

APPENDIX VII

From: Russ Wood **Sent:** 01 December 2009 14:14 **To:** 'Gill Sonia'; Bradley, Clare
Subject: RE: Licensing Act 2003 - Consultation Questions FWD TO AK BY SR 12/11/09

Dear Clare and Sonia, thanks for the raw data.

I am concerned that the statistics as presented in the report could give the wrong impression that a large number of incidents occur in the period 18:00 to 0:00.

In fact the number of incidents in this time-slot (370) are similar to the 06:00 to 18:0 slot (318) and both of these total less than the 00:00 to 06:0 slot (757). This analysis only totals incidents and does not assign any weighting to seriousness of incident.

I accept that the conclusions of the report don't misinterpret the figures but I am worried that the presentation of the statistics could be misinterpreted for political or other purposes. Once published the interpretation tends to become the fact and not the raw data.

Taking a slanted interpretation of the figures could be used against the traditional pub and restaurant that closes before midnight, more worrying is that these traditional premises could be lumped in with the late-night venues with respect to any measures imposed – such as door security, plastic glasses, policing service charges etc. Imposition of measures such as these could seriously affect the viability of the smaller establishment.

Clare – my final sentence makes the point that the number of incidents should be placed into proportion with the number of night-time journeys into the town centre that do not result in any incident at all. A total of 1448 incidents and how many thousands of non-incidents, journeys that result in nothing but an entertaining evening out. This point is not made in the report.

For example the seated capacity of the Rivermead is 2000, that is more than one year's incidents in one venue on one evening – thus the incidents are a small proportion of journeys.

I also note that there is no correlation between the number of incidents and Reading FC home games or London Irish home games (or away games when featured on Sky), these occasions could also add significantly to the daytime and evening time-slot incident count.

Thanks for your time – Russ Wood – on behalf of Reading & Mid-Berks CAMRA

From: Russ Wood **Sent:** 11 November 2009 15:02 **To:** Licensing
Subject: Licensing Act 2003 - Consultation Questions FWD TO AK BY SR 12/11/09

Dear Clare, I am currently studying the Consultation on the Licensing Act 2003 on behalf of Reading and Mid Berks CAMRA. The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is a consumer organisation which seeks to preserve the traditional British Pub regardless of whether it actually sells Real Ale.

My main area of concern is the adverse effect that the resultant regulations could have on the traditional pubs in the target area.

Is it possible for me to view the raw data on the incidents in the town centre, I would like to study incidents in bands 06:00-18:00, 18:00-00:00 and 00:00 to 06:00. Presentation of the results in the current bands may introduce a bias against establishments that normally close at 11:00.

Failure to differentiate between problem causing premises from those carrying on a more traditional business, as well as the humble Public House, restaurants, cafes etc could be unfairly brought into the scope of any regulation.

In CAMRA we believe that there is a substantial difference between the on-going supervision provided by a good landlord and staff in reasonably-sized premises and the door-based supervision provided for larger vertical drinking based establishments.

We believe that traditional Public Houses should not be penalised or be required to pay for costs that are not associated with their genre.

Do you have any figures on the number of non-incident visits associated with the alcohol-based economy, what is the proportion of all visits that involve an incident?

Best Regards - Russ Wood