

Standard procedure for licensing committee or licensing panel hearings, where representations have been made

- 1) The general facts of the application will be put to the hearing by an officer of the Licensing Authority.**
- 2) Ward Members who wish to speak on behalf of constituents who have expressed opposition to the application or aspects of the application will be invited to speak. Written notification of those representations must be submitted within the required period of notice.**
- 3) Where individuals or organisations have given the required notice that they wish to make relevant representations, they will be invited one at a time to clarify and support (but not add to) their written submissions. Representations will be heard only from those who have submitted an objection in writing before the deadline given for comments. This restriction applies equally to Members and Officers of the Council.**
- 4) Members of the Licensing Committee (or Panel) may ask questions arising from each representation, as may any other Member of Swindon Borough Council who is present. The applicant will not be allowed to comment or reply at this stage but may ask those making representations to give a brief clarification of any point they have made.**
- 5) Ward Members who wish to speak on behalf of constituents who have expressed a positive case in favour of the application will be invited to speak. Written notification of the positive representation must have been submitted within the required period of notice.**

- 6) The applicant and / or their solicitor or representative will be invited to make representations in support of the application and also to respond to points made by those who have made representations on the application in writing or in person. No unreasonable limits will be placed on the right of the applicant to make their case and they may present plans or artists impressions etc. if they wish.**
- 7) Members of the Licensing Committee (or Panel) may ask questions arising from the applicant's submission, as may any other Member of Swindon Borough Council who is present.**
- 8) Those who have made representations will be allowed to ask the applicant to give a brief clarification of any point they have made and they will be permitted to ask questions of the applicant. They will not be permitted to restate or develop their original representations and must limit their comments to issues that arise directly from answers given by the applicant or the applicant's representative.**
- 9) Members of the Committee or Panel hearing the application will then discuss the application in private, accompanied only by non-partisan officers who are there in a support role.**
- 10) Should any person present act in a disruptive manner the Chair will first warn him or her about their conduct and then, if the Chair considers it appropriate, may require the person concerned to leave the meeting forthwith. Where a party to the hearing insists on wasting the time of the hearing by needlessly repeating points that have been well aired and clearly put by earlier speakers, their actions may be judged to be disruptive and they may be asked to leave. It is strongly recommended that any spoken representations from groups of people with common concerns are made through an agreed spokesperson.**