

Objecting to an alcohol licence

Any person who has a 'greater interest' in the application for an alcohol licence than the public generally, may object to the grant or renewal of that licence.

[Click here for the Guide to objecting to an alcohol licence application](#)

What is 'greater interest'?

A person with a 'greater interest' may be a resident or business located in the same street as the proposed or existing premises applying for an alcohol licence. Someone who is concerned about the effects of alcohol on the community in general, but who lives in a different area, may not meet the criteria for 'greater interest'.

Criteria for objection

The Sale & Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (section 105) outlines the following as the only grounds for objecting to the application for a new, or renewed alcohol licence:

The object of the Act, i.e. that:

- The sale, supply and consumption of alcohol should be undertaken safely and responsibly; and the harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol should be minimised.
- Suitability of the applicant.
- Any relevant local alcohol policy.
- Days and hours when alcohol will be sold.
- The design and layout of any proposed premises.
- Whether the applicant is engaged in, or proposes on the premises to engage in, the sale of goods other than alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments and food; and if so, which goods.
- Whether the applicant is engaged in, or proposes on the premises to engage in, the provision of services other than those directly related to the sale of alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments and food; and if so, which services.
- Whether the amenity and good order of the locality would likely be reduced, to more than a minor extent, by the effects of the issue of the licence^[17] whether the amenity and good order of the locality are already so badly affected by existing licences that it is not desirable to issue any further licenses.
- Whether the applicant has appropriate systems, staff, and training to comply with the law.

Please note that trade-related objections from other licensed businesses are not valid grounds for objection under the Act.

Make an objection

If you'd like to object to a new or renewed alcohol licence, you'll need to:

Notify the District Licensing Committee in writing that you wish to object and the reasons why (you must refer to relevant criteria).

Make sure to include your full name, address and contact telephone number.

Your objection must be filed with the District Licensing Committee within 15 working days of the first public notice announcing an application has been made.

Post to:

District Licensing Committee

Ashburton District Council

5 Baring Square West

PO Box 94

Ashburton

What happens next?

When the District Licensing Committee receives your objection, they will:

- Send you an acknowledgement letter
- Send a copy of the objection to the applicant.

If the District Licensing Committee believes that the objection meets the criteria of section 105 of the Act, they will notify all involved parties of a date and time for a hearing. You can choose not to attend the hearing, but your objection will have a greater effect if you attend the hearing in person and speak in support of your submission.

Complaint about an existing licensed premises.

To make a complaint about an existing licensed premise or the terms of a licence, please contact us on 03 307 7700 and provide specific details regarding your concerns.