

Home Office response to 2018 ‘Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing statistics’ consultation

From 25 October 2018 to 17 January 2019, users of the Government Statistical Service’s ‘Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing’ statistics were asked to provide details of how they use the data, what information is used and how frequently, and any concerns over quality. The survey consisted of 9 questions (Annex A) and 6 responses were received.

Two respondents were data providers and stated they do not use the publication, stating it is time consuming and complicated to produce the data. The remaining respondents mainly used the statistics to provide briefings and analysis. Examples of uses included:

- assessing the impacts of policy changes
- developing impact assessments on changes
- investigating trends at local authority level to identify drivers
- evidence base for London’s night economy and the Mayor’s vision for a 24 hour-city
- monitor developments in London’s night time economy and construct policies.

Of the four respondents who use the publication, all used the data tables, specifically the headline statistics, which include imputed estimates for non-responding licensing authorities (LAs). One respondent elaborated to state more breakdowns are required together with clearer definitions.

Two respondents had made use of the user guide and the accompanying commentary.

No concerns were reported on the quality of the data submitted by LAs.

In response to this consultation, the Home Office Licensing & Public Order Statistics team has initiated work to substantially reduce the length of the questionnaire and move to collecting and publishing the data every other year, with the next collection taking place in April 2020. This will reduce the burden on licensing authorities of collecting this data while continuing to ensure the data series is available for uses such as those listed above.

Annex A - Public consultation questions: Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing statistics, England and Wales

- 1) Please describe how and why you use these statistics. Please be as specific as possible; for example, if you use the statistics to provide briefing and further analysis to others, it would be helpful to know what the end use is.
- 2) Which parts of the publication have you used? *(Please tick all that apply)*
 - Commentary
 - User guide
 - Data tables
- 3) Which data tables have you used, if any?
- 4) Do you have any concerns on the quality of the data submitted by the licensing authorities (LA)?
- 5) Do you use the imputed estimates reported in the headline figures, data for individual LAs or both?
- 6) If you use the imputed estimates, do you think the methodology used is suitable?
- 7) Is your response your views as an individual user or on behalf of an organisation?
 - Own views
 - Organisation *(please specify)*
- 8) What sector do you work in? *(Please select 1 answer only)*
 - Central government department or public body
 - Local authority
 - Other public sector
 - Academic or research
 - Charity and voluntary
 - Commercial or private sector
 - Media
 - International organisation
 - Other *(please specify)*
- 9) May we contact you to discuss your response to this consultation? This may be to follow up on any specific points we need to clarify.