



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LoTHIAN LICENSING FORUM

1

TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2018
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON

Forum Members Present:

Mr G Hood (Convenor)
PC H Bowsher
Mr R Ross
Mr J Thayers
Ms E Oldcorn
Councillor J Goodfellow

Council Officials Present:

Mr R Fruzynski

Clerk:

Ms S Birrell

Visitors Present:

There were no visitors present at the meeting.

Apologies:

Mr D Dickson
Ms C O'Brien

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2018/19

Mr Hood explained to the Forum that a Convenor would require to be elected, but no Secretary, as the secretarial role would be fulfilled by the Committees Team of East Lothian Council from this meeting.

Mr Ross proposed Mr Hood for the Convenor role, this was seconded by Ms Oldcorn. Mr Hood was voted unanimously as Convenor by those present.

Decision

The Forum agreed that Mr Hood would remain Convenor of the Local Licensing Forum for 2018/19.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LOTHIAN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2017, AND NOTES ON INQUORATE MEETINGS HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2017 AND 14 MARCH 2018 FOR APPROVAL AND MATTERS ARISING

All minutes presented to the Forum were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Decision

The Forum agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2017, and the notes on Inquorate meetings held on 5 December 2017 and 14 March 2018.

3. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICER REPORT

Mr Fruzynski provided the Forum with a verbal report, including detailed breakdowns of the business contracted at Licensing Board in January and February 2018. He informed the Forum that from 31 March 2018, all new premises licence applications would require to include details of disability access on an additional form.

Since the last meeting of the Forum, the Licensing Office had received 9 complaints, mostly noise related, 1 new premises licence application, 3 provisional premises licence applications, no confirmations of premises licences (Mr Fruzynski clarified that there was a delay with the provision of Section 50 certificates), 4 major variation to premises licences and 16 minor variations. There had been no applications for provisional licences, 120 applications for occasional licences, 4 applications for extensions to occasional licences, 7 transfers of licence, and 7 complaints in relation to licensed premises.

Mr Fruzynski reported that he had been visiting licensed premises, often with PC Bowsher, to inform individuals of the consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy and encourage licensees to submit their responses. The Forum were also required to provide a Statement of Functions to the Licensing Board and it was his intention to use the Statement from last year, which had been praised as an example of best practice by the Scottish Government and SOLAR, as a template for this year's Statement. This would be completed by 1 July 2018.

The Forum discussed business transacted at the Licensing Board's March meeting.

Mr Fruzynski added that the Licensing Board had decided to charge 100% of the allowable fees for licence applications, as the previous charge of 75% had not been sufficient to cover the requisite costs.

Decision

The Forum agreed to note the verbal report.

Sederunt: Councillor Goodfellow joined the meeting.

4. POLICE REPORT

PC Bowsher gave a verbal report, advising that two sets of test purchasing had been carried out by the police on 4 and 5 December 2017 and 19 and 20 March 2018. It had been decided that test purchasing should not be carried out for a year to ensure that licence holders were not expecting the tests. Of 38 test purchases held between 4 and 5 December, 4 had failed, PC Bowsher outlined the details of each failed test and what actions had been taken. Of 25 test purchases held between 19 and 20 March 2018, none had failed. She clarified that the test purchases were not designed to catch licence holders out, but rather a mechanism to ensure that standards were upheld.

PC Bowsher reported on the Best Bar None awards, congratulating Forum Member Mr Ross on receiving a Gold Award for The Anchor. She summarised that there had been 19 applications this year, and 3 Bronze, 4 Silver and 12 Gold Awards had been awarded. The Coalgate in Ormiston had also been forwarded to the National Awards in the category of Heart of the Community and was through to the finals. She asked Forum Members who were also members of Pub Watch to recommend the Awards as a worthwhile activity to reward good practice and maintain good standards.

The Forum discussed at length conditions that had been placed on a licence holder in East Lothian at the previous Licensing Board meeting.

Mr Ross asked test purchases would be carried out in on-sales premises. PC Bowsher confirmed there were no plans for this at present. Mr Ross noted his concerns about the use of false identifications in licensed premises. PC Bowsher recommended that false identifications were removed by bar staff, provided there was no risk to safety, and the police should be called.

Decision

The Forum agreed to note the verbal report.

5. PUBWATCH

The Convenor stated that the last meeting of Pub Watch had had to be cancelled, but another meeting would be scheduled in the near future. There were five interim bans that required to be processed. The Forum briefly discussed the incident that had given rise to the bans.

