

**ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS**  
**BRIEFING FOR LICENSING BILL**

ACPO supports the underlying principle of the Licensing Bill to modernise laws and regulations concerning the supply of alcohol and provision of entertainment. We welcome the provisions in the Bill which allow action to be taken against those premises which are the source of crime, disorder and nuisance to the public. We support the principle of more flexible opening hours providing they suit the style and location of the premises concerned and do not create additional disturbance to the public. We feel that it is important to stress that the Bill does not suggest that 24 hour seven day a week drinking in all locations should be the norm and we would not support such a concept.

Despite our broad support, there remain the following issues of prime concern which ACPO would like to see addressed during the passage of the Bill through Parliament.

1. **Criminal Convictions:** - We would like to see a more robust system for ensuring that those individuals, with criminal convictions of a type which indicate that they should not be involved in the running of licensed premises, are excluded. There should be a police right to object to the grant of both a personal and a premises licence.
2. **Children:** - We have significant concerns over the proposals that children of whatever age should have complete and unfettered access to licensed premises unrestricted by time of day or the requirement to have adult supervision.
3. **Cumulative Impact:** - We would like to see the Bill specifically allow for consideration of the cumulative impact of a number of licensed premises within certain locations. There comes a point where saturation is reached and additional premises, however well run, can exacerbate problems of crime, disorder and nuisance in the locality. We do not feel that the demand for premises should be just a matter of commercial concern.
4. **Capacity Limits:** - We are of the opinion that there are cogent reasons, both on grounds of health and safety together with crime and disorder, why safe capacity limits should be imposed on all premises.
5. **National Database:** - We maintain that it is vitally important to the efficient working of the new regime that there should be a unified national database for both personal and premises licence holders.
6. **Resources:** - We are concerned, as the almost inevitable outcome of the proposals will be drinking until later into the night, that there will be a consequent impact upon police resources and therefore finances. It may be that, as the trade expects to see increased profits from liberalisation, some method of contribution towards increased policing costs might be considered appropriate.

For further details with regard to these and other areas of concern which remain please contact **Chief Inspector Peter Keown**

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