



ACPO ALCOHOL LICENSING AND HARM REDUCTION

AL/vk/AL+HR/Consultations – 24.3.14

24 March 2014

To: The Home Office
Via: E-mail

Dear Sirs

EXTENSION OF LICENSING HOURS DURING THE WORLD CUP

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the Home Office consultation regarding the potential relaxation of licensing legislation during this summer's football World Cup. In preparing this response I have consulted with ACC Holt, the national policing lead for football.

The Licensing Act, 2003 provides appropriately for occasions such as the World Cup, for local licensees to apply to extend their hours for specific events through Temporary Event Notices (TENs). Indeed, recent changes have increased the number of TENs that a premises is able to apply for within a year so this would seem to be an ideal time for the benefits of those changes to be realised.

I have heard comments attributed to people within the alcohol retail industry claiming that this would impose a bureaucratic burden compounded by appeal processes. In my professional opinion, the process is normal business for licensees, straightforward and one they are familiar with. I feel that it is unlikely that applications will be objected to locally, except on those few individual cases when there is likely to be a higher level of risk known locally. I do not believe that there will be any significant financial or bureaucratic burden placed on licensed premises in using the very legislation which the government has provided for this purpose and which has been changed only very recently to allow premises to have more TENs.

The experience of policing previous international football tournaments has clearly highlighted an enhanced demand upon the police service. Problematically, this increase is not geographically specific and, whilst heightened at times marked by England football matches, raised demand was also recorded around other matches involving sides with significant communities in the United Kingdom. During the 2012 European Championships, for example, public order related incidents were recorded involving not only England football fans but also supporters of the Polish, Portuguese, Italian and Ukrainian national sides.

To demonstrate the breadth of public order incidents recorded domestically during the last World Cup, held in South Africa in 2010, only three United Kingdom forces did not record a football related incident during the tournament (Avon and Somerset Police, City of London Police, Surrey Police) with the majority of forces recording more than ten such incidents. It should be noted that there are many more football related incidents than there are football related crimes.

Only three forces did not make a football related, public order arrest during the 2010 World Cup (Avon and Somerset Police, Gwent Police, Surrey Police) and all but two English forces, excluding the British Transport Police, (Avon and Somerset Police, Surrey Police) reported no

such incidents in a licensed premises. Furthermore, the link between licensed premises and football related incidents over the course of the last World Cup and the 2012 European Championships is extremely strong, with 519 of 599 recorded incidents in 2010 and 130 of 156 recorded incidents in 2012, taking place in licensed premises, representing 86% of the total football related demand.

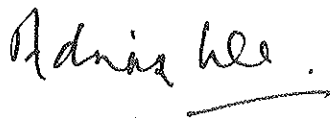
I have no doubt whatsoever that a blanket relaxation of licensing legislation during the period of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil would lead to a rise in public order related incidents and, by extension, increased demand upon the police service.

The task of monitoring, predicting and reacting to football related incidents will be made significantly more difficult should the government decide not to require licensed premises to apply for TENs during the World Cup. Without the ability to focus on specific premises, forces would potentially have to over-predict the likelihood of public disorder which, in turn, would result in greater cost to the public purse. The advantage of TENs is that it allows police forces to adapt their public order plans to more accurately reflect the probable demand based upon targeted intelligence.

Given the increased usage of social media in organising football related public disorder, and the challenge in reacting dynamically to such incidents, the ability to focus limited resources upon a smaller pool of identified licensed premises would greatly assist the police in ensuring the vast majority of law-abiding citizens are able to enjoy the world cup in safety.

If you require any further information, please let me know. I have attached the statistics referred to above for your information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

ADRIAN LEE
Chief Constable
Northamptonshire Police