

Minute

Orkney Local Licensing Forum

Wednesday, 9 July 2025, 11:00.

Committee Room 1, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

- Representative of the Chief Constable of Police Scotland:
 - o Chief Inspector Scott Robertson.
- Representative of Persons having functions relating to Health, Education or Social Work:
 - o Katie Spence.
- Representatives of Persons Resident within the Forum's Area:
 - o Angela Chambers.
 - o Charlotte Foy (also representing young people).
 - o Andy McGinn.
- Licensing Standards Officer:
 - o Nick Long.
- Representative of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service:
 - o David McGroarty, Group Commander.

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer, Orkney Islands Council.

In Attendance

- Representative of Persons having functions relating to Health, Education or Social Work:
 - Cameron McConnachie.
- Representative of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service:
 - o Station Commander James Robertson.
- Orkney Islands Council:
 - o Lillian Rendall, Legal Clerk.
 - o Susan Taylor, Committees Officer.
- Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board (Observer)
 - o Duncan Tullock, Convener.

Apologies

- Representative of local Health Board:
 - o Dr Louise Wilson.
- Representative of Holders of Premises Licences and Personal Licence:
 - o Jean Tulloch.
- Representatives of Persons Resident within the Forum's Area:
 - o Barry Cockerham.
 - o Robert Mackenzie.
- Licensing Standards Officer:
 - o Faith Reilly.

Not Present

- Representatives of Holders of Premises Licences and Personal Licences:
 - o Kelly-Marie McGuigan.
 - o Malcolm Stout.

Chair

- Andy McGinn, Convener.

1. Minute of Previous Meeting

There had been previously circulated the draft Minute of the Meeting of the Licensing Forum held on 16 April 2025.

On the motion of Angela Chambers, seconded by David McGroarty, the Forum resolved to approve the Minute of the Meeting of the Licensing Forum held on 16 April 2025 as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

2.1. Young People and Alcohol

The Convener advised that he had not received a response from representatives of UHI Orkney but would persevere and try to have something in place before the next meeting.

2.2. Pubwatch

The Convener confirmed no one was willing to take on the responsibility of running the Pubwatch scheme. David McGroarty suggested that there may be more interest when the new nightclub premises opened. The Convener agreed to arrange a meeting with the owner. Nick Long suggested that there may be support from Economic Development with the administrative burden as this may be what was putting potential organisers off. He agreed to make enquiries. Chief Inspector Scott Robertson advised that although Police Scotland supported the scheme, it would have to be driven by members of the licensed

trade. He suggested the Best Bar None Awards as an alternative scheme and agreed to provide contact details to the Convener for investigation.

2.3. Police Scotland

Chief Inspector Scott Robertson regretted that there was no report available regarding further inspections carried out by the Licensing Officer. He was unable to give a firm date for when the update would be available as the inspections had been carried out by Sergeant Sarah Paterson.

3. Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board

The Legal Clerk reported that there was nothing of significance to report to the Licensing Forum. However, the Clerk to the Licensing Board had granted one additional application for extended hours covering the period of the Island Games, 12-18 July 2025, from midnight to 01:00.

4. Licensing Standards Officer

As agreed with the Convener, Nick Long provided a verbal update. He confirmed the Licensing Standards Officer; Faith Reilly's hours of work would be three days and two days per week alternatively. She would be undergoing statutory training at a residential event in Glasgow and in the meantime had been developing relationships and communication channels with key stakeholders including Police Scotland, licensed traders and legal representatives.

Nick Long raised that in the past there had been some concern regarding more than one Licensing Standards Officer attending Licensing Forum meetings. However, he confirmed that she should attend future meetings of the forum as part of her learning experience, with Nick Long accompanying her initially. He confirmed that, should there be a vote, they would only have one vote between them. The Convener confirmed that as Convener, he was able to invite her to meetings.

5. Public Health

There had been previously circulated further data from NHS Orkney on alcohol related hospital stays by region for the year 2021/22. Cameron McConnachie advised that the situation had improved since 2021/22 with the most recent Orkney statistics now being below the national average. He advised that more detailed statistics were available and would be shared with members outwith the meeting.

The Convener requested that the 2023/24 statistics be circulated at the next meeting.

The Convener then gave his appreciation to Cameron McConnachie for his recent presentation on the misuse of alcohol and drugs to the Orkney Rugby Club.

6. Police Scotland

Chief Inspector Scott Robertson confirmed that since the last meeting, a number of licensed premises had routinely been patrolled/walked through, and he was pleased to report that there were currently no licensed premises where the situation had reached the 'problematic' stage requiring further intervention. To ensure adequate policing of the Island Games, local resource levels would be increased by officers from the mainland and overtime would be available.

7. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

David McGroarty reported that there had been low incidences of domestic fires.

8. Any Other Competent Business

8.1. Street Pastors

The Convener reported that Barry Cockerham was recovering from illness but once he had recovered, had invited the Convener on an accompanied visit to experience Street Pastor activity. The Convener also invited Councillor Duncan Tullock who indicated a willingness to attend. The Convener further commented that it would also be beneficial to accompany the police to see what local officers had to endure.

8.2. Statement

The Convener gave a statement regarding the drugs problem in Orkney. He suggested the need for further use of the drugs dog, as well as undercover police officers and invited members to suggest ideas.

Chief Inspector Scott Robertson advised the group that police officers now have the use of bodycams for recording activity at scenes of disturbances. This had the added effect of reducing the need for officers' attending court proceedings. He also advised members that although police officer numbers throughout Scotland had reduced, the Orkney station was at full complement.

Nick Long suggested the use of appropriately licensed door stewards. The Legal Clerk advised that it was discretionary for premises to have door stewards, unless the premises fell under The Licensing Conditions (Late Opening Premises) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, as between the hours of 01:00 and 05:00 there was a requirement for door stewards, first aiders and the premises manager to be on the site. Should there be an evidence-based need for change, a wide scale consultation would have to be undertaken.

It was agreed that this item would be discussed at the next meeting.

8.3. Additional Members

The Convener highlighted the need for new members of the Orkney Local Licensing Forum as there were two members who, for various reasons, had not been able to attend meetings regularly or recently. The Convener confirmed that he would contact the two members. Charlotte Foy suggested that there should be more younger members on the Forum. The Convener clarified that they need not be working in the licensed trade to join the forum.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on Wednesday, 5 November 2025 at 14:00, followed by the joint meeting with the Orkney Islands Area Licensing Board at 15:30.

Proposed dates for meeting in 2026 would be notified at the November meeting.

10. Conclusion of Meeting

There being no further business, the Convener declared the meeting concluded at 11:30.