

id Institute of
Licensing

Link

LICENSING • INFORMATION • NEWS • KNOWLEDGE

ISSUE NO.11 SUMMER 2021

**19th July did not signal a
return to our pre-covid world;
far from it**

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IoL Regions

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Foreword



Words by
Daniel Davies

In the last Edition of LINK (Spring 2021), I reiterated my message to IoL members about the importance of partnership and collaboration and the difficulties facing our licensed sectors, particularly hospitality as we emerge from the lockdown restrictions.

At the time of writing, we have just moved to step 4 of the Government's Road map, effective from 19th July. 'Freedom Day' came with emphasis from the Government about the need to be cautious, and an expectation that cases will continue to rise. This was swiftly followed by indications that nightclubs and other 'high risk' settings may be required to use the NHS 'COVID Pass' from September, a move which has been broadly condemned by the licensed sector. On page 12 of LINK, Paul Chase explains why he thinks a condition of entry to licensed premises of any type is 'illiberal, unfair, unworkable, and unenforceable'.

Whatever September brings, it is clear that 'Freedom Day' did not herald a return to our pre-covid world; far from it. There have been too many changes, some of which are positive, such as an increased use of technology and hopefully a greater appreciation of human contact, of each other and the communities we all live in.

For the licensed hospitality sector, as we finally reach the end of those restrictions, businesses face the return of major costs including rent and business rates, and repayment of loans and deferred VAT etc., amid the challenges of track and trace where staff are notified that they have been in contact with a positive case and required to self-isolate. In many cases recently, this has led to businesses being forced to close for the duration of the isolation period.

In the meantime, there are severe shortages of staff, as a result of furloughed staff finding alternative work, and a critical shortage of security staff which is likely to impact on the ability of many businesses to meet the requirements of licence conditions. These latter concerns have prompted a joint letter from the Institute of Licensing and Night Time Industries Association to Chairs of Licensing Committees across the country to highlight the concerns and ask that they are considered when making licensing decisions. The letter follows in full in this edition of LINK (page 4)

We all hope that 19th July will signal the start of a steady recovery period for our businesses, cities, towns and communities. On that note, it is a pleasure to hear from Philip Kolvin QC about the Global Night-time Recovery Plan, and we are looking forward to the free webinar we are organising alongside Vibelab, to hear from each of the Chapter leads on this international project. In the article 'A New Hope' sets out our plans in New Brighton to utilise a disused supermarket as a hub for over 60 local businesses bringing more variety and vibrancy to the area.

This edition of LINK brings you a wide variety of topics and we are delighted to include an article from Paul Hegarty, Honorary Secretary, at All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group who tells us why 'Politics matter' illustrating the point brilliantly with some key examples.

Moving to animal licensing and in particular dog breeding, it is a pleasure to hear first-hand the experiences of Emma Matthews and her work in North Northamptonshire to ensure compliance with dog breeding licensing requirements.

Sarah Clover provides a welcome update about the report from the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing into advanced aesthetic non-surgical cosmetic treatments. There is a clear need for change in this area and the report adds weight to the call for reform.

Finally, with Tax conditionality due for implementation early next year in England and Wales for hackney carriage and private hire licensing and Scrap metal licensing, we welcome the article from HMRC, setting out the incoming requirements for us. We hope that we will also hear from HMRC on this at forthcoming training events, including our Taxi Conference in October and of course the NTC in November.

19th July enables us to look to the future and a return to face-to-face training. We will continue to make good use of remote training, but there is no question that some of our events will return to venue-based locations allowing attendance in person and most importantly professional networking.

We look forward to visiting the Grosvenor Casino in Manchester for our Gambling Conference on 6th October, followed by our Taxi Conference in Birmingham on 21st October. The following month will see a welcome return to Stratford-upon-Avon for our unbeatable 3-day residential National Training Conference – we can't wait to see you there!

8 July 2021

To the Chairman of the Licensing Committee

Dear Councillor

The coronavirus pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption and hardship since March 2020. The impacts have affected many businesses, and the hospitality industry in particular, with limited opportunities to react and adapt. As we emerge from this exceptionally difficult time, many of these impacts will continue.

One of the key problems that hospitality businesses now face is a lack of resources including staff. This is a particularly serious problem when it comes to complying with licence conditions that depend upon staff resources.

The night-time economy is in the middle of a particular crisis concerning security professionals. There is a grave shortage of security staff available for work, and this has been compounded by more stringent new training standards introduced by the Security Industry Authority for those wishing to enter. Even the limited numbers coming forward to qualify are too often failing to do so. Often, the numbers are simply not there to service full licence requirements, and there is nothing that the security industry, or the licensees can do about it. This problem is not going to go away.

The Government recently announced its consultation on the Duty to Protect. This aspiration to increase security provision in the public and private sector is only going to deepen the crisis.

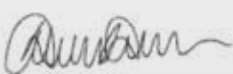
We are writing to you at this time to make you aware of the issues, and to ask that you take them into account in making case by case licensing decisions.

On 8 April 2020, Kit Malthouse, the Minister of State for Crime and Policing wrote to the Chairs of Licensing Committees, to invite them to take "a pragmatic and more flexible approach" to licensing while the outbreak was ongoing.

He said: "Retailers may be operating under licences with conditions that may prove difficult to comply with in the current period due to absenteeism. These include, but are not limited to, conditions that mandate the minimum number of staff or door supervisors on site, training requirements or attending external meetings.... A considered and pragmatic approach should be taken to breaches of licence conditions and procedural defects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly where these breaches or defects do not have a significant adverse impact on the licensing objectives. Licence holders must rectify any breaches as soon as reasonably practicable."

This continues to be very important even as we emerge from the worst restrictions of the pandemic. Partnership working with businesses, to allow them to recover and make their contribution to the economy has never been more important. We hope that highlighting this crisis will assist in making informed and proportionate decisions.

Sincerely



Daniel Davies
Chairman
Institute of Licensing



Michael Kill
CEO Night Time Industries Association /
Chairperson UK Door Security Association



Jeremy Allen Award 2021

We are delighted to announce that the Jeremy Allen Award, now in its 10th year, in partnership with Poppleston Allen Solicitors, is now open for nominations.

This award is open to anyone working in licensing and related fields and seeks to recognise and award exceptional practitioners.

Covid-19 has been unprecedented and we are certain there are numerous persons who have gone above, beyond and further during this pandemic.

This award is by 3rd party nomination, which in itself is a tribute to the nominee in that they have been put forward by colleagues in recognition and out of respect to their professionalism and achievements.

Nominations for the 2021 award are invited by 3rd parties by no later than 1st September 2021.

Please email nominations to info@instituteoflicensing.org and confirm that the nominee is aware and happy to be put forward.

