

**Date:**

**Our Ref:** MM/

**Direct Line:** (01253) 478493

**Email:** [mark.marshall@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:mark.marshall@blackpool.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

Your premises are located in a ward which is subject to a cumulative impact policy. This has no bearing on existing premises but creates a legal presumption that all new applications or variations in your ward area will be refused.

The reason for such a policy is that, it is the Licensing Committee's view that the cumulative impact of all the off-licences is having an adverse impact on crime and disorder.

It is difficult to make a casual link between specific premises and crime in the area but the statistics for alcohol related crime, violence and disorder are significant in your area.

Clearly other factors will play a part such as poor housing, deprivation, joblessness and a general lack of aspiration however, if you overlay the outlet density (i.e. high numbers of alcohol retailers) a clearer picture of 'cause and effect' becomes apparent. In lay terms the more off-licence premises in an area with social and demographic problems the greater the problems seem to become.

The reasons above are often given to persuade the Licensing Committee **not** to grant additional licences in the area but the other consideration that needs to be made is the overall quality and competence of existing operators. This is the reason why I write to inform you that the general impression held by the Statutory Authorities is that improvement and investment is required in some premises. For this reason we have secured some funding from Public Health to provide formal licensing training to all staff who work in off-licences in the Talbot, Claremont, Bloomfield and Victoria wards.

The priority in 2015 will be firstly rolling out this training and secondly dealing with premises in these wards who demonstrate a level of ignorance to the concerns disclosed by their failure to send their staff on the requisite training courses (provided and delivered by the Council).

Premises who fail to take part will present a much higher risk and will be prioritised for regulatory inspections from Licensing Enforcement, Health & Safety and the Police. To that end breaches of legislation disclosed or concerns with staff competence will be treated seriously.

Options open to the Authorities include:

- Review of the premises licence which could result in conditions being applied or in the most serious cases where the Committee have no faith that the licensing objectives will be promoted, revocation.
- Prosecution for breaches of the premises licence or for failures of statutory duties under the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Courses will be run on the dates on the attached sheet. May I invite you to take the opportunity to book all your staff on the course by telephoning one of the following telephone numbers:-

01253 478349 Jacqui Harrison  
01253 478341 Keith Marsden  
01254 478315 Gareth Shaw  
01253 478493 Mark Marshall  
01253 478314 Dave Verity

Yours faithfully

Mark Marshall  
**Licensing/Health and Safety  
Enforcement Manager**