

Appendix 3

Proposed Responses to Consultation Document - Personal Alcohol Licences: Enabling Targeted, Local Alternatives	
Question	Proposed Response
Question 1: Do you think the Government's proposal would reduce burdens, in terms of time and/or money, on business, including small and medium enterprises?	Yes
Question 2: Do you think this proposal would undermine the licensing objectives? The four licensing objectives are: public safety; preventing crime and disorder; preventing public nuisance; and protecting children from harm.	Yes
Question 3: Do you think nationally accredited training courses for those authorising alcohol sales are necessary to help licensing authorities promote the licensing objectives?	Yes
Question 4: Do you think a statutory list of relevant offences, such as theft or handling stolen goods, is necessary to help licensing authorities promote the licensing objectives?	Yes
Question 5: For what proportion of premises in your area do you think conditions requiring nationally accredited training would be appropriate?	75%

<p>Question 6: For what proportion of premises in your area do you think conditions requiring criminal records declarations for future Designated Premises Supervisors would be appropriate?</p>	<p>75%</p>
<p>Question 7: Below, please provide evidence to support the answers you've given, making clear to which question the evidence refers.</p>	<p><u>Question 1</u></p> <p>Although this proposal would reduce burdens on businesses in relation to time and money, we believe it would do so at the expense of other factors that we consider to be more important and so do not agree that personal licences should be abolished. Reducing the burden dilutes responsibility and introduces inconsistency, something which the consultation document claims to be trying to prevent.</p> <p><u>Question 2</u></p> <p>The consultation document identifies the perceived weaknesses of the current system and, despite arguing the need to make alcohol licensing more targeted, proportionate and flexible, only realistically seeks to reduce the burdens placed on businesses. We do not believe any of the proposals effectively promote or strengthen the licensing objectives.</p> <p><u>Question 3</u></p> <p>Nationally accredited training courses provide consistency across the country and help businesses, particularly small and medium sized ones, ensure they have suitably trained, qualified</p>

	<p>staff. It is also a formal way of recognising a level of achievement for an individual. Allowing each local authority to determine their own requirements could work for local people staying within the confines of the same local authority area, but it isn't unusual for members of the licensed trade to move around the country which would potentially mean people having to meet different criteria. We would also be concerned about any proposal that allows someone to hold a position of responsibility without having a suitable qualification.</p> <p><u>Question 4</u></p> <p>A defined list of relevant offences is useful as it provides consistency across the country which will help all those involved in the licensing process understand what the benchmark is. We would be concerned about any intention to reduce the requirement for criminal record checks. We are positive about the proposal to allow the Police to object when someone comes forward with convictions.</p> <p><u>Question 5</u></p> <p>We would expect to have to apply a condition to a high proportion of premises in our administrative area to ensure a basic level of control is in place.</p> <p><u>Question 6</u></p>
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	<p>We would expect to have to apply a condition to a high proportion of premises in our administrative area to ensure a basic level of control is in place.</p>
<p>Question 8: Is there anything else you think the Government should consider?</p>	<p>In addition to the changes proposed requiring all alcohol sales to be authorised by the DPS, rather than a personal licence holder, we would welcome a proposal that restricted a DPS to a single premises licence, avoiding the position where the DPS can operate across more than one location simultaneously. This is because we believe the DPS function is a significant role that needs to focus on one premises.</p> <p>We would also welcome legislation that obliges personal licence holders who move from one local authority area to another to notify the parent authority from which they acquired their licence, and for that record and any known antecedence of the licence holder to be made available to the new licensing authority within whose area the licence holder is moving to. This would close an existing loophole, previously highlighted, that allows a licence holder with a chequered history, though not a relevant conviction, to circumvent the key essence of the licensing regime i.e. public protection</p>