Decision

The Forum agreed to note the verbal report.

6. NEW STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY – REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forum discussed the version which had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. Mr Fruzynski reported that the final version would not be confirmed until October 2018. Ms Oldcorn added that the Forum would need to decide whether to submit an official response to the consultation or individual responses from members, via the survey.

The Convenor recommended that the Working Group should meet to discuss the Statement. Mr Fruzynski agreed, pointing out that it would be important to view the Statement as a whole, in relation to the original report created by the Forum and the Licensing Objectives, and in context with the consultation survey. He noted that the Forum had increased their visibility in the Statement, as requested. He emphasised that the issue of overprovision of off-sales should be looked at in conjunction with statistics relating to Health, and that all of the recommendations should be evidenced based, asking Working Group members to look for trends that they could report at their meeting.

Mr Thayers asked if an up to date version of the Statement could be brought to the Working Group meeting.

In response to a question from the Clerk, the membership of the Working Group was confirmed as: Mr Fruzynski, Mr Hood, Ms Oldcorn, Mr Thayers, Mr Sherval, Mr Ross, and Ms O'Brien. Mr McCollum should also be invited to attend the meeting.

The Forum discussed the consultation survey, how to best engage responses to the survey, the difficulties with the mapping that had been included with the document, and the ideal mapping, which would require improvement for the next draft Statement.

Decision

The Forum agreed that the Working Group for the Statement of Licensing Policy should meet on 9 May 2018, in a venue to be decided by the Committees Team, who would circulate copies of the most recent version of the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy and the original draft, which would be provided to the Committees Team by Mr Fruzynski 16 days before the meeting.

Sederunt: Councillor Goodfellow and Ms Oldcorn left the meeting.

7. POLICE SCOTLAND YOUTH VOLUNTEERS FUTURE VISIT

PC Bowsher asked whether a future meeting of the Forum could be held in the evening, as she would be in a position to invite Youth Volunteers who attended the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers Group. In response to a question from Mr Thayers, PC Bowsher confirmed that the young people were 14-16 years old. The Convenor agreed that this should be prioritised, as the Forum had difficulties engaging the views of young people.

Mr Fruzynski proposed that Queen Margaret University could be involved in future meetings. PC Bowsher asked whether there were particular courses that could be targeted to invite young people to attend.

Decision

The Forum agreed: -

- i) To request that the Committees Team of East Lothian Council set four meeting dates for the Local Licensing Forum for 2018/19, including one with the Licensing Board,
- ii) to request that one of these meetings was held in Musselburgh at 7:30pm, and
- iii) to ask whether child care costs could be added to the Clerk's fee for the evening meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Hood advised that a Forum member had asked whether travel expenses could be provided to those travelling to attend meetings. The Clerk quoted the relevant paragraph of the Constitution, which stated, at paragraph 8.14:-

“East Lothian Council will provide facilities to assist members in carrying out their duties.”

Mr Fruzynski recommended that the Licensing (Scotland) Act should be consulted to find the definition of ‘facilities.’

Decision

The Forum agreed that this should be further explored.

Alcohol Outlet Availability and Harm in East Lothian

April 2018

This document sets out the findings from research by Alcohol Focus Scotland (AFS) and the Centre for Research on Environment, Society and Health (CRESH), which investigated whether alcohol-related health harm (hospitalisations and deaths) and crime rates across Scotland were related to the local availability of alcohol outlets. The relationship between income deprivation and alcohol outlet availability was also examined.

Contents

Introduction	2
Alcohol Outlet Availability in East Lothian	2
Alcohol-Related Health Harm and Crime in East Lothian	4
Alcohol-Related Death Rates and Alcohol Outlet Availability	5
Alcohol-Related Hospitalisation Rates and Alcohol Outlet Availability	5
Crime Rates and Alcohol Outlet Availability	6
Income Deprivation and Alcohol Outlet Availability.....	6
Interpreting the Findings	7
Methodology	8

Key findings

- East Lothian is **ranked 18th out of 30 local authority areas for alcohol outlet availability** in Scotland (13th for on-sales and 21st for off-sales outlets).
- **Alcohol-related death rates in the neighbourhoods with the most alcohol outlets were 4 times higher** than in neighbourhoods with the least.
- **Alcohol-related hospitalisation rates in the neighbourhoods with the most alcohol outlets were double** those in neighbourhoods with the least.
- **Crime rates in the neighbourhoods with the most alcohol outlets were 2.5 times higher** than in neighbourhoods with the least.
- The link between alcohol outlet availability and harm was **found even when other possible explanatory factors**, such as age, sex, urban/rural status and levels of income deprivation, **had been taken into account**.
- The **total number of alcohol outlets in East Lothian decreased by 17 (5.9%)** from 286 in 2012 to 269 in 2016.

