

Questions:

1. Please provide the name of your District Licensing Committee, and a generic email address to which general correspondence will be certain of a response.

Waikato District Licensing Committee – dlc@waidc.govt.nz

2. Please provide the name, email, and contact phone number of your Committee's Secretary.

Sarah Bourke Sarah.Bourke@waidc.govt.nz 022 040 5665

3. Please name each of your licensing inspectors and provide their email and contact phone number.

Paul Lynch Paul.Lynch@waidc.govt.nz 027 497 6630

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4. The following questions relate to the number of licences and managers' certificates your Committee issued and refused in the 2021-2022 financial year.

Note: the 2021-2022 financial year runs from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Licences 2021-2022

4A: In the 2021-2022 year, how many total Applications did your committee grant for New 'on licences' and to renew existing 'on licences'? **15 / 15**

4B: In the 2021-2022 year, how many total Applications did your committee refuse for New 'on licences' and to renew existing 'on licences'? **3 / Nil**

4C: In the 2021-2022 year, how many total Applications did your committee grant for New 'off licences' and to renew existing 'off licences'? **6 / 14**

4D: In the 2021-2022 year, how many total Applications did your committee refuse for New 'off licences' and to renew existing 'off licences'? **2 / Nil**

4E: In the 2021-2022 year, how many total Applications did your committee grant for New 'club licences' and to renew existing 'club licences'? **Nil / 24**

4F: In the 2021-2022 year, how many total Applications did your committee refuse for New 'club licences' and to renew existing 'club licences'? **Nil / Nil**

Managers' certificates 2021-2022

4G: In the 2021-2022 year, how many managers' certificates did your Committee issue? **119**

4H: In the 2021-2022 year, how many applications for managers' certificates did your Committee refuse? **0**

4I: In the 2021-2022 year, how many applications for managers' certificates were withdrawn? **9**

Renewals 2021-2022

4J: In the 2021-2022 year, how many licence renewals did your Committee issue? **53**

4K: In the 2021-2022 year, how many licence renewals did your Committee refuse? Nil

4L: In the 2021-2022 year, how many managers' certificate renewals did your committee issue? 9

4M: In the 2021-2022 year, how many managers' certificate renewals did your committee refuse? Nil

4N: As at 30 June 2022 what is the total number of On-Licences (new and existing) in your licensing district? 60

4O: As at 30 June 2022 what is the total number of Off-Licences (new and existing) in your licensing district? 44

4P: As at 30 June 2022 what is the total number of Club-Licences (new and existing) in your licensing district? 44

5. Please comment on any changes or trends in the Committee's workload in 2021-2022.

- A noticeable drop in foreign nationals seeking manager's certificates
- Fewer public hearings required due to a pragmatic approach by the Chair, ie) seeking further information which allowed many applications to be completed 'on the papers' without the need for a hearing.
- Hearings requiring public hearings are more likely to be multi day hearings.
- Manager's certificates for visa holders only issued for 12/36 months **or less** if the visa does not cover 12/36 month period, ie no certificate issued beyond the visa end date.

6. Please comment on any new initiatives the Committee has developed/adopted in 2021-2022.

- Greater use of prehearing directions and minutes to all parties pre and post hearing.
- Pro-active approach to head of the use of 'By now pay later' schemes by inserting a s117 condition into all off-licence decisions.

7A. Has your Committee developed a Local Alcohol Policy?

Yes, developed by the local authority.

7B. If the answer is yes, what stage is your Local Alcohol Policy at?

In force

8. If the answer to 7 is Yes, what effect do you consider your Local Alcohol Policy is having?

- It is having a positive effect as to where both off-licences and on-licences can establish and that is reflected in several decisions made recently. Some of those decisions have been accepted while the remainder have been appealed.

9. If the answer to 7A is 'in force', is your Local Alcohol Policy due for review? Under review

10. If the answer to 9 is Yes, has such a review been undertaken; and, if so with what result?

The WDC Local Alcohol Plan is being reviewed and proposed options are currently open for public consultation following approval by council. We are awaiting feedback from this consultation phase to inform the final option before going to Council for final approval and adoption.

11. Please comment on the manner in which Covid-19 has impacted on DLC operations.

From a Committee perspective the Council administration support has remained available and at a high level. The use of audio-visual technology (Zoom) has allowed the DLC to undertake hearings and or meetings as and when required. There have been no complaints in the use of audio-visual technology. Only two Manager certificate hearings were delayed due to the applicants not having the capability to use the technology.

12. Please comment on the ways in which you believe the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 is, or is not, achieving its object. Note: the object of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 is that:

- a) the sale, supply, and consumption of alcohol should be undertaken safely and responsibly; and
b) the harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol should be minimised.*

- In the Waikato DLC lawyers have never been allowed to 'attack' objectors however the process and time involved means that objectors often 'drop out' of the process once the application goes to a public hearing. However, when an objector does appear it adds a greater dimension to the issues and enables the 'community' to be heard. Thus, participation at all levels needs to improve.
- The Public Notice process is a hit and miss affair. The Waikato DLC is moving to proactively notify communities and mana whenua of all applications.
- The Waikato DC LAP has been effective in restricting additional bottle stores in several communities as identified in the LAP. The proposal to remove the alcohol industry from the appeal process for a LAP would be beneficial for the country.

13. To what extent, if any, do you consider that achievement of the object of the Act may have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic?

- Many off-licence premises, during Covid lockdowns, have proactively pushed their websites using Facebook and other social media, offering immediate home delivery and thus alcohol appeared much easier to obtain than essential food items. In our view alcohol harm was more likely during this period.

14. What changes or trends in licensing have you seen since the Act came into force?

n/a

15. What changes to practices and procedures under the Act would you find beneficial?

The removal of the alcohol industry from the LAP process and focus on what communities desire for their location.

NB: Additionally, in accordance with the Authority's obligations prescribed in s 65(1) of the Act would you also please provide to ARLA@justice.govt.nz a separate detailed list of the names, addresses and types of licensed premises currently operating in your licensing district?