For full details including title, nomination, criteria, please visit our website: <https://www.instituteoflicensing.org/jeremy-allen-award>

We look forward to receiving your nominations.



This award is a tribute to the life and professional career of Jeremy Allen, whose dedication to partnership working and best practice in licensing made him one of the most respected and popular figures in the industry. Jeremy sadly passed away shortly after becoming Chair of the Institute of Licensing, and we are pleased and proud to support this award by Poppleston Allen as an ongoing tribute to him.

The Global Night-Time Recovery Plan



Words by Philip Kolvin QC

To begin with a prophecy: severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 will be a catalyst for vibrant and sustainable night time economies the world over. This will not be its main effect, but it will be its most positive one.

The prophecy is based on two important phenomena. The first is a national realisation of the importance of communal space, be it pubs, theatres, dance venues or opera houses. It is striking that the very term humanity means more than being human: it means being collectively human. We relate to our friends and loved ones using many more senses than Zoom can ever facilitate. And we have all – old and young – learned that social participation is a valid objective of town and city governance, worth enshrining in policy. This was always true – just that it became so pressingly, urgently, achingly evident when we were denied it.

The second is an unanticipated but hugely welcome development: the Global Night Time Recovery Plan. The brainchild of former Amsterdam Night Mayor Mirik Milan and Berlin Club Commissioner Lutz Leichsenring, the ambition was as stupendous as the idea was simple: assemble the best thinkers and practitioners from across the planet, and make them work together on a set of principles to revive the night-time sector on every continent.

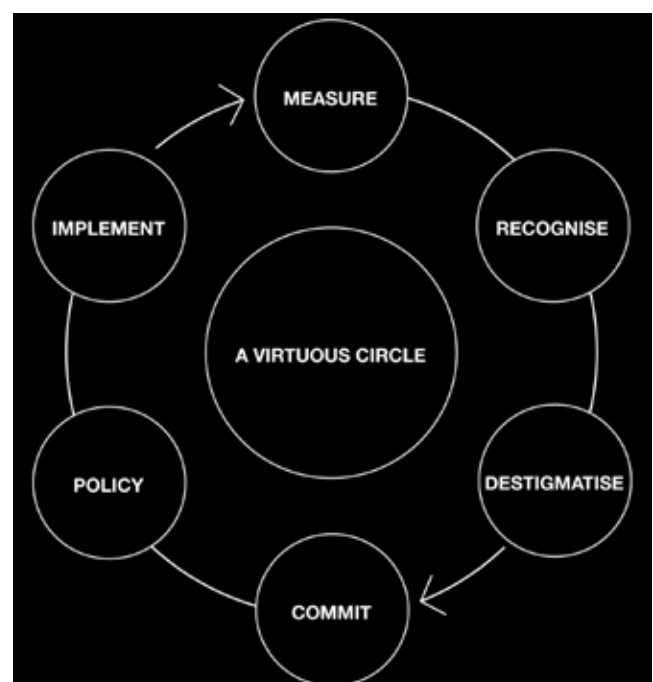
Its seven chapters cover the development of a 24 hour economy, night-time governance and state assistance to the sector, together with more specialist topics such as management of open air nightlife and the future of dance floors. The plan is not mere theorising: every chapter is backed by copious examples from which to draw, extensively cross-referenced to the relevant literature.

Here in the UK, the chief policy prescription over the last decade and a half has been the cumulative impact policy, now engraved in statute, counter-balanced to some degree by voluntary collective schemes, such as Best Bar None, Purple Flag and Pubwatch. Having spent my career in and around such initiatives, my tentative critique is that in this country we lean towards the political and the parochial when it comes to the night time economy. The choices we make in the way we regulate the sector tend to be politically rather than evidentially driven. And our menu of policy choices is a short one – rarely taking inspiration from what is happening across the globe.

The last year of my life has been like a crash degree course, as I have been exposed to thinking from Bogota, Johannesburg, Sydney and Berlin, based on good practice and rigorous academic thought. I have been challenged in my

preconceptions, urged to think about the downside as well as the upside of various initiatives and to look at the evidential underpinning for measures as well as their strap-line. While the Plan is directed at undoing the impact of the pandemic, its future possibilities are far more radical. We are now at a point where we can consider the propagation of a safe, vibrant and sustainable night time economy to be an important discipline in its own right. The benefit for policy-makers is clear – public expenditure in the field can be channelled where it will make a difference, the relevant balances can be struck based on evidence rather than guesswork, and measurements of success can inform future initiatives here and elsewhere.

Most importantly, we now have the opportunity to engage with friends and colleagues across the globe as we work to plan wonderful leisure economies for our children and theirs. Philip Kolvin QC is a licensing barrister at 11 KBW, a Patron of the Institute of Licensing and an Associate Fellow at Westminster's Centre for Law, Society and Popular Culture. The Institute of Licensing will be hosting a webinar with the authors of the Global Night Time Recovery Plan on 27TH September. For more information, email events@instituteoflicensing.org.



Action planning for Global Night Time Recovery

Online webinar: 27 September 2021

2pm - 5pm GMT (3pm - 6pm CET)

The Institute of Licensing in partnership with VibeLab will present insights of the 7 Chapters of the "**Global Nighttime Recovery Plan**", a collaborative, practical guide for cities that are trying to determine the best way to design and execute a safe and feasible strategy to reopen and reactivate their creative and night-time economies.

The guide is a joint effort that involves more than 130 practitioners, academics, public health experts, advocates and industry representatives from more than 70 cities all over the world and is meant to be an interactive platform to share frameworks, tools, and practices among cities during these unprecedented times.

Book via the IoL website or email events@instituteoflicensing.org



Speakers and Programme timings



- **WELCOME:** Daniel Davies, IoL Chairman
- **Introduction to GNRP:** Lutz Leichsenring (Moderator)
- **CHAPTER 1: MANAGING OPEN AIR NIGHTLIFE:** Mark Adam Harold
- **CHAPTER 2: THE FUTURE OF DANCE FLOORS:** Riccardo Ramello
- **CHAPTER 3: INNOVATING FOR 24 HOURS:** Alistair Turnham
- **CHAPTER 4: SUSTAINING OUR NIGHTLIFE SCENES I:** Tara Duvivier
- **CHAPTER 5: NIGHTTIME GOVERNANCE IN TIMES OF COVID:** Nándor Petrovics and Andreina Seijas
- **CHAPTER 6: SUSTAINING OUR NIGHTLIFE SCENES II:** Philip Kolvin QC
- **CHAPTER 7: LEARNING AS WE GO:** Michael Fichman
- **30 min PANEL DISCUSSION & WRAP UP**

Politics matter



Words by Paul Hegarty, Honorary Secretary, at All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group

With their ability to determine taxation, legislation or financial support, politicians have an enormous ability to help (and hinder) all parts of society whether it be business, the public sector or charities. It is vital that MPs understand what you do and how your presence benefits UK PLC.