Introduction

Alcohol availability refers to the ease of access to alcohol, whether to drink on the premises (e.g. pubs, clubs or restaurants) or to drink off the premises (e.g. shops and supermarkets). Alcohol availability includes the number, capacity and opening hours of alcohol outlets. Studies from other countries have consistently found an association between alcohol availability and alcohol-related problems, particularly outlet availability (the number of alcohol outlets in a given area). [Previous research](#) carried out in 2014 by this research team (the Centre for Research on Environment, Society and Health at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow) suggests that this relationship is also true for Scotland. This profile provides a summary of the updated analysis for East Lothian. A Scotland profile is also [available](#).

Information was gathered on the number of places selling alcohol, health harms and crime rates within neighbourhoods across the whole of Scotland and for each local authority area. Researchers compared data zones (small areas representing neighbourhoods that have between 500 and 1000 residents) to see if there was a relationship between the number of alcohol outlets in a neighbourhood and the rates of alcohol-related deaths and hospitalisations. The profiles also consider, for the first time, the relationships between alcohol outlet availability and crime and deprivation rates.

Alcohol Outlet Availability in East Lothian

Alcohol outlet availability within neighbourhoods

Alcohol outlet availability was calculated by measuring the number of outlets within 800m (approximately a ten minute walk) of each data zone (neighbourhood)'s population centre. There are 132 neighbourhoods in East Lothian. The average number of outlets for each neighbourhood was calculated to obtain ranks for outlet availability for all local authority areas within Scotland (with the area ranked 1st having the highest availability and 30th the lowest availability).

East Lothian is **ranked 18th out of 30 local authority areas for alcohol outlet availability** in Scotland (13th for on-sales and 21st for off-sales outlets). In East Lothian, in 2016:

