

CLACKMANNANSHIRE LICENSING REPORT 2024-2025



THIS PAPER RELATES TO
ITEM 4
ON THE AGENDA



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to provide the Annual Licensing Report for 2024/25, in accordance with Section 12(A) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

Throughout the last year I have been committed to improving confidence amongst our communities by working in partnership with a focus on prevention, early intervention and proactivity. This supports our broader 2030 vision of safer communities, less crime, supported victims and a thriving work force.

In respect of Licensing, I recognise that success can only be achieved in collaboration with the 32 local authorities across Scotland. Along with contribution from many other associated national and local partners, this collaborative working ensures support for the licensed trade while also preventing alcohol fuelled violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour. Our joint campaigns which aim to protect children and young persons from harm will continue.

In the year ahead, our approach will remain focused on prevention and collaboration to ensure high standards of service delivery. I will continue to encourage officers and staff to engage with licensed premises and take relevant and proportionate action where appropriate to ensure licensing standards are maintained in the interest of the safety of the people of Scotland.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our local partnerships for their contribution to maintaining high standards and driving improvement where necessary within the Licensed Trade for the benefit of the communities we all serve.



Police Scotland Licensing Overview

The Violence Prevention and Licensing Co-ordination Unit (VPLCU) sits within Policing Together, based at Dalmarnock Police Station, Glasgow.

The VPLCU upholds the two-tier structure for licensing which supports both national and local priorities through service delivery. They have overall responsibility for determining and delivering national licensing strategy and policy, by providing advice, guidance and support to divisional licensing teams as well as undertaking other specialist functions.

The Violence Prevention and Licensing Co-ordination Unit is a specialist department which consists of a small team of officers. The officers within the unit work with divisional licensing teams and partner agencies to help shape policy and strategy around the police licensing function. They provide practical and tactical advice to police licensing practitioners, operational officers, supervisors and policing commanders.

The VPLCU seek to ensure that legislation governing the sale and supply of alcohol is applied consistently across the country and all opportunities are taken to stop the illegal or irresponsible sale, supply or consumption of alcohol, with the intention of preventing and reducing crime and disorder.

During 2024/2025, from a licensing perspective, our particular focus was on the following:

- Scrutiny of the serious incidents of violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour linked to licensed premises.
- Working closely with licensed premises.
- Governance of the National ICT Licensing System, known as 'Inn Keeper,' to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of liquor and civic licensing administration and management.

Each of the 13 Local Policing Divisions have a licensing team responsible for the day-to-day management of licensing administration, complying with statutory requirements as well as addressing any issues that may arise within licensed premises in their local area.

Licensing Board Area

The Clackmannanshire local authority area is policed by Forth Valley Division.

Chief Superintendent Roddy Irvine is the Police Divisional Commander who has overall responsibility for all day-to-day policing functions.

The officers who have responsibility for licensing within the area of Clackmannanshire are as follows:

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Local Area Commander; Chief Inspector Katrina Thompson
Superintendent (Partnerships); Superintendent Keith Campbell
Inspector, Preventions and Interventions; Inspector David Ryan
Licensing Sergeant; Sergeant David Bellingham

The Clackmannanshire Area Command serves over 51,000 residents over an area covering over 61 square miles incorporating both urban and village communities. The sub-divisional headquarters are based in the council headquarters at Kilncraigs in Alloa.

There are a total of 134 licensed premises located throughout the Clackmannanshire Area Command. The highest concentration of premises is within Alloa town centre which has one nightclub and numerous bars.

Local Policing Priorities

Following our public consultation process, the policing priorities for Forth Valley Division, as set out in our Local Policing Plan, are as follows:

- Protecting people most at risk of harm.
- Responsive to the concerns of the communities.
- Road safety and road crime.
- Enhancing our collective resilience to emerging threats.
- Promoting confidence through our actions.

Police Officers who work locally within Clackmannanshire Area Command and officers from the police Licensing Department, always have these priorities at the forefront of their mind during engagement with licensed premises staff and members of the community.

Operation of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

It is recognised that the misuse of alcohol can be harmful and damaging to our communities. Alcohol is very often a contributory factor in the calls that police officers attend, from low level anti-social behaviour to domestic abuse and incidents of serious violence and injury.

