

## **Coronavirus (Covid 19) update for licence holders following publication of the Coronavirus Act (Scotland) 2020 - as at June 2021**

The above Act has made amendments to current licensing legislation. This information has been prepared to advise Licence holders of the Board's approach following the introduction of these amendments *which are time limited and are due to end on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021*.

### **Licensing Board meetings**

The 2020 Act amendments make provision for Board meetings to take place remotely.

Board meetings are currently scheduled to take place remotely on the last Monday of each month other than December.

Meeting dates are included in the Council calendar and Agendas for meetings can be found at the following link:

[Monthly meetings calendar - June 2021 - Modern Council \(edinburgh.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Licence applications**

Applications for licences are still being accepted and information on how to submit applications can be found on the Council's website with updates available also on the Licensing Services Twitter page (@Edin\_Licensing).

Please be aware that applications may take longer to process than normal and the 2020 Act has amended statutory requirements in various instances to extend procedural timescales for applications.

### **Premises Licence Holders**

The 2020 Act amendments insert a new mandatory condition for premises selling food on the premises into their existing operating plans. The new mandatory condition allows takeaway and deliveries not included in the operating plan of such premises to be implied where not expressly stated in the operating plan. Where the premises sell food and are licensed for off sales of alcohol, the delivery of alcohol with food is also permitted. Licence holders are reminded that deliveries of alcohol are subject to compliance with the appropriate provisions within the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. Licence holders should also refer to section 17 of the Board's Statement of Licensing Policy for more information

Link to policy - <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/24379/alcohol-licensing-policy-november-2018>

### Change of Premises Manager

Under the 2020 Act amendments, Premises Licence holders will have a period of 28 days in which to intimate the departure of a Premises Manager to the Board, and a period of 3 months in which to submit a minor variation to appoint a new Premises Manager without the Premises Licence being affected. (These periods were previously 7 days and 6 weeks respectively)

### Personal Licence Holders

#### i) Renewal applications

The 2020 Act amendments allow Personal Licence holders to submit renewal applications any time during the period of 12 months prior to expiry of the licence up until the date prior to expiry (due to coronavirus related reasons). The Board also has an extended period to consider renewal applications (six months from the date of expiry). A Personal Licence will remain in place during that time until the renewal application has been decided by the Board if the renewal application has been submitted timeously.

#### ii) Refresher Training

The 2020 Act amendments allow the Board to extend the period for completing refresher training if a Personal Licence holder has been unable to do so due to coronavirus related reasons. Extensions can apply to both the requirement to complete refresher training and to submit evidence of completed refresher training to the Board.

The Board has now agreed to extend the period to **fourteen** months for both completion of refresher training and submission of evidence of training **where licence holders have been unable to meet normal statutory time limits due to coronavirus related reasons.**

### Occasional Licence applications related to events

Applicants will be aware of the current position in relation to the holding events having regard to the relevant Scottish Government Regulations and guidance in this regard. Applicants may also wish to consider information provided by the Council on the Culture Edinburgh website

<https://cultureedinburgh.com/plan-my-event>