

### 3 REMIT FOR SUSPENSION HEARINGS TO LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (AN101-2013)

The members of the Committee will no doubt have noted the substantial increase in the number of suspension hearings which are listed every month (this agenda being no exception). These hearings are taking up a substantial amount of time at, and also prior to, each monthly meeting with the licence holders being written to by the Licensing Office to advise them of the requirement to attend or be represented at the meeting concerned. Also, because Police Scotland are (quite rightly) bringing these cases to the Committee's attention as soon as the licence holder is charged with any offence or identified as being responsible for actions subject to a complaint, the vast majority of hearings then require to be adjourned on numerous occasions whilst awaiting the outcome of associated criminal proceedings.

In order to reduce the amount of hearings being included on the agenda every month, it is proposed that the Committee remits any hearings **not involving licences already subject to immediate suspension** to the Sub-Committee to deal with. The Sub-Committee could have four special meetings each year to follow the January, March/April, June/July and October meetings of the Committee to consider these cases. This would (i) avoid the need for these cases to appear on the agenda (and the licence holders be invited to appear) other than when the Sub-Committee meets as outlined above; (ii) give more flexibility for any associated criminal proceedings to make progress in the intervening periods without cases being called back before the Committee every month as at present; (iii) reduce the number of persons who have to be written to each month to attend the Committee. Because of the different considerations which apply to cases where the licence is subject to an immediate suspension (and the need for such cases to be the subject of a hearing within 6 weeks), it is not proposed to alter the current practice of such hearings coming to the regular Committee meetings.

The Committee's instructions are requested.