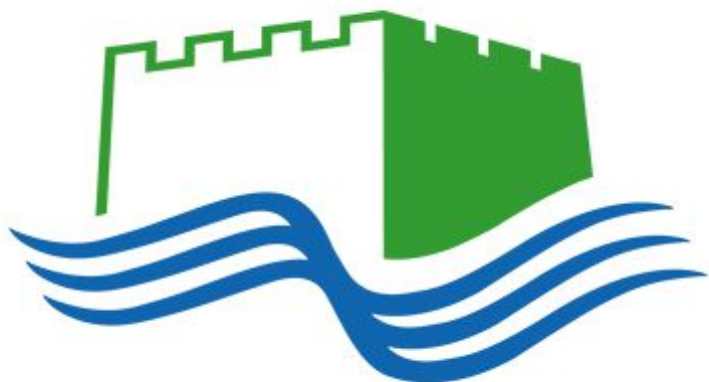


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# Statement of Licensing Policy Review Consultation 2023



[London Borough of Tower Hamlets](#)

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## Introduction

The Licensing Act 2003 regulates licensable activity in England and Wales. These activities are:

- Sale/supply of alcohol
- Late Night Refreshment (i.e. provision of hot food or drink between 11pm and 5am)
- Regulated entertainment (e.g. a performance before an audience)

Businesses and Individuals who want to carry out licensable activities must apply to their Local Authority, such as Tower Hamlets, for permission. Such permissions are normally in the form of a Licence.

Applications for Licences must demonstrate that they will promote the Licensing Objectives:

- the prevention of crime and disorder,
- the prevention of public nuisance,

- public safety,
- the protection of children from harm.

Where they fail to promote these objectives, they are likely to receive objections, which may result in the Local Authority refusing to grant the licence.

### Why do we want your views?

We are reviewing our [Statement of Licensing Policy 2018 - 2023](#), which is something we must do at least every 5 years. Before the Mayor and Councillors make a decision on this reviewed policy, we must carry out a statutory consultation. The consultation will run for 12 weeks commencing on 19th January 2023 and finishing at 11.59pm on 13th April 2023.

The policy determines our approach to applications/notices submitted under the Act as well as what we expect from Licence holders and applicants. As a result, we would welcome your comments on our [reviewed Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 - 2028](#) and [Table of Changes](#). You can find these in the 'Documents' section on the right side of this page, along with our current [Statement of Licensing Policy 2018 - 2023](#). Please read through these before completing our survey below. There will be space for you to provide any comments you may have about the documents.

You can also make comments by emailing [licensing@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or writing to:

Licensing and Safety Team  
Environmental Health and Trading Standards  
4th Floor Tower Hamlets Town Hall  
160 Whitechapel Road  
London E1 1BJ

STATEMENT...

## Statement of Licensing Policy Review 2023 - Survey

Survey starts

Finish

CLOSED: This consultation has concluded.

All fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are required.

1. Please select the title below that best describes you? \*

Choose an option

2. Tower Hamlets currently does a 40-metre voluntary consultation via letter to residents to advise them that we have received an application for a licence. This consultation was dropped during the Coronavirus Pandemic, and we instead place a list of weekly received applications on our website.

We are keen to hear your views in regards to this voluntary consultation.

Please choose one of the following:

Choose an option

3. Do you agree with the below paragraph, which seeks to add conditions to licences, where appropriate, to require refusal of entry/service to those using NOx.?

***Psychoactive Substances, e.g. Nitrous Oxide (NOx)*** – Misuse of nitrous oxide is associated with increased antisocial behaviour including littering, noise nuisance and vandalism, all of which are detrimental to residents' quality of life and feelings of safety. Use of nitrous oxide is also a health concern and has other associated harms.