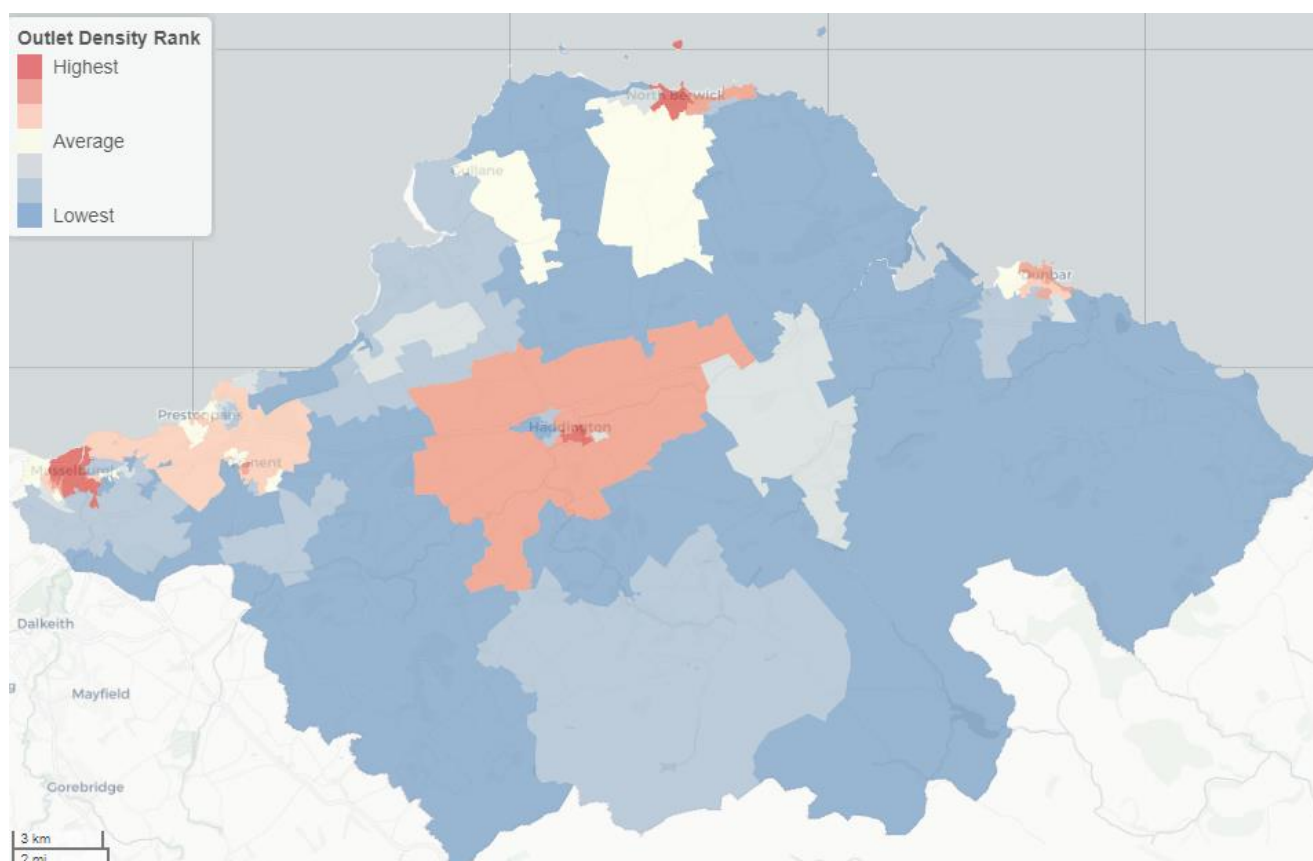
- There were **269 alcohol outlets: 182 on-sales and 87 off-sales outlets**.
- Neighbourhoods had **between 0 and 44** alcohol outlets within 800m of the population centre.
- Neighbourhoods had an average of **10.7 alcohol outlets** within 800m of the population centre, compared to the Scottish average of 16.8 outlets. **23% of neighbourhoods had total outlet availability higher than the Scottish average.**
- Neighbourhoods had an **average of 7.2 on-sales outlets** within 800m of the population centre, compared to the Scottish average of 11.4 outlets. **21% of neighbourhoods had on-sales outlet availability higher than the Scottish average.**
- Neighbourhoods had an **average of 3.5 off-sales outlets** within 800m of the population centre, compared to the Scottish average of 5.4 outlets. **24% of neighbourhoods had off-sales outlet availability higher than the Scottish average.**

East Lothian has an **alcohol outlet availability lower than Scotland as a whole**. For a more complete picture, it is also useful to compare alcohol outlet availability between neighbourhoods *within* the local authority. This can be done by using the [CRESH WebMap](#), as demonstrated in the next section.

East Lothian Outlet Availability Map

Using the WebMap available at <https://creshmap.com/shiny/alcoholtobacco/>, alcohol and outlet availability (or 'density') can be mapped for data zones across Scotland. This can be done for on-sales, off-sales, and total outlets. Options are to compare against the Scottish average, the rural/urban average, local authority average or deprivation average for each data zone.

The map below shows the total alcohol outlet availability within 800m of the data zone population centre for each neighbourhood within East Lothian. The areas are colour-coded depending on how they compared with the average outlet availability for neighbourhoods within East Lothian.



Data on each neighbourhood's alcohol availability can also be downloaded from the WebMap, alongside information on alcohol-related mortality, alcohol-related hospitalisations, crime rate and income deprivation.

Alcohol outlet availability in East Lothian from 2012 to 2016

The change in the number of alcohol outlets within the local authority area was examined.

- The **total number** of alcohol outlets **decreased by 17 (5.9%)** from 286 in 2012 to 269 in 2016. This is **in contrast to the 2.9% increase found across Scotland as a whole.**
- The **number of on-sales outlets decreased by 18 (9%)** from 200 in 2012 to 182 in 2016. This is **in contrast to the 1.5% increase found across Scotland as a whole.**
- The **number of off-sales outlets increased by 1 (1.2%)** from 86 in 2012 to 87 in 2016. This is **a smaller increase than that found across Scotland as a whole (6.4%).**

To take account of any changes in population over time, changes in alcohol outlet availability were calculated per 10,000 adult population:

- The **total number** of alcohol outlets per adult population **decreased by 9.6%.** This is **in contrast to the 0.6% increase found across Scotland as a whole.**
- The **number of on-sales** outlets per adult population **decreased by 12.5%.** This is **a much larger reduction than the 0.8% decrease found across Scotland as a whole.**
- The **number of off-sales** outlets per adult population **decreased by 2.7%.** This is **in contrast to the 4% increase found across Scotland as a whole.**

Alcohol-Related Health Harm and Crime in East Lothian

The study looked at the relationship between alcohol outlet availability and alcohol-related deaths, alcohol-related hospitalisations and crime.