Some years ago, the chairman of a brewing company told me that “All MPs are a waste of space. They don’t understand our industry. I never talk to them.” There’s a clue in there somewhere! Brewers and pub operators are extremely good at hiding their light under a bushel. They do so many fantastic things, but all too often forget to tell the outside world. If we don’t spread the good news to MPs, no one else is going to do it for us.

The All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group was set up in 1993 and prides itself on being the largest All-Party Group at Westminster with about 350 MPs and Peers as members. The current Chairman of the Beer Group is Dudley South MP, Mike Wood, who has been chair since 2017. During this time, he has become extremely knowledgeable about the sector – and is the go-to contact for ministers and fellow MPs with questions about beer or pubs.

Graham Evans, the former MP for Weaver Vale and a previous Chairman of the Group, used to say that politicians want to tax bad things and support good things. He coined the phrase that “pubs are a force for good”. The Group’s role is to build relationships with politicians and highlight the positive role that beer and pubs play in society. This is partly economic – about a million people are employed making and selling beer in the UK but goes far further to embrace a far wider societal role. Pubs play a vital part in building strong communities, combating loneliness and raising over £100 million for charity every year. This became yet more apparent during Covid when, despite pubs being closed, many were still providing services for their communities (shops, libraries, post offices), looking out for the vulnerable or providing free meals for the elderly and key workers. MPs get this. PubAid recently ran a “Community Hero Award” to recognise how pubs support their communities and over 60 MPs nominated a pub from their constituencies.

A finance director once said to me that “public affairs doesn’t work so why waste time and money on it”. He was partly

right; badly conducted public affairs doesn’t work but when you get it right, the impact can be enormous.

Probably the best example of successful political lobbying in the alcohol sector over the past ten years was the campaign against the beer duty escalator. This had been introduced in 2008 by Chancellor Alastair Darling and increased the duty on a pint every year by 2% above inflation. The impact on beer sales was disastrous, causing hundreds of pubs across the country to close.

The campaign was energetically championed in Parliament by the then Chairman of the Beer Group, Andrew Griffiths, the MP for Burton on Trent, who christened it the “hated duty escalator”. It brought together a huge coalition of brewers, pub companies, trade associations and, vitally, beer drinkers under the banner of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). And it worked. George Osborne announced in the 2013 budget that not only was he killing the beer duty escalator, but also cutting beer duty by a penny a pint and which he went on to do the same in the next two budgets.

This had been a startling success but why had it worked so well?

It is vital that you **make friends with politicians before asking for help**. Years ago, a company told me how they had rung a politician on the morning of a vital vote in the House of Commons and “his office wasn’t very interested”. It was first time they had tried to contact him. The irony was that the company did so many of the things that politicians love – employing lots of people, raising money for charity and running fantastic training programmes. Once the MP got to know the company, he was always on hand to help.

Brewers are very lucky that they have lots of support in Parliament. The All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group has been running events for MPs since 1993 and trade associations (British Beer and Pub Association, Society of Independent



Beer Group Chairman, Mike Wood MP (right) and Steve Double, the MP for St Austell (middle) with John Longden, the Chief Executive of Pub Is the Hub, visiting a community library in a Cornish pub.

Brewers, UK Hospitality) do a great job lobbying ministers and MPs on the issues facing beer producers and hospitality operators. But probably even more important, many brewers and pub operators, both large and small, have made friends with their local MPs so we have an army of supporters at Westminster.

It is vital that you are **politically realistic** in your objectives. As with all communication, political engagement should be as much about listening as talking. The key to success is understanding political priorities and identifying how you can help ministers achieve their goals. How can you help create jobs, reduce pollution, stimulate exports, reduce crime? Politicians like policy proposals that are simple, cheap and popular. The campaign to kill the beer duty escalator ticked all three boxes. It is estimated that freezing beer duty cost the Treasury about £50 million annually which seems like a lot of money – but to put this into context, the freeze in fuel duty over the past ten years is reported to have cost Government £50 billion. And a freeze in beer duty is always enormously popular with most voters!

A former MP once said that when he spoke to different trade associations and companies, they all asked for different

things (beer duty, VAT, business rates, apprenticeship levy, national living wage). He pointed out that it is very easy for Government to ignore any sector that can't make up its mind what its priority is. The success of the campaign against the beer duty escalator was that the whole industry spoke loudly and clearly with **"One Voice"** about this single issue.

And if you do get a good result, **give all the credit to the politicians**. The Treasury were so delighted with the positive PR they got from the beer duty cut that they did it again in the next two budgets!

Politics matters. It's well worth investing some time getting to know your local MP to bring them on side. You don't need a PhD in politics, just invite them for a friendly meeting to tell them what you do. Their support will be invaluable should you need it.

A new hope



Words by
Daniel Davies

The British high street has been in terminal decline for many years now. The list of once dominant chains that have gone to the wall is ever-growing. With the lockdowns in 2020/21 we have seen the rate of decline increase because peoples' habits have changed with online delivery and remote working.



Victoria Road is the main high street in New Brighton. Founded in 1830 and built on a series of sand dunes called Rockpoint, New Brighton was based on Brighton, with Victoria Road at its heart. In those days everything you would need was provided by independent retailers on this high street. Fast-forward to 2018 and we saw a very different picture. By then half the road had been compulsory purchased and changed to Victoria Parade, with housing on both sides down to what once was the pier at the end of Victoria Road. This section of the road was once a vibrant part of the community with dance music halls, a milk bar, the Embassy club and the Rialto, all of which had closed years before. So, by 2018 what we had left was a run-down, tired and trafficked area. With over fifty percent of the businesses boarded up there was a real risk the rest would go the same way and be replaced by housing because an unimaginative local council had no idea how to regenerate an area commercially.





What we had left needed protecting at all costs. We had an optician's, a post office, a pharmacy, a greengrocer that been there 45 years, a barber, a hairdresser, a convenience store, some pubs and cafes. What we'd lost were three banks that were all lying empty and bus stops that no buses stopped at. We also had a supermarket that had been closed for seven years that was a purpose-built Kwik Save that failed and then became, in quick succession a Somerfield, Co-op and Budgens that all went the same way. Two weeks ago, we got the keys to this abandoned supermarket and with the help of some lads from a local band we painted the outside in just six days. My idea for this building is to create an anti-super supermarket called 'Hope'. The first three independent businesses recruited to occupy the building are a butcher's, a baker's and a candle stick maker! They will be joined by over 60 other independent, local businesses that will stock a range of products without the involvement of any big brands – from food to clothes and apparel to specialist craft offers.