Police Scotland no longer holds the data which links offending and perpetrators who were drunk or under the influence of alcohol at the time the offence was committed. It is also important to note that in cases when perhaps the accused was not immediately traced by police, being under the influence of alcohol or drunk could not be

ascertained. Therefore, it is a possibility that percentages of those under the influence of alcohol or drunk when committing offences could be higher.

It is the responsibility of Police Scotland to ensure that staff in licensed premises are complying with the licensing objectives as detailed in the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, and to take the necessary action when it is established that this is not the case. It is also the responsibility of the police to ensure that those conducting themselves improperly on licensed premises are reported to the Procurator Fiscal and brought to justice.

The policing of licensed premises in Clackmannanshire continues to be managed by the Clackmannanshire Area Command Weekend Policing Plan which is adapted weekly to consider intelligence and recent incidents relating to licensed premises. The Divisional Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit and Community Policing Teams resource this plan and conduct default patrols in Alloa town centre and around known hotspots as part of the plan. The focus of this is prevention, positive engagement, and enforcement, as appropriate.

The Licensing Department review data from police systems daily and prepare a weekly report detailing all incidents within or connected to licensed premises throughout Clackmannanshire Area Command. This includes police reports, reported incidents in relation to licensed premises and any intelligence that is received. The report also includes any significant events which are taking place and details of occasional licences and extended hours granted to licensed premises. This information is shared weekly when the Licensing Department meets with Chief Inspector Thompson.

If patterns are identified within a licensed premises which give cause for concern, then the premises become a monitored premises and will be inspected on a more frequent basis by local officers. All information in relation to these visits is fed back to the licensing department, which considers any further action required.

It is worth noting that there were 3 charges in relation to persons consuming alcohol in a designated public place. These charges are generally because of proactive work on the part of the police to prevent this type of anti-social behaviour on the streets. The number of such offences in Clackmannanshire has been in single figures for many years now. There are also a significant number of proactive inspections of licensed premises conducted, to ensure compliance with the legislation and the licensing objectives.

During the period under report there were 2011 proactive visits to licensed premises throughout Clackmannanshire Area Command which is up from 953 in the preceding year. This represents a 111% increase in proactive visits to licensed premises. These visits include inspections of town centre premises but also a significant number of visits to premises based in less urban areas that are carried out by police and often done jointly with the Licensing Standards Officer. Many of these visits are carried out at peak times. The significant increase in these visits demonstrates the commitment from the Area Commander to ensure licensing objectives are maintained within the area. These visits also serve to build positive relationships with licensed premises and show our commitment to support the licensed trade.

Monitoring / Interventions

Generally, if an incident occurs at licensed premises, contact is made with those in a position of responsibility, the incident discussed, and any necessary action taken. In many cases this prevents the repeat of any like incident. As mentioned in the previous section, if a premises gives cause for concern, then it becomes a monitored premises. This involves local officers and officers from the licensing department engaging with staff to identify why there may have been repeated incidents occurring on the premises and offering the necessary advice and support.

If there is no improvement, then officers from the licensing department meet with the Designated Premises Manager and in some cases the Premises Licence Holder and prepare an intervention plan which the police and the DPM/Licence holder sign. This involves agreed measures which will be taken to improve the operation of the premises; better staff training, a change in the hours stewards are employed, ensuring peak periods are covered, or more frequent toilet checks. The plans that are put in place are dependent on the problems being encountered.

Should the staff on the premises prove uncooperative and the problems continue then consideration would be given to applying for review of the premises licence under Section 36 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, or a review of the personal licence of staff involved under Section 84A of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

During the period under report there was no requirement to class any premises in Clackmannanshire as monitored premises and no premises were subject to an intervention agreement.

Partnership Working

There is a very cohesive working relationship between Police, Licensing Standards Officers and Environmental Health officers. Often, these collaborative approaches focus on preventing issues from arising and identifying emerging issues early so that these can be resolved prior to enforcement action being necessary. The joint aim is to ensure the highest operating standards are being upheld.

The Licensing Department monitor the conduct of door stewards by delivering a joint approach with SIA Officers in response to any improper conduct by licensed stewards. During 2024/2025 there was 1 report to the SIA in respect of the conduct of a door steward.

Similarly, the Licensing Department maintain close links with Immigration Enforcement to ensure persons are not being employed on premises without permission to work in the United Kingdom. No persons were found to be involved in the sale of alcohol who did not have permission to work in the UK.