- East Lothian has an **annual average of 14.8 alcohol-related deaths** for those aged 20 and over (from 2011-2016). This is equivalent to **14.6 deaths per 100,000 adults**, which is **33% lower than the Scottish rate** of 21.8 deaths per 100,000 adults.
- The local authority has an **average hospitalisation rate ratio for neighbourhoods of 66.6**, which is **33% lower than the ratio for Scotland** of 100.
- East Lothian's **average neighbourhood crime rate is 218.7 crimes per 10,000 population**, which is **34% lower than the Scottish average** of 331.2 per 10,000 population.

Alcohol-Related Death Rates and Alcohol Outlet Availability

In East Lothian, a **statistically significant relationship was found between alcohol outlet availability and alcohol-related deaths**: neighbourhoods with more places to buy alcohol had higher alcohol-related death rates.

Alcohol-related death rates were associated with the number of all types of alcohol outlets (total, on-sales and off-sales):

- Alcohol-related death rates in the **neighbourhoods with the most alcohol outlets were 4 times higher** than in neighbourhoods with the least.
- Alcohol-related death rates in the **neighbourhoods with the most on-sales outlets were 3.4 times higher** than in neighbourhoods with the least.
- Alcohol-related death rates in the **neighbourhoods with the most off-sales outlets were 2.1 times higher** than in neighbourhoods with the least.

The above relationships were found even when other explanatory factors were accounted for, namely income deprivation, urban/rural status and the age and sex demographics of the population. This means that **the association between outlet availability and alcohol-related deaths is not explained by the level of income deprivation, how urban or rural an area is, or the demographics of those living in an area.**

Alcohol-Related Hospitalisation Rates and Alcohol Outlet Availability

In East Lothian, a **statistically significant relationship was found between alcohol outlet availability and alcohol-related hospitalisations**: neighbourhoods with more places to buy alcohol had higher alcohol-related hospitalisation rates.

Alcohol-related hospitalisation rates were associated with the number of total outlets:

- Alcohol-related hospitalisation rates in the **neighbourhoods with the most alcohol outlets were double** those in neighbourhoods with the least.

The above relationship was found even when other explanatory factors were accounted for, namely income deprivation, urban/rural status and the age and sex demographics of the population. This means that **the association between outlet availability and alcohol-related hospitalisations is not explained by the level of income deprivation, how populated an area is, or the demographics of those living in an area.**

Crime Rates and Alcohol Outlet Availability

In East Lothian, a **statistically significant relationship was found between alcohol outlet availability and crime rates**: neighbourhoods with more places to buy alcohol had higher crime rates than neighbourhoods with the least.

The data used was from the Crime Domain of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, which includes crimes of violence, sexual offences, domestic house breaking, vandalism, drug offences and common assault. The data however does not record whether the perpetrators of crime had consumed alcohol and excludes some offences which are commonly associated with alcohol consumption, such as breach of the peace, or anti-social behaviour.

Crime rates were associated with the number of all types of alcohol outlets (total, on-sales and off-sales):

- Crime rates in the **neighbourhoods with the most alcohol outlets were 2.5 times higher** than in neighbourhoods with the least.
- Crime rates in the **neighbourhoods with the most on-sales outlets were double** those in neighbourhoods with the least.
- Crime rates in the **neighbourhoods with the most off-sales outlets were 2.4 times higher** than in neighbourhoods with the least.

The above relationships were found even when other explanatory factors were accounted for, namely urban/rural status of the neighbourhoods and level of income deprivation. This means that **the association between outlet availability and crime rate is not explained by more crime being committed in more urban or deprived areas**.

Income Deprivation and Alcohol Outlet Availability

East Lothian has an **average income deprivation rate for neighbourhoods of 10%**. This is **20% lower than the Scottish average** of 12.5%. Data for income deprivation were obtained from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 Income Domain, which is represented as a percentage of the total population in receipt of benefits. More information on this measure is available in the [Methodology](#) section.

In East Lothian, **the most deprived neighbourhoods had more places to buy alcohol than the least deprived neighbourhoods**. None of these relationships were found to be statistically significant.

