

**When The Going Gets Tough ...  
The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005**

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CONTENTS REPRESENT THE VIEWS  
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**About Scotland's Licensed Trade**

- Turnover of £1.5 billion
- Over a million customers every week
- Employs 50,000 people
- 150,000 people in hospitality
- £2 billion in taxation annually.



**Pubs and Tourism ...**

- Scotland's pubs play a critical role in enhancing the visitor experience to Scotland.
- Research produced by VisitScotland suggest that 56% of tourists visited pubs, bars or nightclubs during their stay.
- 67% of visitors have eaten in pubs or bars, a higher proportion than other types of eating establishment, including restaurants or even fast food outlets.



*Thanks, but ...*



**The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005  
– Christmas Tree ... ?**



## The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – ... or Turkey?



## Talking Turkey ...

*[tur-kee] noun,*

- a large, gallinaceous bird of the family Meleagrididae, esp. *Meleagris gallopavo*, of America, that typically has green, reddish-brown, and yellowish-brown plumage of a metallic luster and that is domesticated in most parts of the world.
- Slang ... *a poor and unsuccessful theatrical production; flop.*



## The Result ...

- Eight years after the Nicholson Commission ...
- After two Scottish Parliament elections ...
- After six Scottish Licensing Ministers ...
- Having spent sixty million pounds ...
- Still haven't delivered the process of licensing reform in Scotland ...
- End of the beginning ...



## That's Politics

### ... Learning from the process

*If you set up a Commission to examine an issue and make recommendations ... don't tinker with the conclusions.*



## That's Politics

### ... Learning from the process

*Don't take eight and a half years to deliver a change in public policy ...  
"a week is a long time in politics".*



## Licensing Reform

### ... Was it actually worth it?

*Listen ... Especially to your elders  
... grandfather did know best.*



## We're there ... or are we?



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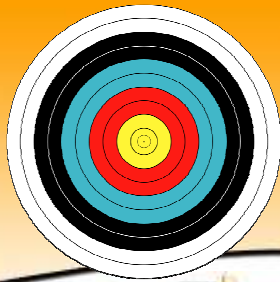
## Scottish Licensing's Law of Unintended Consequences ...

- As demonstrated by the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 ...
- "Loss" of 3,000 licensed premises?
- Some were already not trading ...
- But, loss of many smaller retailers ...
- Result ... emergence of non-regulated non-licensed alcohol industry ...

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## Thoughts for the future – Is Scotland licensed to thrill?

*"... ambition of growing tourism by 50% by 2015"*  
*[Scottish Tourism: The Next Decade - A Tourism Framework for Change – March 2006]*



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## Thoughts for the future – Is Scotland licensed to thrill?

- Overprovision Assessments
- Licensing Policy Statements
- Consistency: Policy versus process
- Fees
- Promotions
- The Fourth Objective.

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## Thoughts for the future – Is Scotland licensed to thrill?

***Overprovision Assessments***

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## Thoughts for the future – Is Scotland licensed to thrill?

***Licensing Policy Statements***

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Thoughts for the future  
– Is Scotland licensed to thrill?

**Consistency:  
Policy versus process**



Thoughts for the future  
– Is Scotland licensed to thrill?

**Fees**



Thoughts for the future  
– Is Scotland licensed to thrill?

**Promotions**



Thoughts for the future  
– Is Scotland licensed to thrill?

**The Fourth Objective**



And then we have In-sanitary ...



Cheers ... The End.



Image: Courtesy On  
Trade Scotland



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