

Perth and Kinross Licensing Board Equality Outcomes 2013

Perth and Kinross Licensing Board has statutory responsibility for regulating the sale of alcohol in Perth and Kinross. The Board is required to produce and publish Equality Outcomes. The Equality Outcomes must satisfy at least one of the aspects of the General Equality Duty:

- Eliminate discrimination, or
- Advance equality of opportunity, or
- Foster good relations between communities

Although the Licensing Board is a legal entity in its own right, it is very closely linked to Perth and Kinross Council. The work of the Licensing Board is regulated by the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. The Act requires each local authority to establish a Licensing Board for its area. The Board itself is made up of ten Councillors appointed to sit on the Board by Perth and Kinross Council. The Licensing Board does not have any staff, but instead the work of the Board is supported by staff employed by the Council.

Given that much of the work of the Licensing Board is carried out by Council staff and the Board is made up entirely of Councillors, there are very close links between the Board and the Council. In light of that it is appropriate that the Equality Outcomes of the Board are aligned to the Council's Equality Outcomes where appropriate.

Outcome 1 – Knowing where to get help in relation to licensing matters

The Council's Equality Outcomes identifies that through customer contact systems and community consultation, it is recognised that many people do not know how to get help from the Council.

The Council's Equality Outcomes also recognise that communities or individuals may be reluctant to seek help if they believe that information will not be available in relevant formats or in community languages.

The Council therefore states in its Equality Outcomes that it will work to ensure that:

- (a) more accessible information is more widely provided;
- (b) translation and interpreting services are improved

This Outcome is as relevant to licensing as it is to other services provided by the Council. The Board will therefore pay particular attention to the need to have clear information available which assists both those applying for licences but also the wider community who might be affected by licensed premises.

As the work of the Board is supported by Council staff, the Board will achieve this outcome by complying with the Council's accessibility standards in relation to its pages on the Council website and in any publications. It will also

continue to make use of the Council's translation and interpreting services where required and review documentation for Licensing Board meetings to ensure that the availability of these services is promoted.

This Equality Outcome satisfies all three aspects of the general equality duty.

Outcome 2 – Providing opportunities to influence licensing decisions

The Licensing Board recognises that licensed premises are an important part of the economy of Perth and Kinross. However, licensed premises can also impact on the community and those who live around them.

The Board is aware from the Council's engagement with communities that many individuals and communities are under represented in different parts of the economy. The Board is also aware of the Council's commitment in its Equality Outcomes to ensure that a wider range of community groups understand how to influence Council decisions. The Board considers that these issues are as relevant for the Board as they are for the Council.

The Board has already committed to providing information and assistance to those who wish to apply for a licence and to those who wish to make representations or object to a licence application.

The Board also consults widely with the community in relation to its policy statement and in relation to all major licence applications.

The Board will work to improve the opportunities available to influence licensing decisions by enhancing the information it provides to those who wish to make representations in relation to licence applications. The Board will also examine the consultation process in relation to its licensing policy statement to ensure that it engages with the whole community.