When looking at areas smaller than the whole of Scotland, a number of factors can influence if a statistically significant relationship is found (see [Interpreting the Findings](#) section for more detail).

Crucially, the Scotland-wide association between alcohol outlet availability and income deprivation was statistically significant, with 40% more places to buy alcohol in the most deprived neighbourhoods than in the least deprived neighbourhoods.

Interpreting the Findings

The relationship between alcohol outlet availability and health and social harms

The strong relationship found in Scotland between the number of alcohol outlets, crime rates and alcohol-related health outcomes suggests that the local availability of alcohol may influence drinking behaviours and associated alcohol-related problems. This relationship meets the criteria of statistical tests and is termed **statistically significant**. Judgements as to statistical significance of each result were made throughout by applying a 95% significance level ($p < 0.05$).

These results agree with findings from other studies in Scotland and beyond showing that there is an association between alcohol outlet availability and many types of health and social harms, such as violence, hospital attendance, underage drinking, and drink driving. See Section 5 of the [Alcohol Focus Scotland Licensing Resource Pack](#) for more detailed evidence.

A relationship was found between outlet availability and harm in both urban and rural areas

There is a significant relationship between outlet availability and harm in both the urban and the rural areas of Scotland. However, in some very rural local authorities (e.g. Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands and Eilean Siar) no statistically significant relationship between alcohol outlet availability and alcohol-related health harm was found. These areas have relatively low population and fewer data zones, which can make it difficult to find a statistical relationship between any two factors.

Other explanatory factors were taken into account

When assessing whether there is a relationship between alcohol outlet availability and harm, a number of other factors that may explain the results were taken into account in the analysis. When looking at whether alcohol outlet availability was related to alcohol-related deaths, alcohol-related hospitalisations and crime, the degree of income deprivation and the rural/urban status of the area were taken into account. For alcohol-related deaths and hospitalisations, the analysis also took into account the age and sex demographics of the population. This means that the relationships found are not explained by levels of deprivation, how populated an area is, or the demographics of the population. When looking at the relationship between income deprivation and outlet availability, population levels were taken in account. This means that the relationships found are not explained by the size of populations in a neighbourhood.

Factors affecting whether a statistically significant relationship can be found

When looking at areas smaller than the whole of Scotland a number of factors can influence if a statistically significant relationship is found. Being able to assess whether there is a relationship depends on the ability to compare areas of high alcohol outlet availability with areas of low availability. At a national level, there is sufficient variation in the number of alcohol outlets across the country to be able to make this comparison. However, within some local authorities, where the alcohol outlet availability is more evenly spread across the area, there may not be enough variation in exposure to outlet availability to enable a comparison. In addition, if the whole area is over-supplied then it will not be possible to detect a difference between one locality and another.

For the smaller local authority areas it can be difficult to find a statistical relationship between outlet availability and harm if there are too few neighbourhoods. For example, both Clackmannanshire and the Islands authority areas have less than 100 neighbourhood areas. In addition, outlet availability tells us something about the amount of alcohol available in an area but there are also other factors such as the size of the premises, level of alcohol sales, the opening hours and how far people travel to buy alcohol.

Deaths in particular are rare events that are especially difficult to analyse in areas with relatively small populations. In addition to this, mortality data was only available for a 6 year period, compared to the 10 year period available for the previous analysis; the boundaries of data zones changed between 2012 and 2016, limiting the number of years of death data that could be included. For this reason, coupled with falling mortality in general, the number of deaths analysed are small in some local authorities.

Whilst taking all of these factors into account, not finding a statistically significant relationship between alcohol outlet availability and harm may simply be because there is no relationship within that area.

Developing the most accurate picture of alcohol availability

The number of alcohol outlets in an area tells us something about the amount of alcohol available in an area but there are other factors that affect how readily accessible alcohol is. For example, the size of the premises (a supermarket will provide a greater volume and variety of alcohol than a small corner shop), the opening hours of the premises and how far people travel to buy alcohol. Currently, the number of alcohol outlets is the only information available for the whole of Scotland.

If more detailed information on the alcohol capacity of premises, their opening hours, alcohol sales and the catchment of the customers were collected this would enable further improvements in our understanding of the relationship between alcohol outlet availability and alcohol-related harm. Even without this more detailed information, a clear and statistically significant relationship between the availability of alcohol outlets and alcohol-related harm was found for Scotland as a whole.

