

Annex 5

Licensing Act 2003 Guidance

Section 4. Personal licences

4.1 This chapter provides advice about the framework for personal licences. The Deregulation Act 2015 has removed the requirement to renew a personal licence with effect from 1 April 2015.

Requirements for a personal licence

4.2 The sale and supply of alcohol, because of its impact on the wider community and on crime and anti-social behaviour, carries with it greater responsibility than the provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment. This is why sales of alcohol may not be made under a premises licence unless there is a DPS in respect of the premises (who must hold a personal licence); and every sale must be made or authorised by a personal licence holder.

4.3 Any premises at which alcohol is sold or supplied where the requirement for a personal licence holder does apply may employ one or more such licence holders. For example, there may be one owner or senior manager and several junior managers holding a personal licence. However, the requirement that every sale of alcohol must at least be authorised by a personal licence holder does not mean that the licence holder has to be present on the premises or oversee each sale; it is sufficient that such sales are authorised. It should be noted that there is no requirement to have a DPS in relation to a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) or club premises certificate, and sales or supplies of alcohol authorised by a TEN or club premises certificate do not need to be authorised by a personal licence holder.

Who can apply?

4.4 In the case of an application for a personal licence under Part 6 of the 2003 Act, the requirements are that:

- the applicant must be aged 18 or over;
- the applicant, if subject to immigration control, must have permission to work in a licensable activity (see paragraph 4.8);
- the applicant possesses a licensing qualification accredited by the Secretary of State (or one which is certified as if it is such a qualification or is considered equivalent) or is a person as prescribed in the Licensing Act 2003 (Personal licences) Regulations 2005²);
- the applicant must not have forfeited a personal licence within five years of their application;
- the applicant has paid the appropriate fee to the licensing authority; and in a case in which the applicant has an unspent conviction for a relevant offence or a foreign offence, the police have not objected to the grant of the application on crime prevention grounds or the licensing authority has considered their objection but determined that the grant of the application will not undermine the crime prevention objective.

4.5 Any individual may apply for a personal licence whether or not they are currently employed or have business interests associated with the use of the licence. The issues which arise when the holder of a personal licence becomes associated with particular licensed premises and is specified as the DPS for

those premises are dealt with at paragraphs 4.31 to 4.38 below. Licensing authorities may not therefore take these matters into account when considering an application for a personal licence.

4.6 Applicants for personal licences who are ordinarily resident in a licensing authority's area are required to make the application to that licensing authority. An applicant who is not ordinarily resident in a licensing authority's area (which may include persons living outside England and Wales), may apply for the grant of a personal licence to any licensing authority in England and Wales.

4.7 For applications made after 6 April 2017, applicants who are subject to UK immigration control must be entitled to work in a licensable activity. Section 192A of the Licensing Act 2003 defines 'entitlement to work' for the purposes of the Act

Criminal record

4.19 Regulations made under the 2003 Act require that, in order to substantiate whether or not an applicant has a conviction for an unspent relevant offence, an applicant for the grant of a personal licence must include a criminal conviction certificate, a criminal record certificate or the results of a subject access search of the Police National Computer by the National Identification Service to the licensing authority.

4.20 The requirement for an individual to establish whether or not they have unspent convictions for a relevant offence or foreign offence applies whether or not the individual has been living for a length of time in a foreign jurisdiction. It does not follow that such individuals will not have recorded offences in this country. All applicants are also required to make a clear statement as to whether or not they have been convicted outside England and Wales of a relevant offence or an equivalent foreign offence. This applies both to applicants ordinarily resident in England and Wales and any person from a foreign jurisdiction. Details of relevant offences as set out in the 2003 Act should be appended to application forms for the information of applicants, together with a clear warning that making any false statement is a criminal offence liable to prosecution.

4.21 Licensing authorities are required to notify the police when an applicant is found to have an unspent conviction for a relevant offence defined in the 2003 Act or for a foreign offence. The police have no involvement or locus in such applications until notified by the licensing authority.

4.22 Civil penalties received after 6 April 2017 for immigration matters are treated in the same way as relevant offences. Licensing authorities are required to notify the Secretary of State for the Home Department (through Home Office Immigration Enforcement) when an applicant declares that they have been issued with an immigration penalty or convicted of an immigration offence or a foreign offence comparable to an immigration offence. The Home Office may object to an application on grounds that granting the personal licence would be prejudicial to the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises. Civil penalties for immigration matters were added to the Licensing Act with effect from 6 April 2017, and penalties received before that date cannot be taken into account in respect of grant, revocation or suspension of a personal licence.

4.23 Where an applicant has an unspent conviction for a relevant or foreign offence, and the police object to the application on crime prevention grounds the

applicant is entitled to a hearing before the licensing authority. The applicant is also entitled to a hearing if the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) object to the application on the grounds of the prevention of illegal working where the applicant has an unspent conviction for a relevant immigration offence or has been required to pay an immigration penalty. If the police or Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) do not issue an objection notice and the application otherwise meets the requirements of the 2003 Act, the licensing authority must grant it. Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) can object only with respect to convictions and civil immigration penalties received on or after 6 April 2017.

4.24 A number of relevant offences never become spent. However, where an applicant is able to demonstrate that the offence in question took place so long ago and that the applicant no longer has a propensity to re-offend, a licensing authority may consider that it is appropriate to grant the application on the basis that doing so would not undermine the crime prevention objective.

4.25 If an application is refused, the applicant will be entitled to appeal against the decision they make. Similarly, if the application is granted despite a police objection notice or an objection from the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement), the chief officer of police or Home Office are entitled to appeal against the licensing authority's determination. Licensing authorities are therefore expected to record in full the reasons for any decision which they make.

Relevant licensing authority

4.28 Personal licences remain valid unless surrendered, suspended, revoked or declared forfeit by the courts. For applications made on or after 6 April 2017, a licence granted to someone subject to immigration control will lapse if the individual ceases to be entitled to work in the UK. The requirement to renew a personal licence was removed from the Licensing Act 2003 by the Deregulation Act 2015. While personal licences issued before the 2015 Act have expiry dates, these licences will remain valid and such dates no longer have an effect. Once granted, the licensing authority which issued the licence remains the "relevant licensing authority" for it and its holder, even though the individual may move out of the area or take employment elsewhere. The personal licence itself will give details of the issuing licensing authority.

Changes in name or address

4.29 The holder of the licence is required by the 2003 Act to notify the licensing authority of any changes to a holder's name or address. These changes should be recorded by the licensing authority. The holder is also under a duty to notify any convictions for relevant offences to the licensing authority and the courts are similarly required to inform the licensing authority of such convictions, whether or not they have ordered the suspension or forfeiture of the licence. The holder must also notify the licensing authority of any conviction for a foreign offence. These measures ensure that a single record will be held of the holder's history in terms of licensing matters.

4.30 The 2003 Act authorises the provision and receipt of such personal information to such agencies for the purposes of that Act.

Relevant offences

4.51 Relevant offences are set out in Schedule 4 to the 2003 Act. If a person has been required to pay a civil penalty for immigration matters on or after 6 April 2017, this may be taken into consideration in the same way as a relevant offence. Offences added to the list of relevant offences with effect from 6 April 2017 may only be taken into consideration if the conviction was received on or after 6 April 2017.