

Written response from NHS Eileanan Siar

Further to your request to provide information on the extent of the relationship between the Health Board and the Licensing Board and linked matters, I am pleased to furnish the following information:

Western Isles Health Board and Western Isles Licensing Board

The Western Isles is one of the smaller licensing board areas, serving a total population of around 26,000. There are both on and off sales licensed premises and the Health Board receives statutory consultations on licensing applications. With a small population and limited number of premises, the number of licenses granted as new or reviewed is very low and therefore interaction between the two bodies is relatively low. The major relationship between the Health Board and Licensing Board in recent years has been through the Outer Hebrides Alcohol and Drug Partnership, of which both the Chief Executive of the Health Board and Chairman of the Licensing Board are members. The ADP has led on the activities with the Licensing Board around the 'proof of age' and appropriate selling of alcohol. The Licensing Board's approach to specific issues such as overprovision, with which the Health Board is in agreement, and the Health Board, through its membership of the Local Licensing Forum, provided information for the revision of the licensing policy statement 2013-2016.

The new Director of Public Health is developing the relationship between the Health Board and the Licensing Board and is bringing the current health information to the Board's attention. At present there are no specific concerns from the Health Board for the Licensing Board in terms of applications for new licenses or for licence extensions.