Methodology

Summary

We investigated whether alcohol outlet availability was associated with alcohol-related health outcomes (hospitalisations and deaths) and overall crime rates for Scottish data zones. This analysis builds on [previous research](#), updating analysis of the relationship between alcohol outlet availability and harm in Scotland using more recent outlet availability, mortality and hospitalisation data. It also expands the analysis of alcohol-related harms to include crime data, and assesses whether the availability of alcohol outlets found in Scottish neighbourhoods is related to the degree of income deprivation in these areas. This builds upon [analysis published in 2015](#), using a similar methodology.

Geographical units

The data zone is the key small-area (neighbourhood) geographical unit used by the Scottish Government in the dissemination of official statistics, with populations of between 500 and 1000. There are 6,976 data zones in Scotland; the data zones used were devised for the 2011 census. Differences for data zones were compared across Scotland as a whole, and within 30 local authority areas. Twenty-nine of the local authority areas in place since 1996 were used. The three island local authorities (Shetland Islands, Orkney Islands and Eilean Siar) were grouped together as separately they have too few data zones to be able to carry out these analyses.

Alcohol outlet availability

The locations of outlets licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises (on-sales) and off the premises (off-sales) were obtained in 2016 from each local licensing board. The datasets were checked for errors (e.g. duplications), resulting in verified locations for 11,522 on-sales alcohol outlets and 5,107 off-sales outlets. Outlets selling alcohol for consumption both on and off the premises were counted as on-sales outlets. The resulting dataset corresponds closely with official figures (counts by local authority) from the Scottish Liquor Licensing Statistics 2015-16.

Alcohol outlet availability was measured for each data zone as the number of on-sales, off-sales, or total outlets within 800m of the population centre of the data zone (800m represents a 10-minute walk at average pace). This 800m zone (area 2.0 km²) was assumed to represent the typical neighbourhood experienced by the population of a data zone.

The example in Figure 5 shows that a circle with a radius of 800m around this data zone's population centre (red star) contains 73 on-sales outlets: including a number within neighbouring data zones. Data zones were grouped into five availability groups, from lowest (group 1) to highest (group 5). The highest availability group contains the 5% of data zones with the greatest outlet availability. Groups 2-4 were defined by dividing the remaining data zones into four groups containing equal numbers of neighbourhoods based on rank of outlet availability.

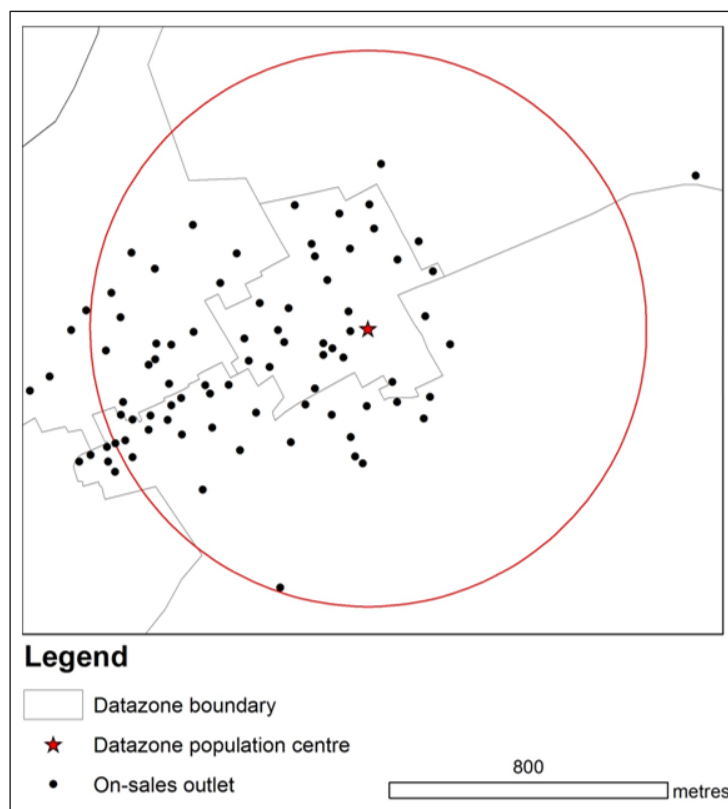


Figure 7. Calculating alcohol outlet availability for a data zone

For very rural areas, where the population is widely dispersed across the data zone, this measure might be a less accurate representation of numbers of outlets that are easily accessible.