The Victoria Road story is not an isolated one. It's replicated all around the UK where there are forgotten towns that are under-invested and have suffered from bad urban planning and licensing decisions. The short-termism here results in large tracts of once vibrant local centres being turned into suburban dormitory towns stripped of their economic relevance and unable to offer jobs or opportunities to the people who live in them.

In the House of Lords report into seaside towns New Brighton was featured as the model for how to regenerate seaside towns. The thinking behind this project is to create a base model that could help regenerate other towns that have fallen on harder times. To differentiate from a bland, big brand



dominated past and to go right back to the basics of what a high street should provide for the residents and community it serves. 'Hope', our anti-super supermarket will provide a new beginning and a new hope for communities like New Brighton.

I will keep you updated.

Dan



Two tribes go to war



Words by
Paul Chase
Director of Chase Consultancy

“What did you do in the covid culture war?” This might well be the question your kids ask you 10 years’ from now when we look back on this extraordinary time in our lives. If you’re a council or police licensing officer, do you really want to reply: “Well, I spent my time saying to young people in nightclubs ‘Your covid papers please’ and then chucking them out if they couldn’t prove their vaccination status.” Is this what you signed-up for when you joined your local council or police licensing team?

I am, of course, being deliberately provocative in the questions above because I want to highlight how polarised public opinion has become on the issue of so-called covid passports. At the heart of this is a fundamental question: is getting the jab an ‘I’ issue or a ‘We’ issue? For ultra-libertarians it’s an ‘I’ issue. For them, getting vaccinated is a personal decision and no one, under any circumstances, should ever be coerced or even nudged by the threat of coercion into undertaking a medical procedure. For the ultra-communitarians it’s a ‘We’ issue. For them, getting the jab is a civic responsibility and if you refuse you’re letting the side down; you’re irresponsible and selfish; you’re throwing granny under the bus!

And recent recruits to the communitarian position include President Macron of France, and the new Israeli prime minister Naftali Bennett. Both these leaders are saying proof of vaccination will be required to gain access not just to nightclubs but to supermarkets, shopping malls, or even to ride on a bus or a train. “If you refuse to fulfil your civic responsibility and get vaccinated, then come the next wave of infections you will be the ones forced to stay home” declared President Macron.

Both these positions are extreme and absolutist – they brook no compromise and admit to no exceptions. It seems as if the middle ground has melted away and people are being divided into tribes that talk past each other and have nothing in common except a feeling of mutual incomprehension and loathing. Here in the UK, it seems as if our government wants to triangulate between these two extremes. On the one hand declaring “Freedom Day” and the end of legal restrictions, but on the other, giving notice that admission to nightclubs and other crowded indoor venues will require proof of vaccination after the end of September this year.

But for many in the trade, and many councils and police licensing officers, the issues are as much about practicalities as they are about principles. What exactly is a nightclub? How does it differ from a large, city-centre bar? And how does a bar or a nightclub differ from a large, busy pub with a 2am licence? These are not abstract questions, but questions that go to the heart of whether covid passport requirements will be seen as fair, let alone practical or enforceable. How does a busy bar with a large outside area control a situation where access is from multiple points outside a loosely defined perimeter? And if a covid passport is only required if you enter the building, but not the outside, seated area, then is the operator expected to check each customer’s mobile phone for proof of vaccination every time they visit the toilet or go inside to the bar to buy a drink?

Personally, I don’t rule out the requirement for vaccination, for example, for those working in care home settings. But I do believe that their use domestically as a condition of entry to licensed premises of any type is illiberal, unfair, unworkable, and unenforceable.

National Training Conference

17-19
November
2021

We are delighted to be planning a return to Stratford-upon-Avon for our signature 3-day National Training Conference.

The programme will include the range of topic areas our regular delegates have come to expect, with well over 50 sessions across the 3 days delivered by expert speakers and panellists. We will publish more information about confirmed speakers and the draft programme in due course.

We look forward to welcoming new and seasoned delegates back to the NTC along with our expert speakers and our event sponsors.

Early booking is advised as there are we will NOT be using an overflow hotel this year, and bookings will be confirmed on a first come first served basis.



Events - What's Online?

We are delighted to offer the following training courses which will be delivered remotely via video conferencing/webinar. Book Online or email the team via events@instituteoflicensing.org
<https://www.instituteoflicensing.org/events>

Virtual



Professional Licensing Practitioners Qualification

Online PLPQ (Four Days Training) *London specific on 14th September*

14th, 2nd, 8th, 9th September 2021

Virtual



Acupuncture, Tattoo & Cosmetic Piercing

13th September 2021

This training course is aimed at those officers who process and administer applications for acupuncture, tattooing and cosmetic skin piercing and those who carry out inspections at premises providing these services.

Virtual



Caravan Site Licensing (Wales)

21st September 2021

This course will cover the legislation governing Caravan Site Licensing in Wales

Virtual



Responsible Authority Licensing Training

27th September 2021

This one day training course is aimed at Responsible Authority officers and will give them a good overview of the Licensing Act 2003, and the role of Responsible Authorities when considering and responding to licence applications or requesting review of existing licences.

Virtual



Taxi Licensing - Advanced

In association with Button Training Ltd.

18th October 2021

The course looks in detail at the hackney carriage and private hire licensing regime and the role and functions of the licensing authority.

Contact the IoL team

Email: events@instituteoflicensing.org
or telephone us on 0151 6506940



Gambling Conference

Practical Gambling Conference (Grosvenor Casino)

6th October 2021

Manchester, North West

The autumn Gambling Conference is planned to be a face to face event, held in Grosvenor Casino, Manchester.

The event will include a visit to the gaming floor including practical examples of casino games.

We are excited to return to face to face events but please note should restrictions dictate the event may have to revert to online.

We are planning series of sessions with the morning speakers mostly regulators and the afternoon operators, broken by a pre lunch discussion panel.



Taxi Conference

21st October 2021

Birmingham (venue TBC)

Join us for our Taxi Conference on 21st October 2021 (venue to be confirmed)

The day will provide all persons involved in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire field a valuable learning and discussion opportunity.

Delegates should expect a packed agenda of speakers on the latest 'hot topics'.

Confirmed speakers include:

James Button, James Button & Co
Michelle Bignell & Jason Kirkwood

More speakers to follow!

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing.



Words by
Sarah Clover

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing has been undertaking an inquiry into advanced aesthetic non-surgical cosmetic treatments over the course of the last year. This process has been pursued with vigour, despite the COVID pandemic, and numerous evidence sessions were held, even during lockdown. IOL board member, Sarah Clover, (FIOL) was able to give expert evidence to the APPG on licensing regulation. On 21 July 2021, the APPG published its final report, having considered all the evidence. In the News section on its website, the APPG stated:

“MPs call on Government to address complete absence of regulation over botox and fillers and say maintaining the status quo is not an option”.

