steps are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives; and

(b) determine whether to withdraw or modify the steps taken.

4.6 The Licensing Authority cannot adjourn the hearing to a later date if the licence holder fails to attend at the scheduled time.

4.7 The licence holder does not need to be present for the hearing to take place.

4.8 There is no timescale for notifying the licence holder of the hearing under this process, providing the notification takes place before the hearing is held. However, the Licensing Authority will aim to provide the licence holder with as much notice as is possible in the circumstances to afford the holder a maximum opportunity to prepare for and attend the hearing.

4.9 There is no right of appeal to a Magistrates' Court against the Licensing Authority's decision at this stage.

5. The review of the premises licence.

5.1 Within 28 days of receipt of an application under section 53A of the Act, the Licensing Authority must:

- hold a Sub-Committee hearing to consider the application for review and any relevant representations;
- take such steps as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives;
- secure that, from the coming into effect of the decision made on the determination of the review, any interim steps having effect pending that determination cease to have effect.

5.2 Those steps are-

- (a) the modification of the conditions of the premises licence;
- (b) the exclusion of a licensable activity from the scope of the licence;
- (c) the removal of the designated premises supervisor from the licence;
- (d) the suspension of the licence for a period not exceeding three months; or
- (e) revocation of the licence.

5.3 The Licensing Authority must:

- advertise the review inviting representations from any persons for no less than seven consecutive days and if applicable on the Licensing Authority's website;
- advertise that any representations made by the premises licence holder, responsible authority and any other persons should be submitted to the Licensing Authority within 10 working days of the advertisement of the review appearing; and
- give formal notice of the hearing no later than five working days before the day or first day on which the hearing is to be held to the premises licence holder and to every responsible authority.

5.4 A party shall give to the Licensing Authority a notice no later than two working days before the day or first day of the hearing stating whether-

- he intends to attend or be represented at the hearing;
- he considers a hearing to be unnecessary
- he would like permission for any other person to appear at the hearing and if so, explain on which points that person will be able to contribute.

5.5 The regulations relating to hearings are set out in the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005. They apply to final hearings under the section 53A(2)(b). The issues that these regulations deal with include who can make representations and what those representations can be about. It is therefore possible for responsible authorities or any other persons to make representations in relation to any of the licensing objectives, not just crime and disorder. Similarly where it is in the public interest, the regulations relating

to the exclusion of individuals from hearings, or conducting the hearing in private, will apply.

- 5.6 The Licensing Authority must notify the determination and its reasons for making it to-
 - (a) the holder of the premises licence;
 - (b) any person who made relevant representations; and
 - (c) the chief officer of police for the area in which the premises are situated.
- 5.7 An appeal may be made to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days of the licence holder being notified of the Licensing Authority's determination on the review.
- 5.8 An appeal may be made by the premises licence holder, the chief officer of police and/or any other person who made relevant representations.
- 5.9 The decision of the licensing authority, following the review hearing, will not have effect until the end of the period allowed for appeal, or until the disposal of the appeal.