



**Finance and Corporate Resources**  
Executive Director **Paul Manning**  
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James Dornan MSP  
Convener of the Local Government and  
Communities Committee  
Local Government and Communities  
Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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**Our ref:** TS/IT  
**Your ref:**  
**If calling ask for:** Teresa Stone  
**Phone:** 01698 454806  
**Date:** 9 May 2019

Dear Mr Dornan

## **Alcohol Licensing and Local Communities**

As you will be aware South Lanarkshire Licensing Board is currently divided into four Divisional Boards. However this response will cover all four Divisions.

I would respond as follows to the questions raised by your letter of 10 April 2019.

### **1. What Boards see as the main challenges and opportunities to delivering public health objectives via the licensing system.**

Board members have expressed some concern over the use of the public health objective as there appears to be little or no input from the NHS in relation to applications before the Board. When the individual Division's licensing policy was consulted on there was no response received at all from the NHS. To enable Boards to support the public health objective there needs to be greater support from the NHS itself. Any information received from NHS previously related to the whole of South Lanarkshire. The NHS was at that time unable to provide information specific to each Licensing Division. In order for any information to be of use the information requires to be specific to the area covered by each Divisional Board.

### **2. Community planning, licensing and public health.**

Generally the Board feels that it would welcome the opportunity to work with Community Partnerships. There is concern that the move from on-sale premises (which were formerly public houses) to off-sales is a growing

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phenomenon. This can lead to a growing disparity of price and leads to more home binge drinking. This could enable the Board and CPP to look at how to encourage good quality licensed on-sale premises. This in turn could result in more alcohol being consumed in regulated premises.

**3. Licensing Standards Officers.**

South Lanarkshire Council employs two Licensing Standards Officers. Each officer undertakes Civic Government (Scotland) Act licensing duties as well as liquor licensing duties. The same number of officers have been in place since the commencement of the 2005 Act. The number of Licensing Standards Officers appears to be adequate but this will be kept under review.

I trust the above is sufficient for your purposes.

Yours sincerely

**Teresa Stone**  
**Licensing and Registration Manager**