Police Officers from the Licensing Department as well as local officers worked closely in partnership with the Licensing Standards Officer to identify and address any emerging issues before they became problematic. It would appear there is general compliance with the law among licensed premises in the Clackmannanshire area.

Regular contact between the police and these partners assists with the flow of information and ensures that any emerging issues can be dealt with effectively.

It should be noted that the management and staff of licensed premises are also assessed to be partners in our efforts to combat alcohol related crime and disorder. By developing good working relations with those in the trade, local officers have been able to develop community intelligence, assisting in detecting outstanding offences and disrupting those who involve themselves in serious criminality.

Licensing Policy Statement

Having been involved in 2018 in the development of the Clackmannanshire Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy 2018 – 2023, Police Scotland continued to take the Board's policy statement into account when assessing applications for licences and during discussions within the Licensing Forum. The Statement of Policy assists officers in understanding the expectations of the Board and ensuring that their actions are consistent with the aims and objectives of the Board. The policy is currently being reviewed, and Police Scotland have contributed, and this includes statistical data for the question of overprovision. Whilst realising that the overprovision requirement is a complex and lengthy process, we will ensure Police Scotland are an effective consultee.

Exclusion Orders / Closure Orders

Where a person is being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for an offence involving violence on licensed premises, the police can request that consideration is given to imposing an exclusion order if a person is convicted. Section 94 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 gives the Court the power to impose an exclusion order preventing the convicted person from entering certain licensed premises for a specified period. Police Scotland do not hold information as to how many of these requests are issued to accused persons convicted by the courts.

Under section 97 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act, police can apply to the Licensing Board for a closure order in relation to any premises because of a risk of disorder and risk to public safety. Provision also exists for an officer of or above the rank of Inspector to make an emergency closure order in certain circumstances. During 2024/2025 there has been no necessity to apply for a closure order or implement an emergency closure order in the Clackmannanshire area.

Licensing Forum

A representative from the Police Licensing Department ordinarily attends the local licensing forum to hear from licence holders and members of the public and address any concerns they may have. This also contributes to an effective working relationship with licensed premises staff and ultimately a safer environment for the people of Clackmannanshire. This has yet to be re-established in the Clackmannanshire area, since lockdown when the Coronavirus restrictions were imposed.

Applications For Licences

Section 22 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 covers applications for a premises licence. All applications for premises licences are considered by police. This is achieved by scrutinising police databases to ensure that the granting of a licence will not present issues for the community. Police officers from the Licensing Department will also contact local police officers to ascertain if they predict any problems with the granting of the licence and on most occasions will contact the prospective licence holder also. There have been no objections to premises licence applications during 2024/2025.

Section 72 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 covers applications for a personal licence. All applications for personal licences are considered by police by carrying out checks on police databases. In the year 2024/2025 there was one objection to the grant of a personal licence.

Other Licensing Offences

It is worth noting that there has been no-one reported to the Procurator Fiscal for offences under Section 1 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 (selling alcohol without a licence), or Section 63 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 (selling alcohol out with licensed hours), in the Clackmannanshire area during 2024/2025.

It can be concluded that through effective analysis of information and strong partnership working underpinned by our local policing priorities, licensed premises in Clackmannanshire operate for the most part effectively and safely and in support of the licensing objectives laid out in the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

Preventing the sale or supply of alcohol to children or young persons

It is recognised that alcohol misuse among children and young persons can be extremely damaging and may result in antisocial behaviour and have a negative impact on the community, as well as the children involved. As can be seen from the attached statistics there is one charge relating to buying or attempting to buy alcohol for a child.

Community Police Officers in Clackmannanshire engage directly with children, educating them as to the potential dangers involved in consuming alcohol. They have the trust of children and young persons in the local community and can gather intelligence in relation to their alcohol consumption and take any appropriate action. The police Preventions and Interventions Department covering Forth Valley also engage with young people throughout the community and deliver presentations that raise awareness of potential risks.

Police officers on day-to-day duties who come across children and young people under the influence of alcohol, share this information with partner organisations such as health, social work and education, so steps can be taken to establish the root cause for these behaviours rather than criminalising these children. As can be seen from the attached statistics, the percentage of criminal activity in and around licensed premises involving children is negligible.

