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**REPORT TO: THE MORAY LICENSING BOARD 25 AUGUST 2021**

**SUBJECT: LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 - ANNUAL FUNCTIONS REPORT**

**BY: CLERK TO THE BOARD**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 This report is to seek approval to publish the draft functions report which incorporates a report from the Licensing Standards Officer.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Board:-**

- (i) Note the draft annual functions report at Appendix 1, amend the same if the Board considers appropriate and agree the final report; and**
- (ii) Instruct the Clerk to publish the agreed final report on the Board's web pages;**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 amended the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the Act") so as to require each Licensing Board to prepare and publish an annual report, within 3 months after the end of each financial year, on the following:
- A statement as to how the Board has had regard to the licensing objectives and their statement of policy in exercising functions under the Act;
  - A summary of the decisions made;
  - Information about the number of licences held including the number of occasional licences issued; and
  - Such other information as the Board considers appropriate.
- 3.2 Following the introduction of the requirement to produce an annual functions report in 2018, the Board is invited to consider the draft report which has been produced for approval and is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3 The normal deadline for publication would be the end of June each year. This year's report has been delayed by issues arising as a result of the COVID

pandemic. The report is supplemented by a COVID review in order to relay some of the changes and issues brought about by the pandemic. The COVID supplement is attached at **Appendix 2**.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

The provisions of alcohol licensing directly relate to the priorities within the 10 Year Plan in relation to healthier citizens, a growing and diverse economy and safer communities. Alcohol and alcohol dependency influence the health of the population. The alcohol industry in terms of production, retail and the positive effects on tourism all aid a growing economy. Regulation of the sale of alcohol contributes to a safer community.

##### **(b) Policy and Legal**

Policy and Legal implications have been explained above.

##### **(c) Financial implications**

None identified.

##### **(d) Risk Implications**

None identified. It is a legal requirement to publish the report. There is no stated action for failure to do so therefore any failure would be open to challenge by judicial review.

##### **(e) Staffing Implications**

Preparation of statistics involves considerable staff time and they are required annually but statistics are also useful for other purposes e.g. the annual return to the Scottish Government. No additional resources are required.

##### **(f) Property**

None.

##### **(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

In considering individual decisions the Board should have regard to issues of equality and the subject's (licence holders) rights under the European Convention on Human Rights (and the Human Rights Act 1998). It is not considered necessary to undertake an equalities and human rights impact assessment in connection with this report.

**(h) Consultations**

None.

**5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 It is proposed that the Board note the contents of this report and agree to publish the final annual functions report.**

Author of Report: Sean Hoath, Senior Solicitor, Depute Clerk to the Board

Background Papers:

Ref: SH