

**Report of the Service Director Legal Services to the  
Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board  
to be held on the 20 February 2019**

**ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

**1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report, is to provide Members with an overview of the work Licensing Enforcement Officers have undertaken to date.

**2. Background**

Members are minded to note, that Licensing Enforcement Officers have continued to proactively embark on a number of licensing enforcement operations. A summary of enforcement operations undertaken are detailed below.

**3. Current Position**

**4. Immigration checks in licensed premises**

In December 2018 Licensing Officers accompanied by Immigration Enforcement Officers inspected two licensed premises in the borough. Immigration Officers were in receipt of intelligence which suggested illegal immigrants may have been working and living on the premises. Licensing Officers also had to ensure the premises were operating in compliance with the Licensing Act 2003.

The first premises was found to be compliant under the Licensing 2003, and all individuals on the premises had the correct permissions to live and work in the UK.

The second premises saw the arrest of three individuals who were working at the premises and are believed to be illegal immigrants.

Following receipt of further information from the Home Office the premises may be subject to a licence review hearing.

**5. Illicit Tobacco**

In December 2018, Licensing Officers received information that a town centre licensed premises was selling illicit cigarettes from behind the bar. Licensing Officers accompanied Trading Standards Officers to visit and inspect the premises and found a small amount of illegal cigarettes. Officers brought this to the attention of the premises licence holder who dismissed the member of staff concerned.

**6. Best Bar None**

Barnsley has picked up the award for 'Best New Scheme' in this year's prestigious 'National Best Bar None Awards'. The Awards took place at a special parliamentary reception at the House of Lords.

Backed by the Home Office, Best Bar None has been working collaboratively with the alcohol industry, local authorities and the police for over 15 years. It promotes responsible drinking and higher professional licensing standards in bars, pubs, hotels, clubs and entertainment venues in over 70 towns and cities across the UK.

Barnsley's Best Bar None scheme was launched in November 2017 following a significant investment by Barnsley Council to redevelop the area and create a modern and vibrant town center for residents and visitors alike.

The judges felt that the scheme's focus on public health was commendable, and initiatives in this vein have included awarding bonus points to licensed premises for offering five low sugar non-alcoholic options, as well as signposting local drug and alcohol support services. Barnsley has also introduced a People's Choice award to give consumers the chance to engage with the scheme and vote for their favorite pub.

National Coordinator for Best Bar None, Mick McDonnell, said: "Barnsley Council is clearly focused on regenerating the area to create a modern and

vibrant town centre and Best Bar None plays a crucial part in that strategy. Very few schemes are led by the public health agenda and the measures that Barnsley has put in place to adopt a sensible drinking culture and to ensure that pubs, bars, and clubs understand their role in that is admirable. We look forward to seeing the scheme going from strength to strength.”

Licensing Officers work closely with Public Health to support the Best Bar None scheme using partnership working and the sharing of information and intelligence to resolve issues in the town centre we are all working to promote Barnsley as a safe and vibrant night time economy.

## **7. Pubwatch**

Alcohol related crime has a significant detrimental impact on our town centres and local communities. Local Pubwatch Schemes promote partnership working to tackle the offenders whose actions can cause real damage to the night time economy.

Local Pubwatch schemes are voluntary organisations set up to promote best practice through partnership working with licensees and Licensing Officers. Officers promote good practise and support licensees to make a real difference to improving the safety of people working and socialising in the borough by attending regular Pubwatch meetings throughout the borough to support Licensees with their aim of achieving a safer drinking environment in all licensed premises.

The town centre Pubwatch currently has above seventy individuals on its banning list, showing that licensees are proactively tackling problem behaviour and individuals and working to make the night time economy a better and safer environment for all involved.

## **8. Proposal**

Proactive enforcement operations will continue to take place on a regular basis and Officers are in the process of arranging further enforcement operations with various agencies including South Yorkshire Police, Trading

Standards and The Immigration Service. Whilst offences are always unacceptable we will combat ill failings and convey the message that all individuals licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 must begin to accept responsibility for their failures and make a change.

Failure to do so, will only continue to put the safety of the public at risk when frequenting licensed premises and their surrounding areas.

**8. Background Papers**

Enforcement Officer Reports which contain exempt information are not available for public inspection

**10. Officer Contact**

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