

Written response from NHS Fife

NHS Fife has a standard response to the question from the Licensing Board about the health aspects within licensing applications. There is no formal over-provision policy in Fife so we are unable to comment on individual applications.

Dr Hannah, Deputy Director of Public Health, currently chairs the Fife Licensing Forum and the Forum receives a copy of the minutes of the Fife Licensing Board meeting. The Forum has also had a joint meeting with the Board which will now go ahead on an annual basis and the over-provision policy will remain a top agenda item.

The Board is supposed to be considering local data on licenses and alcohol-related harm as part of its over-provision policy. They have a copy of a recent study by Public Health into over-provision and more recent updates from the ADP but still no signs of an over-provision policy.

Some five years ago, the Board members were given a presentation on mapping data from the ADP, the Police and the Council to assist in the formulation of an overprovision policy. While Councillors showed interest, nothing was taken forward and so it remains.

Overprovision is a concept more suitable for planning policy than licensing policy these days as the supermarkets have completely changed the face of the supply of alcohol over the last twenty years.

Relations between the Forum and Board are much improved from where they were 3 years ago and the Forum continues to provide a reasonable and consistent line of advice to the Board on Licensing matters."