This heralds an encouraging Report, which clearly identifies that the regulation of cosmetic and aesthetic treatments is not fit for purpose, and is overdue for significant reform.

The APPG focussed specifically on treatments such as botulinum toxins and similar anti-wrinkle injectables, dermal fillers, and polydioxanone (PDO) threads and cogs. However, their observations and recommendations concerning the relevant regulatory and legislative structures were general enough to address all forms of aesthetic treatments. The APPG identified the two key areas of concern as being the support of the aesthetics industry and the protection of public safety. The Report identified the rapid nature of change and development within the industry, and stated:

“The UK’s licensing and regulatory landscape has not kept pace with these changes. The lack of a consistent legal framework of standards has left consumers at risk and undermined the industry’s ability to develop, with negative

connotations for the beauty sector as a whole. Despite recognition from Government of the need to address this growing regulatory gap, and work such as the Review of the Regulation of Cosmetic Interventions led by Sir Bruce Keogh in 2013, little action has been taken and the Government has largely left the industry to self regulate”.

The work of the APPG has clearly highlighted this poorly regulated industry as one due for some serious attention from the Government. The Minister for Patient Safety, Nadine Dorries MP, who is responsible for policy relating to aesthetic non-surgical cosmetic treatments, attended the APPG’s concluding public inquiry session, and confirmed that the Department for Health and Social Care is considering the issues related to the growing aesthetics industry and will be using the APPG’s Report and its recommendations as it reviews the legislative and regulatory landscape.

Early in the APPG’s inquiry, the members picked up on the fact that the current regulatory framework in the UK places very few restrictions on who may perform aesthetic non-surgical cosmetic treatments, and there was broad consensus among those giving evidence to the APPG that nationally



regulated training and qualifications should be mandatory for new practitioners. The APPG grappled with the differences between the registration system and the licensing system.

The recommendations of the APPG covered definitions of regulated treatments; training and education; medical oversight and prescription only treatments. Of particular interest to licensing practitioners, the APPG made these recommendations concerning the future regulatory landscape:

“Regulation and enforcement

- 6. The APPG recommends that the Government introduces a national licensing scheme to govern the oversight of advanced aesthetic non-surgical cosmetic treatments such as botox, dermal fillers, PDO cogs and threads. It should consider amending the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, or introducing such a scheme via new primary legislation as the most appropriate avenue to do so.*
- 7. A national licensing scheme must be supported by a clear framework mandating the national minimum standard of public safety, training and qualifications for all practitioners. This should be developed with industry based on the HEE framework and NOS standards.*
- 8. The Government must work with industry to develop guidance to underpin a national licensing scheme for advanced aesthetic non-surgical cosmetic treatments, as has been done with special procedures such as tattooing and piercing”.*

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), Institute of Licensing (IoL), UK Public Health Network (UKPHN), The Joint Council for Cosmetics Practitioners (JCCP), Save Face, and the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) came together to support these key recommendations in the report and called upon the Health Minister, Nadine Dorries MP, in a joint letter to take these recommendations on board in a timely manner, to protect the public and promote patient safety.

Daniel Davies, IoL Chairman, said:

“The IoL welcomes the report from the APPG on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing. The inquiry into the industry has been timely, and has highlighted the inadequate regulatory regime which has challenged the regulators for many years. The nature of the industry changes with the times, as new treatments and techniques emerge, but the legal landscape is significantly outdated, and there is extensive scope for improvement. The Report has picked up on many important issues and, whilst there is much more work to be done, this represents crucial acknowledgment and understanding of the clear need for reform.”

There is no identified timetable for any reform to the regulation of the beauty industry, and the burden of issues currently facing the Government on a number of fronts makes it seem unlikely that this will be a top priority for early legislative change. Nevertheless, this welcome Report adds weight to the continued call for change in this important area, and it seems likely that, at some point in the future, a new licensing regime will emerge.

Unlicensed Breeders



Words by Emma Matthews, North Northamptonshire Council

I am the Licensing Compliance Officer at the new North Northamptonshire Council. Before our unitary merger in April 2021, I worked for East Northamptonshire Council. I support the Licensing Enforcement Officer with regards to the Licensing Act, Gambling Act, and Taxi Licensing, but animal licensing is just me.

Being the only officer inspecting animal businesses, I quickly enrolled on the PIF and City of London's animal licensing inspectors' course and attended the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre for the face-to-face learning in February 2019. It was a world where Covid 19 had never been heard of. 7 months and a lot of hard work later, I was the first officer in the country to qualify.

As a council, we have successfully prosecuted 3 cases of breeding dogs and or selling animals as pets without a licence. Our cases have centred around not having a licence. But that doesn't mean that there weren't welfare issues too. Just because a dog isn't in a squalid and filthy cage doesn't mean that it's well looked after. Repeatedly breeding dogs or importing pregnant bitches who are then abandoned after serving their purpose, is just as bad. Licensing is a way of allowing the activity, but under strict control.

As we all know, the new Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations came into effect on 1 October 2018. They are

far from perfect, but considerably better than what we had. A lot of the Acts we were working with before were no longer fit for purpose and older than me – and that's saying something!

East Northamptonshire is a mainly rural district with hamlets and villages, and just a handful of bigger towns. It is 27 miles long and only 14 miles across at its widest point. We don't have a city centre, we don't have ring roads or motorways – we are quiet, and tranquil, with countryside, hedgerows, and streams. Breeders can be out in the open or tucked away seemingly out of sight. They don't really care. What they do care about is money.

The issues have been exacerbated by the soaring demand for puppies brought on by the pandemic. Prior to Covid 19, puppies sold for anywhere between £500 and £1,000. It's a very different story now – you'll be lucky to see any change from £2,000 and prices can be much higher. The prices and demand are all the incentive needed for anyone inclined to breed puppies purely with a view to making huge profits and with no

interest in animal welfare. It's our job to disrupt these illegal activities at every opportunity.

We have all been there when that call comes in from a member of the public about the puppy they have just bought. It was sick all the way home; the 'breeders' only sent them a postcode to meet at; it was a motorway services – a convenient halfway point; mum wasn't seen as she's getting stressed that her puppies are leaving; cash was handed over. My heart plummets. All the alarm bells were there and ringing loudly – the buyers acknowledge that. Publicity around 'Lucy's Law' has increased the awareness of puppy farms, but our hearts rule our heads, and puppies are bought from these breeders because 'we felt sorry for it'. New owners are often genuinely worried that the puppy they have bought has come from a puppy farm or illegal breeder, but they had to save it.

