

LICENSING COMMITTEE

12 MARCH 2020 (14 NOVEMBER 2019)

REGULATION OF DOOR STAFF AT LICENSED PREMISES

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek Members' approval for initiatives aimed at improving the regulation of door staff at licensed premises.

2.0 Background

2.1 The requirement for licensed premises to have door staff is an individual requirement on a Premises Licence and is not a mandatory condition. Normally the request for door staff will be initiated by the Police based on the nature of the premises and the risk that the operation poses to crime and disorder.

2.2 The licence condition will normally state the numbers of door staff required and the days and times which it must provide. There is a mandatory condition applied to every licence which states that all door staff used must be door staff licensed by the Security Industry Authority.

2.3 The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry. They are an independent body reporting to the Home Secretary, under the terms of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. The remit covers the United Kingdom.

2.4 The SIA have two main duties. One is the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities within the private security industry; the other is to manage the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme, which measures private security suppliers against independently assessed criteria.

2.5 All door staff are required to hold a licence from the SIA. Currently a licence costs £210 for a three year licence.

2.6 Applicants for a door supervisor's license have to meet certain criteria before they are granted a licence, these include:

- Criminal records check
- Holding a recognised qualification in door supervision
- Applicants must be over 18
- Have the right to work in the UK

2.7 SIA licences are issued subject to certain conditions. Holders of a licence must:

- wear the licence where it can be seen at all times when engaging in designated licensable activity (unless the Licence Holder has reported the licence lost or stolen, or the SIA has the licence)
- tell the SIA and the police if their licence is lost or stolen

- tell the SIA of any convictions, cautions or warnings, or charges for relevant offences. This applies whether committed in the UK or another country
- tell the SIA of any changes to name or address
- not deface or change the licence in any way. If a licence is damaged, the Licence Holder should tell the SIA and ask for a replacement
- not wear a licence that has been defaced or altered in any way
- show their licence if a Police Officer or other person authorised by the SIA asks to inspect it
- return the licence to the SIA if they are asked to do so
- tell the SIA of any change to the licence holder's right to remain or work in the UK.

2.8 The SIA are the main enforcement authority for the regulation of door supervisors. However, they do recognise that local authority licensing staff have an important role to play and it is possible for local authority staff to be authorised by the SIA to enforce the law with regard to door supervisors.

2.9 Newark & Sherwood has taken this opportunity and as result the two Licence Enforcement Officers employed by the Council are authorised by the SIA to undertake licence checks of door supervisors in Newark & Sherwood.

2.10 The role of the door supervisor is an important one, as at many venues they are the first point of contact for patrons. The attitude and behaviour of door staff can set the tone for the whole of the visitor experience. Good door staff diffuse rather than inflame situations and provide a calming approach to difficult situations.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 The number of venues in the Newark & Sherwood area that has a requirement for door staff is small when compared to some other towns. However, there are occasional reports of poor behaviour by door staff on duty in Newark.

3.2 In order to build a better relationship between the door staff and the Council it is proposed to hold an annual meeting with door staff operating in Newark (and their employing organisation) to set out the approach that Newark & Sherwood expect from the door staff. This would have some elements of enforcement but would take a wider approach and would include elements relating to safeguarding of vulnerable people and the wider promotion of the night time economy.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

That an annual meeting with door supervisors be organised in the summer of 2020.

Background Papers - Nil

For further information please contact Alan Batty on Extension 5467.

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