

APPENDIX 3 - Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

Part 3 & Sections 17-28, 45

Grant Premises Licence or Provisional Premises Licence

LEGAL TEST

The legal test is set out in Section 23 of the Act.

- (1) An application for a premises licence is to be determined in accordance with this section.
- (2) The Licensing Board **must** hold a hearing for the purpose of considering and determining the application.
- (3) In considering and determining the application, the Board **MUST** take account of the application documents (as listed below)
- (4) The Board **MUST**, in considering and determining the application, consider whether any of the grounds for refusal applies and,
 - (a) if none of them applies, the Board **MUST** grant the application, or
 - (b) if any of them applies, the Board **MUST** refuse the application.
- (5) The grounds for refusal are –
 - (a) that the subject premises are excluded premises
 - (b) that the application **must** be refused under section 25(2), 64(2) or 65(3) [the applicant has been lodged within a period of 12 months of the date of a previous refusal]
 - (ba) that the Licensing Board considers, having regard to the licensing objectives that the applicant is not a fit and proper person to be the holder or a licence.
 - (c) That the Licensing Board considers that the granting of the application would otherwise be inconsistent with one or more of the Licensing objectives.
 - (d) that, having regard to –
 - (i) the nature of the activities proposed to be carried on in the subject premises,
 - (ii) the location, character and condition of the premises, and
 - (iii) the persons likely to frequent the premises

The Board considers that the premises are unsuitable for use for the sale of alcohol.

- (e) that the Board considers that, if the application were to be granted, there would, as a result, be overprovision of licensed premises, or licensed premises of the same or similar description as the subject premises in the locality.
- (6) In considering whether either of the grounds for refusal specified in Section 23(5)(ba) and (c) applies, the Licensing Board **must** in particular take into account –
 - (a) any conviction, notice of which is given by the chief constable under Section 21(4)(b), and
 - (b) any report given by the chief constable under Section 24A(2) (power of the Board to request the Chief Constable to provide an anti-social behaviour report)
- (7) Where the Licensing Board considers that –
 - (a) they would refuse the application as made, but
 - (b) if a modification proposed by them were made to the operating plan, or layout plan, or both) for the subject premises accompanying the application, they would be able to grant the application,

The Board **MUST**, if the applicant accepts the proposed modification, grant the application as modified.
- (8) Where the Licensing Board REFUSES the application-
 - (a) the Board **MUST** specify the ground for refusal, and
 - (b) if the ground for refusal is that specified in Section 23(5)(ba) or (c), the Board **MUST** specify the licensing objective or objectives in question.

1. Section 4 of the Scottish Government's Statutory Guidance to Licensing Authorities relates to premises licences. The Board should note that in terms of Section 142(4) of the Act, a Board deciding not to follow this guidance **must** give Ministers notice of that decision together with a statement of the reasons for it.