What we must do is decide whether it is illegal – is a licence actually required? When we look at the Regulations, we know that people who act 'in the course

of a business' need a licence if they meet the laid down criteria. They need a licence if they breed 3 or more litters in a 12-month period, or if they breed and advertise a business of selling dogs. A licence is also required to sell animals as pets – or with a view to the animals being sold or re-sold – and that part is a key factor to remember. We don't need an actual sale. It's good, but not essential. An advert is enough to show 'a view to the animals being sold'.

But what is a business? The business test in the Regulations states that an operator may make a sale or carry on the activity with a view to making a profit, or they may earn a commission or fee from it. We also have Defra's interpretation in the guidance which suggests that there is an 'allowance of £1,000 for trading income' and 'anyone falling under this threshold would not need to be considered in the context of determining whether they are a business.' This is quite unhelpful. On one hand we have the legal Regulations saying it's about making profit, whilst on the other Defra says it's about income. In all honesty, I don't pay much attention to this section of the guidance when making my decision. It isn't legal, it hasn't been put into legislation

So again, what is a business? Is it breeding / selling and making money? Is it more than £1000 income? Ultimately, it will be for the licensing authority to decide. The legal test in Part 1 of the Regs only says that profit and commission are examples of what the local authority must take into account when determining a business. Not exclusive, not exhaustive, just examples.

Far more helpful, and also referred to in the guidance, is the HMRC 9 badges of trade. This pretty much says if it looks like a business, and smells like a business, and acts like other businesses – guess what? It's a business!

Is the person selling the puppy looking to make a profit? Well, most people selling something want to make money on it.

The number of transactions is important too. I might be a bit controversial here – but the sale of 1 litter of puppies does not, in my opinion, a business make. An

accidental litter, or a one off from the family pet so they can keep a puppy because mum is a perfect dog – does not need a licence. However, breeding the family pet every year, keeping a bitch puppy to breed from when mum gets a bit past it, and doing so for years – that's a different story.

These Regulations are about stopping people using dogs as a source of income - repeatedly breeding because puppies bring in the big bucks. We want to stop the commercial activities, the ones where there is no consideration or care for the dogs, where making money is the sole aim. Even for the good guys we attach conditions to a licence so that dogs aren't abused, so that they aren't just a commodity.

So back to the report of an illegal breeder. We need as much information from the complainant as possible. Why are they concerned? What information / evidence do they have? It is worth asking the complainant at an early stage if they are prepared to provide a witness statement and potentially attend court to support any eventual legal action. We don't want to put people off providing us with evidence and information, but it helps to have a clear idea from the outset, if the complainant is likely to balk at court appearances.

In some cases, I find that the breeder is already 'on the radar' having made enquiries about licensing requirements – it may even be that an application is pending. In those cases, I can simply follow up with them and ensure that the application follows promptly unless they are outside of the scope.

If the information relates to a new case, I start with an enquiry via letter, setting out the licensing requirements and asking for information about their breeding activities. Whether they respond or not, this is the most appropriate first step unless serious concerns about animal welfare have been raised, in which case we would escalate investigations in partnership with the RSPCA.

In other cases, where no information is forthcoming from the business / individual, I look to see what additional information I can find. Let's not forget that this is the starting point

of an investigation that may result in prosecution for illegal activities. It is also worth considering that often dog breeding and pet selling can go hand in hand.

My advice is always to consider and work on a 2-pronged attack. They are probably doing both. They are likely breeding their own dog or dogs, and then acting 'benevolently' to 'rehome' a dog for a friend – which in reality is the overbred or imported mum they need shot of. And if you can't prove one activity – you can usually prove the other!

Investigations are lengthy and costly and if we don't have to go down that route, all well and good. But it is often necessary. Is it in the public interest? I think so, yes, and for several reasons.

Firstly, people may be buying a sick animal, one carrying diseases which can spread to other dogs, or who might have a lifetime of health issues. If expenses become too great, the dog could be handed over to a charity like the RSPCA, and then that needs public support for funding.

Secondly, Mum may have been imported. She may be far too young to know how to deal with puppies. She could be a street dog, who guards food and possessions, who fights to survive. There is no background history about her, no health checks, no idea how she or her offspring will behave.

And then there's crime. Locally, Northamptonshire Police are working closely with HMRC as often dog breeding, drug dealing, and organised crime are intertwined. The outwardly legitimate activity hiding the truth.

When looking for more information, the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) is extremely helpful. Seek information in accordance with Schedule 2 Part 1 Paragraph 2(1)(a) – the prevention or detection of crime. The information is required under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and not the Regulations – the Act states it is an offence to carry out a licensable activity without a licence.

Consider contacting sites with relevant advertisements – Pets4Homes, Gumtree,



BTEC Level 3 Certificate for Animal Inspectors (SRF)

Dates are confirmed for the Autumn 2021 cohorts starting in September 2021.

Each course has 5.5 allocated training delivery days, delivered online via Zoom (until Covid-19 conditions allow otherwise), and we will utilise pre-recorded video footage to assist learners in their understanding of the inspection requirements for different licensed premises types, which in turn will promote learning and give support to learners when following up with their own inspection assignments.

The course meets the requirements for the updated animal welfare legislation published in 2018 and as long as delegates are enrolled before 21st October 2021 and have at least one year of experience in licensing and inspecting animal activities businesses, the individual can continue to inspect premises until completion of the course.

Delegates have 12 months from the start of the course to submit all assignments.

MORE INFO: info@instituteoflicensing.org

Course Units

- **Unit 1** - Legislation, Regulation and Statutory Guidance
- **Unit 2** - Inspecting Premises That Hire Out Horses
- **Unit 3** - Inspecting Premises That Sell Animals as Pets
- **Unit 4** - Inspecting Premises That Are Used for Dog Breeding
- **Unit 5** - Inspecting Premises That Keep or Train Animals for Exhibition and Premises That Keep Dangerous Wild Animals
- **Unit 6** - Inspecting Premises That Arrange and Provide Dog and Cat Boarding

Testimonials

'The informative Animal Inspectors Course from the Institute of Licensing provides inspecting officers with the knowledge and tools to ensure high animal welfare standards at their local licensable animal activities premises.'

'The course sensibly balances direct tuition with necessary practical assessments'

'The course content for each licensing activity is detailed and thorough and the learning resources provided for each unit are excellent.'

'Both tutors are vastly experienced which shows with the examples of good and bad practice used to illustrate the different activities. And they encourage questions and sharing of experiences throughout.'

'The assessment methods are a good mixture of theory based questions and practical assignments based on our own inspections so this can be fitted in with our routine work. I'm a first time Zoom and Moodle user, but the administration was explained very well and the experience has been trouble-free.'

'I would recommend this course to colleagues as it is an efficient and effective way to learn and earn the required qualification.'



We use our online learning platform (Moodle) for the course which gives learners access to all course materials and resources online.