Analysis

Multivariate regression models were used to assess whether alcohol outlet availability was related to alcohol-related deaths, alcohol-related hospitalisations and crime within data zones, independent of the degree of income deprivation in the areas and their rural/urban status. For both alcohol-related deaths and hospitalisations, the analysis also took into account the age and sex structure of the population. The models estimated the risk of alcohol-related harms in each of the outlet availability groups relative to a reference group, the group containing the neighbourhoods with the lowest outlet availability.

In testing the relationship between outlet availability and income deprivation, a bivariate analysis was used to compare the mean alcohol outlet availability rates per 10,000 population over 18 years old in groups of data zones with different levels of income deprivation. The 'high' and 'low' income deprivation groups of areas compared in the analysis contained the fifth of data zone areas with the greatest and least income deprivation.

Population

Data zone population data was used in the analysis of the relationship between outlet availability and income deprivation, and between outlet availability and alcohol-related deaths. Population data from the National Records of Scotland was used to describe data zone populations from 2011-2016.

Mortality

The mortality data were supplied by the National Records of Scotland. These data were given for data zones for the period 2011-2016 combined. The time period was set due to the availability of population estimates at 2011 data zone level. The definition of an alcohol-related death is based on [International Classification of Diseases codes](#), and the [2006 National Statistics definition](#) of alcohol-related deaths.

Hospitalisations

The hospitalisations data were extracted from the [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016](#) Health Domain. SIMD alcohol-related hospitalisation was based upon the number of continuous inpatient stays, 2011-2014, with a diagnosis of an alcohol-related condition. Hospitalisations are represented for each data zone as a ratio of the number of hospitalisations recorded in the data zone relative to the number that would have been 'expected' based upon the average rates for Scotland, standardised by age and sex.

Crime

The crime data were extracted from the [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016](#) Crime Domain. Crimes included in the domain are crimes of violence, sexual offences, domestic house breaking, vandalism, drug offences and common assault recorded during 2014-15, per 10,000 population.

Income Deprivation

Data for income deprivation were obtained from the [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016](#) Income Domain. The Income Domain is a count of the number of people claiming selected means-tested benefits in 2013-14 and 2015 divided by the total population in 2014. It is therefore a percentage of the total population in receipt of benefits. The benefit data originates from the Department of Work and Pensions and HMRC.

Urban/Rural

The urban/rural status of data zones were defined using the [Scottish Government 6 Fold Urban Rural Classification](#). In this analysis the six classifications were combined into three categories 'urban' (combining 'large urban areas' and 'other urban areas'), 'small towns' (combining 'accessible small towns' and 'remote small town') and 'rural' (combining 'accessible rural' and 'remote rural').

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Local Government and Communities Committee

8

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6 April 2018

Dear Chief Executive,

At its meeting on 28 March 2018, the Local Government and Communities Committee agreed to hold a one-off roundtable evidence session on Alcohol Licensing in Scotland. This session will focus on the ability of communities to engage with and influence alcohol licensing decisions in their areas and will take place on Wednesday 23 May 2018.

The Committee has invited a range of stakeholders to participate in the round table including representatives from two Licensing Boards and Local Licensing Forums from different parts of Scotland. The main themes of the roundtable will be:

- the transparency, accountability and public participation in the decision making processes for the licensing system,
- how LLFs operate across Scotland, and
- how appropriate levels of licensed premises in local areas are determined.

We are keen that Licensing Boards and Local Licensing Forums have an opportunity to submit any comments on the above themes should they wish to and I would therefore be grateful if you could forward this letter to your Licensing Boards and Licensing Forums for their consideration. Any comments should be provided to the Committee by **Thursday 10 May 2018**. I have set out in an Annexe to this letter information on how any written views received will be treated. If you have any queries or wish to discuss this further then please do not hesitate to contact Graeme Donoghue, the Assistant Clerk to the Committee.

Kind regards,



Bob Doris
Convener to the Local Government and Communities Committee

Written Evidence

The Committee would welcome written views from you to the Committee ahead of the session. Any submission should be sent to the Committee clerking team (in MS Word format) to LocalGovernmentandCommunities@parliament.scot by **close of business on Wednesday 10 May**. Please let me know as soon as possible if it will cause you any difficulties.

All submissions to the Parliament are published in line with its policy on the treatment of written evidence. A link to the policy is attached below – please let us know whether you are content for any submission to be published in line with this policy.

[Policy on treatment of written evidence by subject and mandatory committees](#)