

## **Written response from NHS Shetland; NHS Highland and NHS Grampian**

### **Scottish Public Health Network**

#### **Interaction between NHS Boards and the local Licensing Boards**

##### **NHS Shetland**

Sarah Taylor, the DPH in Shetland is a member of the local Licensing Forum, and feed in via that through into the Licensing Board. She works directly with colleagues in Environmental Health and Legal Services in the Shetland Islands Council who support the Licensing Board. She noted that she had fed into the recent updating of Shetland's Licensing Policy through those routes.

##### **NHS Highland**

Liz Smart, CPH in Highland covers this remit. She noted that 'Alcohol Focus' had published a report about licensing and the overprovision statements; this provides a good summary of the work in Highland.

(see <http://www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/campaigns/controlling-availability.aspx>)

She views the biggest challenge to effective public health input is that the Highland Licensing Board always give consideration to the local economy (on sales in particular) rather than take on the boarder public health issues.

##### **NHS Grampian**

Chris Littlejohn, CPH in Grampian covers this remit. He commented that Aberdeen City Licensing Board had declared over-provision of off-licenses across the city (excepting restaurants; and two specified, more rural localities outwith the city proper), and over-provision of on-licenses in two defined areas of the city centre. The Board's Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) for 2013/16 identified that Health Board information was used in reaching this decision. The Health Board routinely submits objections to Aberdeen City alcohol licensing board where applications are in breach of the SLP, with around 50% of objections being upheld by a decision to refuse a license.

Similar information did not influence Aberdeenshire's three licensing boards, or Moray's licensing board, in the same way, as they all declared no over-provision. The public health led Alcohol Licensing strategic group agreed that the opportunity cost of the time and resource required to submit objections in the face of licensing boards' explicit rejection of any link between outlet density and harm was too great (plus the pragmatic fact that their SLPs provide limited grounds on which to object), so we do not routinely submit objections to the other Boards.

General he reports positive relationships with all the Licensing Forums across Grampian. In Aberdeenshire, they report developing working relationships with the Boards' legal teams, and with local Forum support we have had alcohol-related mortality and hospitalisation data included in their annual reports this year.