Moodle enables communication between learners within their cohort group, and individually with course tutors, and will be used for the submission of assignments and feedback following assessment and verification.

Preloved etc. Send them a name, or some contact information – even just an advertisement ID – they usually respond very quickly, and provide comprehensive spreadsheets, with names and addresses, phone numbers and email addresses, and all the advert information including descriptions, links to photos, and sale prices. There is also information about IP addresses, and dates and times of amendments.

Companies do not have to respond to these data requests – some breed clubs will just ignore them, but it is a good starting point.

Social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram are good source of information as well, although it can be difficult to get anything official from them. Always remember to seek approval from your authority's Data Protection Officer regarding the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

Microchip information can blow a case wide open. It can give you almost everything you need. It should show who the breeder was, but if not, it will certainly show new owners – and there is your sale.

You can do a quick online check to see which company your chip is registered to. Put the number into the lookup search on Animal Tracker, via www.animaltracker.co.uk/lookup/. If it isn't one of theirs, a message will tell you which company it is registered to. I sent a DPA request to Animal Tracker with one single microchip number on it, and back came 2 names, 2 addresses I knew nothing about, and over 600 microchips issued to those people.

The information from Animal Tracker includes names, addresses, emails and contact numbers for the new registered owner. We

have contacted some of these people and clearly and carefully explained who we are, and why we are reaching out to them. On the whole, they have spoken to us, and we have taken their statements, but some have been very worried that we are going to seize their pet, or that they are not the legal owners. A lot of reassurance can be needed, but they are the key. They have a dog from the breeder and can corroborate the original complaint. Again, ask if they will provide a formal witness statement.

The Kennel Club will also give you an entire history, if dogs are not mixed breeds. Give them a name and address and see how far back the breeding goes. Reports will also give you names of new owners. This again shows change of ownership.

I would highly recommend you contact local vets too. Your unlicensed breeder may chop and change practices to stop their activities being spotted.

There are many other sources of information, some closer to home, such as the authority's Council Tax team or Revenues and Benefits department. Ask them who lives at a given address or see if you can find out where else your breeders might be registered for council tax. They will often use fake addresses in advert accounts, but this all goes to build your case of avoidance and deception.

Have you or your witnesses seen a vehicle on site or seen one taking dogs to a location to be sold? DVLA can supply keeper details for vehicles suspected of being involved

in crime. Depending on your local set up, you can either complete a VQ616 form by hand, or you may have an officer authorised to use their Web Enabled Enquiry System.

Always Google names and put them into Companies House – I found a riding school link and we ended up unearthing carousel fraud – where fake companies are set up by organised crime groups to launder money!

If a call has been made to you about an animal case, it probably isn't the first call that's been made to the authorities. People usually start with the RSPCA and not the council, so send them a request for information too.

Requests under the Data Protection Act are going to be your best friend! Write a standard letter, fill in the blanks and ping them off.

Once we have information coming back in, do we have the evidence to show and the activity of breeding and, or selling dogs should have a licence? Can we say that it is in the course of a business, that animals are being sold as pets, or that breeding is taking place as defined in the Regs?

If we are satisfied that we have a case, then the next step is communication with the unlicensed individual and in my view the aim is to gain compliance. This might be achieved through an interview under caution or more informal communication, but providing that the licensing process is then under way, the outcome is the correct one. Once a licence is in place, the licensing authority has a degree of control and where licence conditions are



breached, the council can vary, suspend, revoke and prosecute knowing that the process has been fair every step of the way.

If the breeder will not apply for a licence, then the only avenue left is to prosecute. The offence of carrying on a licensable activity without the correct authorisation to do so lies in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 – Section 13 (6) makes it an offence to contravene section 13 (1) the requirement to have a licence. The Act confirms that local authorities in England are able to prosecute offences, section 30 and defined in section 62 (1), but there are time limits, laid out in section 31. We can't just leave the case laying around on someone's desk gathering dust.

When preparing a case, we need to be clear about what outcome we want. We want these people to stop breeding illegally. A case without evidence of cruelty or neglect is rarely going to get a custodial sentence, and rightly so. Our prisons are full as it is – but that was a previous profession of mine and I had keys to get out!

Our answer is a disqualification. We need them to be banned from doing this. Again, without cruelty or neglect section 34 (2) is not going to be on the cards. Our best bet is section 34 (3) and 34 (4) of the Act. We want a disqualification from dealing – namely breeding and selling – and possibly transporting if dogs are being imported. If we have evidence of them breaching a court disqualification – voila! Back to court we go! Do not pass go!

The dates in the offence charge are very important. Our barrister, Nick Truelove

of Kings Chambers, advised that we can only use direct evidence of an offence if it occurred after 1 October 2018 – the date of the licensing regulations. This is because the Breeding and Sale of Dogs Act etc have been repealed in England, we can't prosecute using them as a base. They don't exist anymore. We have to look at the licensing regime as it stands now.

That said, information showing offending before 1st October 2018 is essential for showing the history. It backs up that what has been going on before and shows the pattern of the offending. In one of our cases we had breeding taking place over 15 years – and that wasn't likely to stop any time soon. We needed a conviction to make it stop.

It is really important that the evidence is well prepared and laid out logically. Magistrates don't see these cases very often, so try to make it simple for them. Collating names, addresses, mobile phone numbers and email addresses into a spreadsheet is a simple way to do this. Show what the source was, especially if they are using multiple aliases and contact details.

Do the same for microchip numbers, and vet records of litters / treatments. Of course, you must provide all the background evidence, but putting information into one place can be damming.

Consider preparing a briefing note outlining the facts of the case, the offence or offences, the seriousness of the offence, the trading history, the likelihood of a repeat offence, any likely defence and how we would counter it, and the likelihood of a conviction.

In all our cases to date, we have been successful. We have been awarded costs, fines were levied, and a 3-year disqualification period imposed on 5 of the 6 defendants. Defendant no. 6 applied for a licence on the day of the hearing, and the case was adjourned to allow it to be processed. If there is compliance with the regime, I am happy. It's what I wanted all along. But I don't make empty threats about enforcement, and it is far easier to work with me than against me!

Remember to contact HMRC (ncu@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk). A task force has been set up to follow up on earnings from dog breeding – and we need to continue to do our bit for the cause. The only place unlicensed and illegal breeders get hurt is in their pockets.

When you get a conviction, the most important thing to do is issue a press release – and get the story out – to the papers, to the RSPCA and the Dogs Trust – everyone! Use social media and the Council's website. Include information about Lucy's Law, Where's Mum? and responsible puppy buying, as well as advice about legitimate rehoming of unwanted animals from rescue centres. Remember, we need to educate the public.

