

Licensing Forum  
5 March 2015 10.00am  
West Lothian Room - Lothian Chambers

**Present:** Morag Leck (City of Edinburgh Council Principal Solicitor), John Murphy, Alison Magill, Dianne Bruce, Robin Morris, Tracey McLean (City of Edinburgh Council – Minute Taker), Isla Burton (City of Edinburgh Council - facilitator), Chris Wigglesworth, Rosaleen Harley, Len Havard, John Loudon (Convenor), John Lee.

**Apologies:** James Nicholson, Peter Swanson, Ken Fairgrieve, Graeme Arnott, Norman Tinlin, Sam Piacentini, Jim Sherval

**Agenda**

**1. Apologies:** Please see above

**2. Minute of last meeting:** The minutes from last meeting were agreed.

**3. Greg Ward, Head of Economic Development:** Forum informed that Greg Ward cannot attend – members not happy about the short notice and feel that a letter should be written to inform him of the disappointment. The Forum agreed that Isla should obtain some dates for potential meeting in the next couple of months.

**4. Mainstreaming and Equalities Outcomes report (February 2015).** Morag Leck gives back ground information on this policy and introduces Wendy Henderson

Wendy gives the Forum the background of Equalities within the Council, the Act, reasons for having a report/programme and the importance of having an understanding. Further information is give that not every Board has prepared a policy but that Edinburgh Licensing Board had since 2012. There is no investigation into any of the decisions made by the Licensing Board but having the policy in place is a public sector duty, this policy is updated regularly – Morag will take any comments back to the Board meeting in March 2015 if needed.

**5. AOCB** The Forum feel that the short notice of Greg Ward not being able to attend this meeting (one day)was unreasonable and that the Chief Executive should be informed, Isla explained that she had been told the meeting he had to attend was at short notice and that he had considered sending a substitute but felt that he would rather address the Forum himself - members still feel that a letter should be written and that the Convenor will prepare. This letter was sent by Convenor.

Mike Rea from the Liberton and District Community Council had come to the Forum meeting to talk about an article in the Evening News and the comments made by Matt Richards for City Centre police about police responses, and told the Forum of the experience he had had at having to wait for 40 minutes, and that others in the area had commented that the response times are not good enough. Dianne Bruce will prepare a report for the

next full meeting about incidents within the City – she also explained that the Police and Licensing Standards Officers meet weekly to discuss issues, what is happening within the city and events. Reports about other crimes are also looked at to see if there are any comparisons.

Morag informs that the statistics for Edinburgh and the number of premises has reduced – there is a link on the website. Dianne had prepared some figures which the Chief Constable had commented on 105 New Premises, 71 Variation of premises and 5 Objections. Some new premises are the result of a premises licence lapsing and a new applicant applying.

As a follow-up to the presentation by Edinburgh University at the Forum's meeting of 13/11/14, Alcohol Focus Scotland had offered to present on the local Edinburgh data on the connection between alcohol and ill health. Isla asks the Forum members if they would like? Members agreed this would be helpful – Isla will arrange this.

Morag gives figures for Occasional Licence applications, the Board states 28 days before event for occasionals to be processed - 15% were lodged outwith this timescale. More statistics will be prepared for the next meeting

- 6. DONM** Please note that potential dates for meeting Greg Ward will be circulated.  
10am Thurs 25 June 2015 – Dunedin Room City Chambers  
2pm Tues 13 October 2015 - Dunedin Room City Chambers