

Local uses for the alcohol profiles & CRESH Webmap



Alcohol Focus Scotland has worked with the Centre for Research on Environment, Society and Health (CRESH) at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, to provide further evidence of the links between alcohol availability and harm in Scotland.



Detailed local information on alcohol availability and harm at a neighbourhood level can be found using the [CRESH WebMap](#).

Profiles containing details about the levels of alcohol availability and related harm (at both a national level and for each local authority) can be accessed via our website: www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/campaigns-policy/availability-and-licensing/alcohol-outlet-availability

We are hopeful this data will support local stakeholders and communities to:

- Improve understanding of alcohol and its impacts
- Inform policy and decision making
- Encourage collaboration and dialogue
- Assist in monitoring systems and progress

Below are some examples of the ways that this information could be used by different stakeholders and communities.

Licensing Boards

| Role | How data can be used |
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| <p>Develop statement of licensing policy (<i>setting out the actions that will be taken to promote the licensing objectives</i>)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help identify the relationships between alcohol availability and different types of harm at a local level. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building evidence relevant to specific licensing objectives (although the statistics are primarily crime and health related, the data could also be used in conjunction with other information sources relating to children etc.). ○ Comparing indicators of alcohol harm across different areas to help make sense of the situation in an area (e.g. comparing between localities within a local authority). ○ Identifying localities with worse indicators than other areas, where there may be a particular need for remedial action. ○ Identifying where alcohol availability may be contributing to inequalities. ○ Identifying any issues particular to on-sales or off-sales in local areas. • To identify particular communities, stakeholders or areas to target for consultation, or key issues to consult on. • To help consider, target and apply the most appropriate measures to achieve the objectives - specific measures could be adopted as a general policy, or in relation to particular objectives or categories of decisions. • To help assess the ongoing effectiveness of policy and practice in meeting the licensing objectives. For example, data could be used to help set a baseline for ongoing policy evaluation and annual reporting. |
| <p>Assess overprovision</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help determine the localities or geographical areas to assess for overprovision (e.g. areas with high levels of harm or outlet density). Data zone level data can also be built up into larger areas such as towns, villages, communities or the whole board area. • To help identify the numbers and types of licensed premises (e.g. on-sale, off-sales, or both) - this could be supplemented with other data pertaining to factors like capacity and hours. |
| <p>Decide on applications</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help inform day-to-day decision making. |

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| <i>(NB: A licensing board has discretion as to how it exercises its duties)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help identify when particular conditions could be applied, in response to local issues or circumstances. |
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Alcohol and Drug Partnerships/Health/Police

| Role | How data can be used |
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| <p>Ensure local strategies and plans account for alcohol availability and harm</p> <p><i>(For example, relevant locality plans, the ADP strategic plan, the strategic plan of the Health and Social Care Partnership, and justice strategies)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help identify priority issues and communities to target within local strategies and plans e.g. areas experiencing high levels of alcohol-related crime or death rates. To contribute to local strategies addressing inequalities. To help identify communities or areas to consult with when developing strategies, or issues to consult them on. To bring different stakeholders together, open up topics for discussion, and identify areas for collaboration and strategic approaches. To help assess the ongoing effectiveness of local strategies and plans. For example, data could be used to help to set a baseline for monitoring and reporting purposes. |
| <p>Provide the licensing board with information for the statement of licensing policy</p> <p><i>(NB: Health Boards and Police must provide information for the statement when requested by a board)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of submissions to licensing boards when they are collecting and analysing evidence. This could be supplemented with other information - relevant local intelligence, data and statistics can all be usefully collated to build a fuller picture. The evidence should be linked to the licensing objectives. In addition, it could be beneficial to use the data to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify localities with worse indicators than other areas, where there may be a particular need for remedial action. Compare indicators of alcohol harm across different areas to help make sense of the situation in an area (e.g. comparing between localities within a local authority). The data can be adapted relevant to the needs of boards. Speak to boards about the types of data they are most interested in – for example, data zone level data could be built up into larger areas such as towns, villages, communities or the whole board area. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help consider, develop and evidence recommendations to boards. Identify what would be the most appropriate measures to achieve the objectives, and what approaches or conditions you believe are required. |
| <p>Provide the licensing board with information for the overprovision assessment</p> <p><i>(NB: licensing board must consult the Health Board and Police when developing its overprovision policy)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help determine the localities or geographical areas experiencing particularly high levels of harm. To help determine the localities or geographical areas with high outlet density of on-sales and/or off-sales. To evidence recommendations on overprovision to the board, combining data with other sources of intelligence and local data. Data should be linked to the licensing objectives. |
| <p>Object to applications or make representations</p> <p><i>(NB: Health Board and Police must be sent all applications)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify priority areas for making objections or representations (e.g. areas with high levels of harm or outlet density). To identify any issues particular to on- sales or off-sales, to help inform and evidence objections and representations. To geographically locate an application (using the webmap), and gain a fuller understanding of the local context. To help evidence case when lodging objections/representations, supplementing it with other data, and linking to the relevant licensing objectives. |
| <p>Participation in Licensing Forum</p> <p><i>(NB: Forum membership should include health and police representation)</i></p> | <p>See section Forums below</p> |

