

SECTION SEVEN – HOURS OF OPERATION**Licensing hours**

146. Prior to the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003, the Government believed that fixed and artificially early closing times were one of the key causes of both rapid binge drinking prior to closing times and of disorder and disturbance when large numbers of customers were simultaneously required to leave licensed premises. An aim was to reduce the potential for concentrations of customers from licensed premises and achieve a slower dispersal of people through flexible opening times.
147. Current Guidance now states that “the Government acknowledges that different licensing approaches may be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in different areas. The 2003 Act gives the licensing authority power to make decisions regarding licensed opening hours as part of its implementation of the licensing policy and licensing authorities are best placed to make such decisions based on local knowledge and in consultation with other responsible authorities”.
148. This Authority recognises the increase in the numbers of premises licensed for the sale or supply of alcohol since the introduction of the 2003 Act and, particularly, the increase in the numbers and density of such premises within the night time economy. In such a densely populated borough such as Southwark where there is often little demarcation between residential and commercial areas the potential for late operating venues and businesses to cause nuisance and disturbance to local residents is considerable. Therefore, there will be no presumption in favour of lengthening licensing hours. The four licensing objectives should be paramount considerations at all times.
149. Table 2 (following page) provides a guide for applicants when preparing their operating schedules as to the hours of operation that this Authority might consider appropriate by type of premises and (planning) area classification. These hours are not pre-determined and each application will be considered upon its own merits.
150. However, applicants for licences incorporating hours that fall outside of the guidance offered are expected to explain fully within their application, the arrangements intended to be put in place to ensure that the premises does not add to cumulative impact. Applicants who wish to provide licensable activities outside the hours specified should ensure that the operating schedule specifies detailed measures to mitigate against crime, disorder and public nuisance taking into account:
- The location of the premises and the character of the local area
 - The proposed hours during which the licensable activities are proposed to take place
 - The adequacy of the proposed control measures intended to promote the licensing objectives
 - The availability of local public transport

- The proximity of the premises to other licensed premises of a similar nature and the hours of operation of those premises

151. Operating schedules with insufficient detail are more likely to be refused, have limitations in hours applied, or have additional conditions imposed upon them by the licensing sub-committee. There is no presumption, however, that applications subject of representations and according with this Guidance, will be granted. The Licensing Authority may impose further limitations in hours upon review of the licence, particularly where the premise is shown to be the focus or cause of nuisance or anti-social behaviour.
152. Applicants should note that where applications relate to premises that are located within more densely populated areas, stricter controls with regard to noise control may be necessary. For guidance please see section 9 on the prevention of public nuisance.
153. It has been previous policy of this Authority (consistent with then published Guidance) that shops, stores and supermarkets selling alcohol would normally be permitted to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises, at any time when the retail outlet is open for shopping. However, concerns raised regarding the impact upon the local community from the increase in the availability of alcohol, especially in the night time period, apply equally to the off licensed as the on licensed trade. Applicants seeking licences to provide for the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises are directed to this guidance also.

Table 2 – Suggested closing times of licensed premises					
Type of premises	Major town centres and strategic cultural area	District town centres	Local centres and small shopping parades	Residential areas	
	Bankside Borough & London Bridge Canada Water Elephant & Castle (including Walworth Road) Peckham St Mary's Churchyard (Rotherhithe)	Camberwell Herne Hill Lordship Lane Note: Bankside and Borough & London Bridge are also classified as District Town Centres. However, as they have dual categorization as Strategic Cultural Areas the later hours apply	The Blue Dulwich Village Nunhead	All other	

Restaurants and cafes	Fri – Sat 0100 Sun – Thurs 0000	Fri – Sat 0100 Sun – Thurs 0000	Fri – Sat 0000 Sun – Thurs 2300	2300 daily
Public houses, wine bars or other drinking establishments	Fri – Sat 0000 Sun – Thurs 2300	Fri – Sat 0000 Sun – Thurs 2300	2300 daily	2300 daily
Hotel bars and guest houses	No restrictions for residents	No restrictions for residents	No restrictions for residents	No restrictions for residents
Night clubs (with 'sui generis' planning classification)	Fri – Sat 0300 Mon – Thurs 0100 Sun 0000	Fri – Sat 0100 Sun – Thurs 0000	Not considered appropriate	Not considered appropriate
Off-licences and alcohol sales in grocers and supermarkets	0000 daily	0000 daily	2300 daily	2300 daily
Take-away establishments	Fri – Sat 0100 Sun - Thurs 0000	Fri – Sat 0100 Sun – Thurs 0000	Fri – Sat 0000 Sun – Thurs 2300	Not considered appropriate
Cinemas and theatres	0200 daily	0100 daily	0000 daily	2300 daily
Vessels	2300 daily	2300 daily	2300 daily	2300 daily
Qualifying members' clubs	0200 daily	0100 daily	0000 daily	2300 daily

154. For the purpose of this guidance the following area classifications are made

- Major town centres – Canada Water, Elephant & Castle (including Walworth Road) and Peckham
- Strategic cultural areas – Bankside, Borough and London Bridge (Note: These areas are also district town centres but here this classification will apply), St Mary's Churchyard (Rotherhithe)
- District town centres – Camberwell, Herne Hill and Lordship Lane
- Local centres and small shopping parades – The Blue, Dulwich Village and Nunhead
- Residential – All other

155. A map showing the boundaries of each area is included at Appendix B.

MAP OF AREA CLASSIFICATIONS AND CIPS

