



# Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2018

To allow meaningful comparisons to be made between years, the headline figures include imputed estimates for the licensing authorities unable to supply data. These figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

As at 31 March 2018, compared with the previous year, there were:

- **723,800** personal licences, a 5% **increase** (35,600)
- **212,800** premises licences, a 1% **increase** (1,100)
- **14,100** club premises certificates, a 1% **decrease** (200)
- **8,100** premises with 24-hour alcohol licences, a 6% **increase**
- **£1.7 million** raised by late night levies
- **222** cumulative impact areas in place

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## 1. Introduction

This release provides statistics on alcohol and late night refreshment licensing in England and Wales, and is based on information from licensing authorities (LAs).

Businesses, organisations and individuals who want to sell or supply alcohol in England and Wales must have a licence or other authorisation from an LA – usually a local council. The law and policy governing this area is overseen by the Home Office. The types of businesses and organisations that need alcohol licences might include: pubs and bars, cinemas; theatres, nightclubs, late-opening cafes, takeaways, village and community halls, and supermarkets.

The types of licences required are defined as follows:

- any business or other organisation that sells or supplies alcohol on a permanent basis needs to apply for a **premises licence**
- anyone who plans to sell or supply alcohol or authorise the sale or supply of alcohol must apply for a **personal licence**
- qualifying members' clubs (such as the Royal British Legion, working men's clubs and rugby clubs) need to apply for a **club premises certificate** if they plan to sell or supply alcohol

The figures are provided in the *Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing, England and Wales, 31 March 2018* [tables](#) and include the LA breakdowns back to 31 March 2012. The [user guide](#) provides additional information on this release. It includes the coverage of the data, a glossary of terms and information on the conventions used in the statistics, legislation and regulations.

## 2. Personal licences

Including imputed estimates, there were 723,800 personal licences in England and Wales as at 31 March 2018; a 5% increase of 35,600 compared with the previous year. A personal licence is valid for the lifetime of the holder unless surrendered, revoked or suspended. Birmingham continues to be the LA with the highest number of personal licences (10,695).

## 3. Premises licences

Including imputed estimates, there were 212,800 premises licences in England and Wales as at 31 March 2018, a 1% increase of 1,100 compared with 31 March 2017. This is in line with the broadly increasing trend since 31 March 2008 (195,800). Westminster continues to be the LA with the highest number of premises licences (3,364).

In the year ending 31 March 2018, the South West of England had the highest number of premises licenses per 100,000 of the population (853). The East has the smallest amount of premises licenses per 100,000 people (627).

In the same period, there were 8,866 decisions on applications for new premises licences; of these, 97% (8,623) were granted and 3% (243) were refused.

#### **4. Club premises certificates**

Including imputed estimates, there were 14,100 club premises certificates in England and Wales as at 31 March 2018. This represents a 1% decrease of 200 compared with 31 March 2017 and continues the decline since 31 March 2008 (17,600) when the figures were first published. Durham continues to be the LA with the highest number of club premises certificates (231).

#### **5. Cumulative impact areas**

Cumulative impact areas (CIAs) are identified by LAs where there is evidence that the number, type or density of licensed premises are giving rise to specific problems that could undermine the licensing objectives (i.e. the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance, and the protection of children from harm).

As at 31 March 2018, there were 107 LAs with a total of 222 CIAs in place. Just under a third (65 or 29%) of cumulative impact areas are in London.

Of the 1,107 decisions on applications for new premises licences in cumulative impact areas 92% were granted and 8% refused (compared with 3% refused outside CIAs).

#### **6. Late night levies**

Licensing authorities were given the power to introduce a late night levy through the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. These allow LAs to raise a contribution from late-opening alcohol suppliers towards policing the night-time economy. Late night levies must cover the entire LA area and apply for a specified period between 12am and 6am.





As at 31 March 2018, 8 LAs had a late night levy in place; the amount raised by late night levies in total across 7 LAs was around £1.7 million in the year ending 31 March 2018. One LA was unable to report the amount raised.

## 7. Reviews

An LA can be asked to review a licence on the grounds of it having an adverse impact on the licensing objectives (i.e. the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance, and the protection of children from harm).

As at 31 March 2018, 600 reviews were carried out and this continues the long term decline since 2010 (1,300); however, the figures have slightly increased this year. Where action was taken following a completed review, 212 licenses were revoked or a club premises certificate was withdrawn.