Local Licensing Forums

| Role | How data can be used |
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| Review/scrutinise the operation of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 in its area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help assess the ongoing effectiveness of policy and practice in meeting the licensing objectives. For example, the data could be used to help set a baseline for future review. • To compare indicators of alcohol harm across different areas to help make sense of the situation in an area (e.g. comparing between localities within a local authority). High levels of harm in one area could indicate that more might be done to minimise risk, or that a particular approach isn't working as well as intended. • To help identify communities and stakeholders to consult about the effectiveness of licensing in their area, or to invite them to attend the forum. • To help identify priority issues for consideration by the forum, topics for discussion at future forum meetings, or matters to bring to the attention of the board. |
| Give advice and make recommendations to the licensing board <i>(NB: Forums cannot comment on individual cases or applications.)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help develop and evidence recommendations to the board. For example, this could be a recommendation that the board adopt a specific measure to address an identified concern, or review an aspect of the licensing policy. • To help provide the licensing board with advice and recommendations for the statement of licensing policy and overprovision assessment (see ADPs/Health/Police section above for further details). |

Community Councils

| Role | How data can be used |
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| Advise, influence and advocate on behalf of local communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To compare indicators of alcohol harm across different areas to help make sense of the situation in an area (e.g. comparing between localities within the local authority). • To help identify issues to consult the local community on. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To bring different stakeholders together, open up topics for discussion, and identify areas for collaboration. • To highlight/evidence any identified concerns to relevant decision makers and influencers. |
| <p>Object to applications or make representations</p> <p>(NB: Community Councils must be notified of new licence applications in their local area.)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify priority areas for making objections or representations (e.g. areas with high levels of harm or outlet density). • To identify any issues particular to on-sales or off-sales, and consider what actions are needed. • To geographically locate an application, and gain a fuller understanding of the local context. • To help evidence arguments when lodging objections/representations, supplementing this with other types of data, and linking to the relevant licensing objectives. |
| <p>Provide the licensing board with information for the statement of licensing policy</p> <p>(NB: The licensing board will often seek the Community Council's views during the development of the statement of licensing policy.)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide key information to boards when they are collecting and analysing evidence. The CRESH data can be provided along with other data and evidence - relevant local information, data and statistics can all be usefully collated to help build a fuller picture. Evidence should be linked to the licensing objectives. • Adapt information relevant to the needs of boards. Speak to boards about the types of data they are most interested in. • To help consider, develop and evidence recommendations to boards – identify what would be the most appropriate measures to achieve the objectives. |

Licensing Standards Officers (LSOs)

| Role | How the data can be used |
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| <p>Providing guidance and information to licensing stakeholders</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help inform stakeholders of the local situation. • To engage with licensing stakeholders and liaise with groups such as ADPs to consider local issues. It could also be used to help engage local communities. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep boards up-to-date with the local situation and developments. • To help provide the licensing board with advice and recommendations for the statement of licensing policy and overprovision assessment (see ADPs/Health/Police section above for further details). |
| Ensuring compliance by licence holders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help identify local issues or geographical areas which may require closer monitoring or further investigation, relevant to the licensing objectives. |
| Participation in Licensing Forum <i>(NB: LSOs are required to attend local forums.)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and bring issues to the attention of forum members. LSOs can also play a key role in supporting forum members to use the information in the various ways suggested above. |
| Commenting on applications <i>(NB: The LSO must make a report to the licensing board when there is a premises licence application.)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help evidence arguments when lodging objections/representations, supplementing this with other types of data, and linking to the relevant licensing objectives. • To identify any issues particular to on- sales or off-sales, and consider what actions are needed. • To geographically locate an application (on the webmap), and gain a fuller understanding of the local context. |