Finally, we must tell each other. There is no central database of convictions for local authorities to search – you would have to contact every court in the land to find out whether a person has been disqualified under the Act. Send your press release to the IoL (news@instituteoflicensing.org), put it on Knowledge Hub, email all your licensing colleagues. Shout it from the rooftops if necessary!



BTEC Level 3 Certificate for Animal Inspectors (SRF)

GROUP 6 (119452): 15 & 29 Sept, 12 Oct, 1 & 25 Nov & 9 Dec 2021

GROUP 7 (119452): 20 Sept, 7 & 20 Oct, 11 Nov & 1 & 13 Dec 2021

GROUP 8 (125677): 4, 20, 31 January, 7 & 14 February & 1 March 2022

GROUP 9 (125679): 17 & 24 January, 3, 10 & 17 February & 3 March 2022

This course is the Institute of Licensing's BTEC Level 3 Certificate for Animal Inspectors (SRF). The qualification is accredited by an OFQUAL provider and meets Defra requirements outlined in the Regulations. The course provides learners with all the knowledge and skills they require to be able to competently carry out their duties under The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018.

WHERE'S MUM?

In England anyone looking to buy or adopt a puppy or kitten under six months must either deal directly with the breeder or with an animal rescue/rehoming centre.

Lucy's Law will come into force in Scotland and Wales in September 2021

#LUCY'S LAW

Share your trip → Driver profile →
24/7 customer support → Driving
hour limits → Speed limit alerts →
Phone number anonymization →
Safety toolkit → DBS background
check → PIN verification → Real
time driver ID check → Driver
face covering verification →
Door to door safety standard →
Covid-19 checklist →
Safety never stops



Tax Conditionality

Words by Sue Riley, HMRC

From April 2022, the renewal of taxis and private hire vehicles as well as deal in scrap metal will only be given if the person applying can show they have completed a tax check with HMRC. As decisions on applications for these licences are conditional on the tax check, this is known as 'tax conditionality'.

When renewing their licences, applicants will need to complete a very basic check to confirm they are registered for tax if they need to be. This will help licence holders get their tax affairs right while making it harder for people to operate in the hidden economy. In turn, this will help create a level playing field for businesses in these sectors.

These new Tax Conditionality rules will place new requirements on licensing bodies dealing with these sectors when they consider applications, which will differ depending on whether the licence applicant is new or already licensed. For those who are already licensed and making a subsequent application, they will first need to complete a new tax check with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

HMRC is currently putting a new process in place to help individuals and businesses in the taxi and scrap metal industries complete their tax check. This will also make sure that everyone in the taxi/scrap metal industries have registered for tax, where they need to be registered, so the system is fair for everyone.

And the tax authority is continuing to work closely with licensing bodies to help them prepare for the new requirements, as they will need to update application processes by April 2022, to help point applicants to guidance and also confirm tax checks have been carried out where required.

licences in England and Wales to drive to operate a private hire vehicle business and HMRC wants people to prepare as early as possible for the tax check by making sure they are registered to pay the appropriate taxes on their licensed income now ahead of the changes next spring.

Which licences will be subject to this tax check?

- Taxi driver licences
- Private hire vehicle (PHV) driver licences
- PHV operator licences
- Mobile collector licences for scrap metal dealers
- Site licences for scrap metal dealers

What will licensing bodies have to do in respect of first-time applications?

Before making a decision on these applications, licensing bodies will need to direct the applicant to HMRC's published guidance about their tax obligations. This will explain what people need to do to register and pay taxes on earnings from licensed work. Licensing officers will also need to seek a simple confirmation that the applicant is aware of the guidance.

A tax check will not be required to support a first-time application.

What will licensing bodies have to do with subsequent applications?

A subsequent application includes renewals but also those where an applicant currently holds a similar licence with one licensing body and is seeking to be able to operate within an area covered by another licensing body. A tax check will be required for these applications.

HMRC is developing a simple digital service that will enable licence applicants to complete the tax check and will provide assistance for applicants who are digitally excluded. This service will also enable licensing bodies to confirm that a tax check has been completed. The licensing body will need to obtain confirmation that the applicant has completed a tax check before they make a decision on any application.

The new process will see the applicant go on to GOV.UK and answer a few simple questions to show that they are registered to pay the tax they should pay on their earnings, if applicable. This will not involve any maths or tax-based calculations. If for any reason they are not registered to pay the tax they need to pay on earnings from their licensed trade, they will need to follow the guidance on GOV.UK and register as soon as possible.

There will also be a number to ring and speak to someone at HMRC if they have problems or questions when completing

the check, or if they don't feel comfortable doing this tax check on the website and need someone to help.

Once the tax check is completed, they will be given a reference, which they will need to give to their licensing body as part of their licence application.

Finally, will licensing bodies get any financial support to implement the tax check?

Yes, additional funding for licensing bodies to make changes to their current systems will be made available. This will be done in accordance with the Government's New Burdens Doctrine.



Supporting you in the run up to HMRC's new conditionality licence tax checks from April 2022

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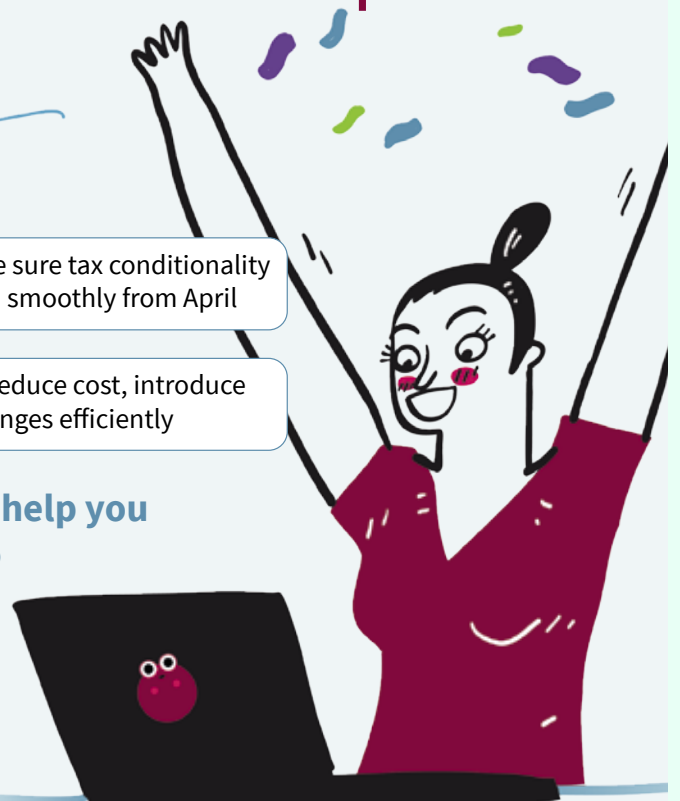
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Thank you for reading!



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