

TEMPORARY LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS PROCEDURE AND GUIDANCE

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 and The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005

This Temporary Procedure and Guidance notes makes provision for the conduct of local authority Licensing Sub-Committee hearings, held between 4 April 2020 and 7th May 2021, and for public and press access to these meetings and are made in accordance with Coronavirus Act 2020 and The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

The following points of clarification apply throughout:

- A reference to a “meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee” or reference to a “place” where a meeting is held, includes more than one place, electronic, digital or virtual locations such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers.
- Any reference to being “attend” “attendance” “present” at a meeting includes through remote attendance.
“Remote access” means remote access of public and press to a Council meeting to enable them to attend or participate in that meeting by electronic means, including by telephone conference, video conference, live webcasts, and live interactive streaming.
- A Member of the Licensing Sub-Committee who is a “Member in remote attendance” attends the meeting at any time if all of the conditions in subsection section 5(3) of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panel (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 are satisfied, which means the Member in remote attendance is able at that time—
 - (i) to hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, the Members in attendance,
 - (ii) to hear, and where practicable see, and be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by, any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting in order to exercise a right to speak at the meeting, and

(iii) to be so heard and, where practicable, be seen by any other members of the public attending the meeting.

- Any reference to a member, or a member of the public, attending a meeting includes that person attending by remote access.

Rights of a Party

1. A party has the right to attend the hearing and may be represented by any person.
2. A party is entitled to give further information where the authority has asked for clarification.
3. A party can question another party, and/or address the authority, with consent of the authority.

Failure to Attend

4. If the authority is informed a party does not wish to attend, the hearing may proceed in their absence.
5. If a party has not indicated their attendance and fails to attend the hearing may be adjourned if considered in the public interest, or hold the hearing ensuring the party's representation is considered.
6. Where the authority adjourns the hearing it shall notify the parties of the date, time and place.

Procedural Information

7. At the start of the hearing, the authority shall explain the procedure which it proposes to follow and shall consider any request for permission for another person to appear at the hearing.
8. A hearing shall take the form of a discussion led by the authority and cross-examination shall not be permitted unless the authority considers that it is required.
9. The authority will allow the parties an equal maximum period of time in which to speak.
10. The authority may require any person behaving disruptively to be disconnected from the hearing, and may refuse that person to be reconnected, but such a person may, before the end of the hearing, submit in writing information they would have been entitled to give orally had they not been required to leave.

FOOTNOTE:

In relation to all other matters governed by the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 any party or their representative may contact the Licensing Department at Dorset Council and they will be provided with a full copy of the regulations on request.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

1. At the start of the meeting the Chairman will introduce:
 - the members of the sub-committee in attendance
 - the council officers in attendance
 - the parties and their representatives in attendance
2. The Chairman will then deal with any appropriate agenda items.
3. The Licensing Officer will be asked to outline the details of the application, including details of any withdrawn representations.
4. The applicant or their representative is then invited to present their case.
5. Committee members will be invited to ask questions.
6. Where appropriate the Responsible Bodies e.g. representatives of Police, Fire Services, Environmental Services or Trading Standards will be invited to address the sub-committee on any relevant representations they may have.
7. The Chairman may then allow an opportunity for questions asking each person in turn if they wish to ask a question.
8. The Chairman will ask any person who has made representations, who has already expressed a wish to do so, to address the sub-committee. The sub-committee will have read all the papers before them, including any letters of representation. Members of the public are asked to keep their comments concise and to the point.
9. All parties will be given the opportunity to “sum up” their case.
10. The Chairman will ask the Legal Advisor if all relevant points have been addressed before advising all parties present that the public part of the meeting will conclude. The sub-committee will then consider its decision in private. The sub-committee will also have the Democratic Services Officer in remote attendance, and the Legal Advisor can be called upon to offer legal guidance.
11. The decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee shall be communicated to the parties and made available on the Council’s website as soon as practicable.

NOTE

The Chairman may vary this procedure, as circumstances require but will have regard to the rules of natural justice and the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005, and the requirements of The Local Authorities and Police and

Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

The remote meeting will be available to via web-link details of which will be set out on the agenda. However, the public can be excluded from all or part of the meeting by removal of remote access where the sub-committee considers that the public interest in so doing outweighs the public interest in the meeting or that part of the meeting, taking place in public.

Under no circumstances must the parties or their witnesses offer the sub-committee information in the absence of the other parties.

The Chairman and the Sub-Committee have discretion whether to allow new information or documents to be submitted and read at the meeting.