



Home Office

Home Office Alcohol Policy Team

6 February 2024



Alcohol Policy and Licensing Team

Public Safety Group (Crime, Policing, Fire)

Crime Reduction Directorate

Neighbourhood Crime Unit

**Disorder Prevention Policy Team
(Alcohol, Hate Crime, Football Disorder)**

Alcohol Team

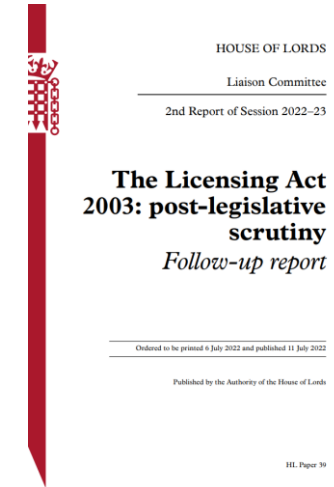
- The Licensing Act 2003
- Police led interventions
 - Minimum unit pricing
- Digital technology and online / telephone sales
 - Night time economy issues
 - Drink spiking
 - Regulatory easements
 - Licensing extensions
- House of Lords post legislative scrutiny
- Alcohol Related Crime and Homicide Taskforce



House of Lords – post legislative scrutiny

2 key commitments we've been progressing:

- Licensing Training
- Planning and Licensing



Virtual Groups

- Time limited
- Focussed on delivery
- HO, DLUCH, IoL, LGA, Police

Short term actions

- Guidance
- Licensing forms
- Ministerial support

Longer term actions

- Toolkit
- Roadshows
- Future proofing



Night-Time Economy Visits





Night-Time Economy Visits

Take aways

- Partnership is crucial – having everyone round the table
- Community engagement is vital
- The Licensing Act can work well – maximise opportunities to problem solve early using the decision process, and effective use of licensing powers



Challenges faced by licensing practitioners / premises

- Resources are tight, exacerbated by impact of cost-of-living crisis
- Competing priorities and conflicting needs – licensing / planning, residential / NTE, catering to all demographics
- Challenges around evidencing impact
- A lot depends on personalities and individuals with commitment



Further thought

- Are there any loopholes in the LA03 and should the accompanying s182 guidance be strengthened
- Building evidence of impact / what works and developing policy proposals
- Importance of celebrating uniqueness and responding to local needs





- The government has updated the section 182 Guidance to include a definition of spiking and raise awareness with licensing applicants and licensing committees.
- The government has also taken forward other measures, including equipping the police to intensify their proactive interventions and prevent offences, empowering venue staff to respond, protect victims and collect vital evidence, and rolling out a reporting and advice tool for spiking incidents – including anonymous reporting.
- The government's statutory report on the nature and prevalence of spiking was laid in Parliament and published on gov.uk on 18 December 2023.



Licensing Extensions

- The Government is currently consulting on a contingent order to extend licensing hours for the Men's Euros Tournament later this year
- If implemented, this would provide certainty to pubs that licensing hours will be extended should the home nation teams reach the final stages of the tournament
- The consultation ends on 19 February