There was one premises in Alva where the DPM was convicted of selling alcohol to a child. The Licensing Department reported the matter to the Board and the Premises Licence and Personal Licence were revoked.

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Licensed premises are one type of business known to be used by Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) groups for the purposes of laundering money and the commission of drugs offences. Clackmannanshire Area Command fully engages with Scotland's SOC Strategy, aiming to Divert, Deter, Detect and Disrupt SOC and the harm it causes. This is not just about drugs, but is also linked to Human Trafficking, Cyber Crime and Sexual Exploitation.

Locally, the Community Policing Teams and Licensing Department regularly engage with the local community and staff within licensed premises ensuring that there is a comprehensive intelligence picture in relation to potential SOC activity within licensed premises in the area. The Licensing Department share information with the Force Disruptions Unit, working to deny persons involved in this type of activity access to licensed premises.

Proposed activity for the year ahead

Police will continue to work alongside partners locally including the Licensing Standards Officer, Environmental Health Officers, HMRC and Trading Standards to ensure that on-sales and off-sales premises are safe places to frequent and socialise in. In so doing it is recognised that those in the licensed trade are valuable partners in working towards these objectives and we will work with them wherever possible.

As new challenges are presented, Police Scotland will seek to adapt and respond in a reasonable and proportionate manner to ensure that the licensing objectives and public safety are at the heart of our joint efforts in relation to licensed premises. Intelligence led policing of licensed premises will continue, responding to the concerns of our communities and taking enforcement action when necessary.

The Licensing Dept within Forth Valley plays a vital role in the administration and policing of licensing matters; however it is acknowledged that the officers deployed operationally have a significant role to play. The Licensing Dept is currently producing products and aide memoirs to assist officers.

To conclude, we would like to thank you for your continued support during what has been another challenging year for all. We look forward to a safe and healthy 2025/2026.

Clackmannanshire Area Command
Violent Crime and Disorder for the period 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025

Crime Type	Offence Description	Total Offences
Licensing Offences	A Person Behaves In A Disorderly Manner And Refuses/Fails To Leave Premises On Being Asked	2
	Attempt To Enter Relevant Premises While Drunk.	0
	Sell alcohol from a vehicle without being authorised to do so	1
	Consume Alcohol In A Designated Public Place - Local Order	3
	Sale of alcohol without a premises or occasional licence	1
	Person Buys Or Attempts To Buy Alcohol For A Child	0
	Refuse To Leave After End Of Licensed Hours When Asked To Do So	0
	Responsible Person Drunk Whilst On Relevant Premises	0
Licensing Offences Total		7

Crime Type	Locus Type	Detected	Not Detected	% Detected	Total Offences
Disorder	Licensed Premises	17	3	85.0	20
	Other	360	84	81.0	444
Disorder Total		377	87	81.2	464
Violent Crime	Licensed Premises	28	5	84.8	33
	Other	442	179	71.1	621
Violent Crime Total		470	184	71.8	654
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct	Licensed Premises	0	0	0	0
	Other	17	3	82.3	20
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct Total		17	3	82.3	20
Grand Total		864	274	74.4	1138

OFFICIAL

2022-2023

Crime Type	Locus Type	Detected	Not Detected	% Detected	Total Offences
Disorder	Licensed Premises	26	3	89.7	29
	Other	307	65	82.5	372
Disorder Total		333	68	83.0	401
Violent Crime	Licensed Premises	52	4	92.9	56
	Other	404	148	73.2	552
Violent Crime Total		456	152	75.0	608
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct	Licensed Premises	1		100.0	1
	Other	32	8	80.0	40
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct Total		33	8	80.5	41
Grand Total		822	228	78.3	1050

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2023-2024

Crime Type	Locus Type	Detected	Not Detected	% Detected	Total Offences
Disorder	Licensed Premises	15	4	78.9	19
	Other	342	90	79.1	432
Disorder Total		357	94	79.1	451
Violent Crime	Licensed Premises	32	6	84.2	38
	Other	432	185	70.0	617
Violent Crime Total		464	191	70.8	655
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct	Licensed Premises	2	1	66.6	3
	Other	20	4	83.3	24
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct Total		22	5	81.1	27
Grand Total		843	290	74.4	1133

2024-2025 (This years)

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