

# Licensing Sub-committees: A Guide

Contentious applications under the Licensing Act 2003 is made by licensing sub-committees. Contentious applications are applications that have attracted relevant objections, review applications or hearing after a licensed premises was closed down by the police.

The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 set out the procedures that must be followed by a licensing sub-committee. Although appearing before a sub-committee hearing can be daunting, with the right representation, advice and understanding the prospect is not as daunting.



The licensing authority must write to you to invite you to attend the hearing with **information on your rights, time, date & location**.



You have the right to be represented at the hearing by anyone you chose but **an expert licensing law practitioner is recommended**.



You will **be given an opportunity to address the sub-committee** but equally the committee will be able to question you.



**Objectors or responsible authorities will also be given an opportunity** to address and be questioned by the committee.



The hearing shall take the form of a **discussion led by the authority and cross-examination shall not be permitted** in the regulations.



A decision of the committee is **subject to an appeal** and you should be provided clear & comprehensive reasons for the decision.

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