**Table 1: Completed reviews by reason, England and Wales, as at 31 March 2018 compared with the previous year**

<b>Crime and disorder</b>	<b>505 reviews</b>	 <b>8%</b>
<b>Public safety</b>	<b>160 reviews</b>	 <b>9%</b>
<b>Public nuisance</b>	<b>154 reviews</b>	 <b>21%</b>
<b>Protection of children</b>	<b>141 reviews</b>	 <b>8%</b>

Source: Home Office, Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing, England and Wales, 31 March 2018, [Table 9](#). Excludes imputed estimates. Note that more than one reason can be taken per review.

### 7.1. Expedited reviews

Expedited review powers allow the police to fast-track a review of a premises licence where they consider a premises to be associated with serious crime and/or serious disorder, and allow the LA to quickly respond by taking interim steps, where appropriate, pending a full review. Interim steps are temporary measures which have to be taken within 48 hours of the application for an expedited review.

In the year ending 31 March 2018, LAs received 85 applications for an expedited review. Interim steps were taken for 70 expedited reviews:

- the licence was suspended in 48 cases
- other conditions were added or modified in 23 cases
- the operating hours were modified in 6 cases
- the designated premises supervisor was removed in 6 cases

- the licensable activity was partially restricted in 4 cases

Note that more than 1 interim step can be taken per review.

## 7.2 Personal licence revocations

Where an LA becomes aware that the license holder has been convicted of a relevant offence, foreign offence or has been required to pay a immigration penalty, the Authority holds discretionary powers to revoke the license or suspend the license for a period of up to six months.

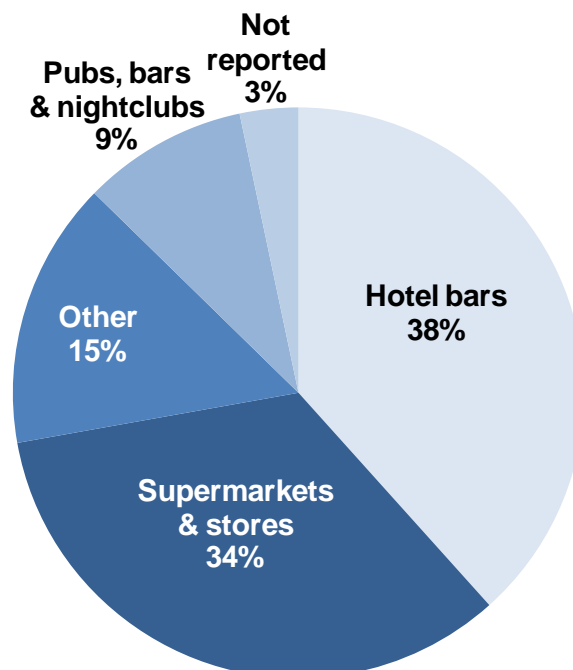
In the year ending 31 March 2018, 26 personal licenses were revoked.

## 8. 24-hour alcohol licences

A 24-hour licence refers to premises that are licensed for the sale or supply of alcohol 24 hours per day (but may not operate 24 hours per day).

Including imputed estimates, there were 8,100 premises with 24-hour alcohol licences as at 31 March 2018, a 6% increase on the previous year.

**Figure 1: Premises with 24-hour alcohol licences by premises type, England and Wales, as at 31 March 2018**



Source: Home Office, Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing, England and Wales, 31 March 2018, [Table 4](#). Excludes imputed estimates.

## 9. Temporary event notices (TENs)

TENs are used to authorise one-off events involving licensable activities, subject to certain criteria and limits.

In the year ending 31 March 2018, including imputed estimates, 147,200 TENs were used which represents a 6% increase of 8,900 compared with the previous year.

## 10. Consultation

Home Office statisticians have launched a consultation on the '[Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing](#)' statistical releases. This consultation is being run to gather insight and seek your views on the presentation and timing of the Government Statistical Service's *Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing* statistics. The consultation will seek to find specifically why you use the data, what information is used, how frequently you use the information and any concerns over quality.

The consultation also provides an opportunity for you to comment on any aspect of the *Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing* statistics. The consultation is open to everyone, including members of the public. The responses to this consultation will help us better understand our user's needs, so that the products we design are of real value and relevance. Further details of the consultation can be found at [Public consultation: Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing statistics, England and Wales](#).

This statistical bulletin is produced to the highest professional standards and is free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Analysis and Insight Directorate in accordance with the Home Office's [statement of compliance](#) with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which covers Home Office policy on revisions and other matters. The Chief Statistician, as Head of Profession, reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office National Statistics products with respect to the Code, being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.

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