

Parties' Rights and Consequences of Non-Attendance

The following is an extract from the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005:

Hearing to be public

14.—

- (1) Subject to paragraph (2), the hearing shall take place in public.
- (2) The licensing authority may exclude the public from all or part of a hearing where it considers that the public interest in so doing outweighs the public interest in the hearing, or that part of the hearing, taking place in public.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), a party and any person assisting or representing a party may be treated as a member of the public.

Right of attendance, assistance and representation

15. Subject to regulations 14(2) and 25, a party may attend the hearing and may be assisted or represented by any person whether or not that person is legally qualified.

Representations and supporting information

16. At the hearing a party shall be entitled to—

- (a) in response to a point upon which the authority has given notice to a party that it will want clarification under regulation 7(1)(d), give further information in support of their application, representations or notice (as applicable),
- (b) if given permission by the authority, question any other party; and
- (c) address the authority.

17. Members of the authority may ask any question of any party or other person appearing at the hearing.

18. In considering any representations or notice made by a party the authority may take into account documentary or other information produced by a party in support of their application, representations or notice (as applicable) either before the hearing or, with the consent of all the other parties, at the hearing.

19. The authority shall disregard any information given by a party or any person to whom permission to appear at the hearing is given by the authority which is not relevant to—

- (a) their application, representations or notice (as applicable) or in the case of another person, the application representations or notice of the party requesting their appearance, and
- (b) the promotion of the licensing objectives or, in relation to a hearing to consider a notice given by a chief officer of police, the crime prevention objective.

Failure of parties to attend the hearing

20.—

- (1) If a party has informed the authority that he does not intend to attend or be represented at a hearing, the hearing may proceed in his absence.
- (2) If a party who has not so indicated fails to attend or be represented at a hearing the authority may—
 - (a) where it considers it to be necessary in the public interest, adjourn the hearing to a specified date, or
 - (b) hold the hearing in the party's absence.
- (3) Where the authority holds the hearing in the absence of a party, the authority shall consider at the hearing the application, representations or notice made by that party.
- (4) Where the authority adjourns the hearing to a specified date it must forthwith notify