

**Wellington District Licensing Committee Annual Report to the Alcohol Regulatory
Licensing Authority for the period 1st July 2022 to 30 June 2023**

Please provide the name of your District Licensing Committee, and a generic email address to which general correspondence will be certain of a response:

Wellington District Licensing Committee: secretaryDLC@wcc.govt.nz

Please provide the name, email address and contact phone number of your Committee's secretary:

Amy Liu : amy.liu@wcc.govt.nz

Please name each of your licensing inspectors and provide their email and contact phone number:

Kay Sedcole (Team leader)	Kay.sedcole@wcc.govt.nz	021 247 9732
Jude Austin (Chief Licensing Inspector _	Jude.Austin@wcc.govt.nz	021 530 942
Joanne Burt	Joanne.burt@wcc.govt.nz	021 227 8272
Gene McCarten	Gene.McCarten@wcc.govt.nz	021 313 673
Gordon Douglas	Gordon.douglas@wcc.govt.nz	021 227 8972

In the 2022-23 year, how many total Applications did your committee grant for New 'on-licences and to renew existing 'on-licences'?

47 new on licences

182 renewed on licences

In the 2022-2023 year, how many total applications did your committee refuse for New 'on-licences' and to renew existing 'on-licences'?

0 new

0 renewal

In the 2022-23 year, how many total Applications did your committee grant for New 'off licences and to renew existing 'off licences'?

9 new off licences

45 renewed off licences

In the 2022-2023 year, how many total applications did your committee refuse for New 'off licences' and to renew existing 'off licences'?

0 new

1 renewal

In the 2022-2023 year, how many total Applications did your committee grant for New 'club licences' and to renew existing 'club licences'?

2 new licences

16 renewed licences

In the 2022-2023 year, how many total Applications did your committee refuse for New 'club licences' and to renew existing 'club licences'

0 new

0 renewal

In the 2022-2023 year, how many managers' certificates did your Committee issue?

641 new manager certificates

In the 2022-2023 year, how many applications for managers' certificates did your Committee refuse?

1

In the 2022-2023 year, how many applications for managers' certificates were withdrawn?

56 new

9 renewals

In the 2022-2023 year, how many licence renewals did your Committee issue?

243

In the 2022-2023 year, how many licence renewals did your Committee refuse?

1

In the 2022-2023 year, how many managers' certificate renewals did your committee issue?

775 renewed manager certificates

In the 2022-2023 year, how many managers' certificate renewals did your committee refuse?

0

As at 30 June 2023 what is the total number of On-Licences (new and existing) in your licensing district?

511

As at 30 June 2023 what is the total number of Off-Licences (new and existing) in your licensing district?

106

As at 30 June 2023 what is the total number of Club Licences (new and existing) in your licensing district?

49

Please comment on any changes or trends in the DLC workload in 2022-2023

There has been an increase in DLC hearings. This may be because the reporting agencies have more availability, post Covid-19, to focus on alcohol-related matters in Wellington. However, it should be noted that there have also been delays getting hearing time for opposed applications due to factors such as the availability of parties able to attend hearings and the availability of hearing rooms.

A number of large special events that were postponed due to Covid-19, have been held in 2022 and 2023, which has led to an increase in applications this year. The number of special licence applications appear to be back to post Covid-19 levels.

Please comment on any new initiatives the Committee has developed/adopted in 2022-2023.

The Committee has introduced the ability in some instances to hold hearings remotely. This has been especially useful where hearings have taken longer than anticipated and the Counsel involved were from out of town, so the final (part) day of the hearings were conducted remotely.

The Committee has also reflected and/or refined our practices concerning objector standing and granting waivers pursuant to s 208. Currently, a review of the wording of standard licence conditions is being undertaken.

Has your DLC developed a Local Alcohol Policy? (Yes or No)

No

Please comment on the ways in which you believe the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 is, or is not, achieving its object. Note: the object of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 is that: a) the sale, supply, and consumption of alcohol should be undertaken safely and responsibly; and b) the harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol should be minimised.

Generally, the Act appears to be working well. However, there still appears to be barriers to meaningful community participation. This impacts the evidence the Committee receives on unsafe or irresponsible supply or consumption of alcohol or alcohol-related harm, and evidence available to the Committee. It is therefore vital that the public, who have the local knowledge, are involved in the licensing process.

What changes or trends in licensing have you seen since the Act came into force?

Since the Act came into force, the evidence from the Police and other sources appears in recent years to suggest that there has been an increase in alcohol-related harm issues in and around central Wellington. This is because of a variety of reasons but could be due to societal change over the past few years. There also seems to have been an increase in patrons preloading or side loading before going out.

Covid-19 and the financial downturn appears to have had an impact on the hospitality industry with premises struggling to be viable and more premises are closing or not renewing their licence. Licensees report that it has been hard to get staff and there is a shortage of duty managers available to work at licensed premises.

What changes to practices and procedures under the Act (if any) would you find beneficial?

Given the upcoming changes to the legislation, it will be useful to have standard case management conferences to identify the key issues and address any preliminary matters before the

hearing. This will help focus parties' attention on key issues and assist parties to think about the evidence required to address them. It should assist ensuring a sharper focus at the hearing, potentially reducing hearing time, and making the hearing process more efficient.

The ability to facilitate mediation could expediate matters in straightforward cases. It could be used when there are parties willing to engage in the process and where the differences are small. However, mediation may not always save time, cost and energy, and has the potential to drag out the process if it is unsuccessful.