

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill - March 2011

Change the requirement for a licensing authority to publish their Licensing Policy Statement every three years to every five years

What is a Licensing Policy Statement?

Licensing authorities are required to publish a Licensing Policy Statement every three years. This details how the licensing authority intends to operate and promote the licensing objectives in their area. Licensing authorities have regard to the licensing guidance issued by the Home Office in all their activities and must keep their Licensing Policy Statement under review and revised as appropriate.

How does the licensing authority review their Licensing Policy Statement?

When reviewing their policy, licensing authorities must consult:

- The chief officer of police for the licensing authority's area.
- The fire authority for that area.
- Representatives of holders of premises licences issued by that authority.
- Representatives of holders of club premises certificates issued by that authority.
- Representatives of holders of personal licences issued by that authority.
- Representatives of businesses and residents in its area.

Any revisions made during the three year period (following consultation with the parties listed above) must also be published, either as a statement of the revisions, or as a revised licensing statement.

What are the proposed changes to this policy?

To amend the requirement for a licensing authority to publish their Licensing Policy Statement from three years to five years (unless the full Licensing Policy Statement has been revised in the interim).

What is the rationale behind changing this requirement?

This proposal comes from suggestions made by many consultation respondents including licensing authority representatives and representatives of the licensed trade.

Why not completely abolish the Licensing Policy Statement?

The Licensing Policy Statement sets out the local licensing strategy and provides clarity for everyone, including local residents, businesses and licence applicants, who will be able to refer to the statement when making representations or when preparing their applications. The process in determining a Licensing Policy Statement involves consultation with local communities and businesses which is in line with the Coalition's commitment to shift more emphasis on local accountability and to provide greater flexibility for local communities.