

Drugs Awareness for Licensed Premises — Implementation Guide

Read this first.

The legal position

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 s.8 makes it an offence for an occupier, or a person concerned in the management of premises, to knowingly permit or suffer the production, supply or use of controlled drugs on those premises. 'Knowingly permit' includes turning a blind eye.

Separately, the Licensing Act 2003 sets four licensing objectives, and the first is the PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER. Drug activity on premises goes directly to that objective, and it is the most common reason a premises licence is called in for review by the police. A review can add conditions, cut hours, remove the DPS or revoke the licence entirely.

The commercial point is simple: *a documented drugs policy that staff are trained on is what keeps a review from becoming a revocation.* It shows the operator was managing the problem rather than tolerating it.

The order to do it in

1. Adopt the drugs policy (DAP-01) and have the DPS sign it.
2. Train all door, bar and floor staff with DAP-02.
3. Test them with DAP-03 and file the papers.
4. Put the incident and seizure register (DAP-04) behind the bar and start using it.
5. Adopt the search and refusal policy (DAP-05) and brief the door team.
6. Run the briefings (DAP-06) and keep the signed sheets.
7. Agree your local arrangement with the police for disposal of seized substances BEFORE you need it.

Scope and limitations — read before use

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