*As a result, this Licensing Authority expects Licence Holders to refuse entry to any person seen use or selling NOx as a psychoactive Substance. Refusals should also be entered into Licence Holders refusals logs.*

*Where its discretion is engaged this Licensing Authority impose conditions to formally require refusal of persons seen selling or using NOx as a psychoactive Substance.*

Choose an option

4. Do you agree with the below paragraph, which seeks to add conditions to licences, where appropriate, to prevent drinks spiking?

**Drinks spiking** – in reference to the Local Governments Association (LGA) Guidance note on drink spiking prevention, this Licensing Authority expects licence holders and applicants to have a zero-tolerance policy towards drinks spiking. This involves as a minimum ensuring all reports of spiking are acted upon and that all incidents of alleged spiking are recorded and reported to the police. Licence holders and applicants should also be aware of the Metropolitan Police's definition of drink spiking:

*"Spiking is where someone adds drugs or alcohol to another person's drink without them knowing, it is illegal."*

*The LGA has set some recommendations for Licence holder, and we would expect our Licence holders to follow these where appropriate to their venues: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/lga-guidance-note-drink-spiking-prevention#recommended-actions-for-licensed-premises>*

*Applicants for new and variations of existing licences as well as those submitting TENs are expected to work with the Metropolitan Police in order to consider actions needed to prevent drinks spiking in their venues/events*

*Where its discretion is engage this Licensing Authority impose conditions on licences aimed at preventing drinks spiking, specifically any recommended by the metropolitan police.*

Choose an option

5. Do you agree with below paragraph, which seeks to encourage licensed premises to train their staff in Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement?

**Welfare and Vulnerability** – This Licensing Authority believes that all Licensed venues should train their staff in Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE). As of 2023 this Licensing Authority in partnership with the Metropolitan Police

*and the London Borough of Hackney is delivering monthly WAVE training sessions for Licensed venues within both Tower Hamlets and Hackney. As a result, we expect that all Licensed venues who sell alcohol for consumption on their premises should train their staff in WAVE and adopt Ask for Angela or similar initiatives aimed at assisting vulnerability within alcohol licensed venues.*

Choose an option

6. Do you agree with the below paragraph that encourages licence holders to sign up to Women's Night Safety Charter and refuse entry/service in the event of an act of misogyny within a licensed premises?

***Misogyny in the Night Time Economy*** – *sadly this is still an issues for women working in and visiting licensed venues in London. As a result, this Licensing Authority encourages Licensed venues to sign up to the Mayor of London's Women's Night Safety Charter:*

*<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/arts-and-culture/24-hour-london/womens-night-safety-charter>*

*In addition to the Women's Night Safety Charter we would encourage applicants and licence holders to discuss applications with the Council's Violence Against Women and Girls Service, who can provide advice and training to venues on preventing misogyny within licensed premises.*

*Lastly, we expect Licence Holders to take a zero-tolerance approach misogyny within their venues. We expect refusal of entry/service in the first instance of acts of misogyny and reporting of such incidents to the metropolitan police.*

Choose an option

7. The reviewed policy is seeking to restrict the use of Beer Gardens or similar areas after a certain time where the use of this area could cause nuisance to residents.

What time do you agree would be most realistic in terms of preventing nuisance whilst still promoting a good night-time economy?

Choose an option

8. Do you agree that applicants for Party Boats should be expected to adopt one or more of the below conditions as appropriate to their proposed application?

*a) For all externally promoted events including DJs, birthday bookings (where the person whose birthday it is aged 25 or under), all football related bookings and for publicly ticketed events, all drinking vessels used in the venue shall be polycarbonate. All drinks in glass bottles are to be decanted into polycarbonate containers or polycarbonate carafes prior to being served, with the exception of champagne or bottles of spirits with a minimum size of 70cl supplied by waiter/waitress service to tables. Staff shall clear all empty champagne and spirit bottles promptly from the tables. Customers shall not be permitted to leave their table carrying any such glass bottles or drink directly from the bottle.*

*b) The bar shall close 15 minutes prior to disembarkation, after this no alcohol shall be sold. This is to be announced on the public address system.*

