

LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

HEARINGS PROCEDURE

General points

The following procedure is based on Regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Licensing Act 2003 ("the Hearings Regulations") which may be viewed or downloaded from the website of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport by following links from www.culture.gov.uk

The procedure is intended as a general framework to ensure natural justice and a fair hearing. The conduct of individual hearings may vary slightly according to circumstances and the discretion of the Chairman. In all cases, however, this general framework will be followed.

The procedure allows each party a maximum period of 5 minutes in which to present their case (Regulations 16 & 24). At the end of the time allowed, the Chairman will terminate the presentation and the hearing will proceed in the form of a discussion led by the authority to explore points of dispute. The discussion will not be timed.

The procedure is subject to periodic review and amendment to reflect best practice and relevant legislative changes. An updated version of this procedure is published as soon as possible following any such amendments.

Chairman

- Introduces him/herself and Members of the Committee, and outlines their roles.
- Introduces Licensing, Legal and Governance Officer.
- Explains that Legal and Governance Officers will be present during the Committee's deliberations to advise only, and that the Licensing Officer will be excluded from deliberations.
- Asks parties present to introduce themselves.
- Outlines procedure to be followed (Regulation 22).
- Asks all parties to confirm their understanding of the procedure.
- Clarifies any aspect(s) of the procedure where any parties are uncertain or asks Legal or Governance Officer as appropriate to clarify.

Governance Officer

- Informs Committee of absent parties.
- Details persons whom a party is seeking permission to represent them at hearing.
- Panel confer regarding permission.
- Chairman announces decision regarding permission.

Licensing Officer presents the report to the Committee

- Is a statement of the facts including details of the application and operating schedule, relevant policy details, detail representations made, a chronology of events and highlights the points on which the Authority requires clarification.

Applicant

- Presents opening submissions and clarifies points raised by Authority in notice of hearing. Time allowed 5 mins.

Other parties

- Presents opening submissions either in person or by spokes person
Time allowed 5 mins per interested party.

Note regarding use of video evidence

Video evidence must be in DVD format and will form part of the relevant party's five minutes opening submission. Any party wishing to use video evidence must submit a copy to the Authority along with sufficient, identical extra copies to serve on all the opposing parties – i.e. if the applicant is submitting it, there must be enough copies for all parties making representations and if a party making representations is submitting it there must be a copy for the applicant. The recording must be edited down to the highlights, containing only relevant matter which relates to the written representation previously submitted. In addition, a description of how, when and where the video was recorded and what it contains must be submitted. These must be supplied to the Authority at least five working days before the hearing.

Members question Licensing Officer on Policy

Discussion

Chairman leads a discussion concentrating on points of dispute:

Chairman asks Applicant what he disputes in other parties' submissions, and asks other parties to comment.

Chairman proceeds through all objectors dealing with all matters of contention.

When Chairman feels all matters have been thoroughly discussed and all parties have been given a fair and equal opportunity to comment and make representations, she/he closes discussion.

Determination

There are two procedures depending on whether or not determination is to be made at the end of the Hearing or within five working days of the Hearing. This later announcement of determination is permitted in terms of the Legislation for certain types of applications.

Chairman informs all present that the Committee will deliberate, that Legal and Governance Officer will remain to advise but will not be part of decision-making process, and that all others must leave (under Regulation 14).

- Parties, apart from Legal and Governance Officer, leave the room.
- The Committee deliberates, with advice as required from Legal and Governance Officer, and reaches a conclusion. The Legal officer may assist, as required, in formulating the wording of the determination.
- Parties return.
- Chairman reads out determination, and advises it will be sent in writing to all parties.

- Opportunity for determination to be clarified by any interested party who is unclear.
- Chairman gives advice about appealing against the determination.
- Chairman thanks all for attending and closes the meeting.

...Within five working days of the hearing

- Chairman explains requirement to determine the Hearing within five working days, and advises that the Committee will proceed to deliberate and announce the determination within that time.
- During deliberations, Legal and Governance Officers remain to advise on law and procedure as required. The Legal Officer may assist, as required, in formulating the wording of the determination. The Licensing Officer plays no part in the determination and withdraws for this part of the proceedings.
- Chairman advises all parties that they will receive written notification of the determination within five working days of the Hearing date, together with general information on how to appeal against the determination.
- Chairman thanks all parties for attending and invites the applicant, objector(s), other party(ies) and the Licensing Officer to leave.

Information on Appealing against the decision

There is no right of appeal to a magistrates' court against the licensing authority's decision at this stage.

If the holder of the premises licence makes representations to the Licensing Authority against any interim steps taken by the relevant Licensing Authority, the Authority must, within 48 hours of the time of its receipt of the representations, hold a hearing to consider those representations.

The Authority must in any event undertake a review within 28 days of receipt of the application for review.