*c) Passengers shall not be allowed to bring alcohol on board the vessel.*

*d) The crew shall make a comprehensive safety announcement over the PA system before every departure. This is to include a segment on drink aware and the ejection policy.*

*e) Any passenger that becomes abusive/aggressive to the crew or other passengers shall be asked to leave the vessel. Such persons will be ejected at the nearest available pier. A duty of care shall be provided for the ejected persons and to consider calling the emergency services.*

*f) Passenger numbers for each trip should be recorded on the Ships AIS system and on-board in the Ships Diary. The capacity of the vessel shall be determined and approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and placed on the ships certificate.*

*g) All SIA approved staff engaged in supervising or controlling queues as well as engaged in duties on board the vessel shall wear high visibility yellow jackets or vests.*

*h) Registered SIA security staff to be on duty during all externally promoted events including DJs, birthday bookings where the person's birthday is between the ages of 16 and 25 and all football-related bookings. "However, this condition shall not apply to externally promoted events which involve events where there is no sale or supply of alcohol and those participating are young persons taking part in a school organised event supervised by teachers or support staff from the school."*

*i) The licence holder shall ensure that there is a written risk assessment policy in place for every event to be held on the vessel and be available for inspection by police or authorised officers*

*j) The SIA staff and crew will ensure that the pier is clear of all customers prior to leaving the pier. This includes a duty of care on all persons ejected during the duration of the trip.*

*k) It shall be a condition of entry that the customer agrees to an outer clothing and bag search being carried out or refusal of entry will be given, and notices to that effect shall be displayed. SIA Door Supervisors on duty will action as to when and whom is searched and a record of any decisions to be made. All searching shall be supplemented by the use of metal detector wands.*

*l) The crew shall patrol all parts of the vessel at regular intervals to check for unruly or unsafe behaviour.*

*m) Amplified music or regulated entertainment shall not take place whilst the vessel is moored at its [insert address] moorings.*

*n) No noise shall emanate from the vessel which gives rise to a nuisance.*

*o) Alcohol shall not be taken or consumed off the vessel at any time.*

*p) The bar shall close 15 minutes prior to disembarkation, after this no alcohol shall be sold. This is to be announced on the public address system.*



*q) Passengers shall be advised by the crew to leave the vessel in a quiet and orderly fashion and not to do anything which is liable to disturb nearby residents. Prominent notices shall be displayed at the entrance and exit points.*

*r) All SIA approved staff engaged in supervising or controlling queues as well as engaged in duties on board the vessel shall wear high visibility yellow jackets or vests.*

*s) Crew members shall be positioned by the door to help guests disembark and ensure that overcrowding does not become a problem*

*t) While the vessel is at the pier music levels will be controlled to ensure no noise shall emanate nor vibration transmitted which gives rise to a Public Nuisance.*

*u) Flashing or particularly bright lights on or outside the premises shall not cause a nuisance to nearby properties (save insofar as they are necessary for the safety of the crew and customers, and for the prevention of crime).*


*v) Live or recorded music will not be allowed to commence until the vessel has left any embarkation pier and will cease before the vessel arrives at any disembarkation pier.*

Choose an option 

9. We currently offer to certify films for licensed premises wanting to show films that have yet to be certified by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC).

The reviewed policy will refer applicants to the BBFC for all film certifications. This provides national consistency and allows the films to be shown anywhere within the UK.

Do you agree with our approach refer film classification to the BBFC?

Choose an option 




10. If you have any other comments you wish to make in response to the reviewed Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 - 2028 please add these below:

Please add your comment here...

Submit

*Page last updated: 20 Apr 2023, 04:57 PM*

#### Documents

-  Statement of Licensing Policy 2018-2023 (2.28 MB) (docx)
-  Reviewed Draft Statement Licensing Policy 2023 - 2028 (2.34 MB) (docx)
-  Table Changes for Review Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 - 2028 (64.6 KB) (docx)

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