

LICENSING (HEARING) SUB COMMITTEE PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. This procedure shall apply to all public hearings conducted under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.
2. Public hearings conducted under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 shall take the form of a discussion led by the licensing authority. Cross-examination will be permitted when the Sub Committee considers it to be required. The conduct of hearings shall be broadly based, subject to the discretion of the Sub Committee, on the points set out below.
3. At the start of the hearing the Chairman of the Sub Committee will introduce him/herself and other Members of the Sub Committee as well as the City Corporation officers present. Anyone making representations will then be asked to introduce themselves and anyone accompanying them. The applicant will then do likewise.¹
4. The Chairman will then explain the purpose of the hearing and the procedure to be followed at the hearing. The Sub Committee will then make any rulings necessary in respect of requests for witnesses to be heard in support of any of the parties making representations or the applicant.
5. Those making representations will then be invited to present their case. Repetition will not be permitted. Equal time will be offered to the applicant and those making representations. Where there is more than one party making representations and/or calling witnesses in support, consideration should be given to having one spokesman on behalf of all parties so as to avoid repetition. Although the use of a spokesman will be encouraged by the Sub Committee, the decision rests with those parties making representations.
6. In the event of disorder or persistent disregard of the authority of the Chair, the Chairman may suspend or adjourn the hearing, or require that the person(s) causing disorder or showing disregard leave the hearing.
7. In the event that the Sub Committee has decided that cross-examination will be permitted, the applicant will be invited to ask questions of the party(s) making representations and their witnesses (if any). The party(s) making representations and any witnesses giving evidence in support will then answer any questions put to them by members of the Sub Committee.
8. The applicant will then be invited to present their case and call any witnesses in support of their application. The applicant will be entitled to the same period of time to present his case as those making representations were afforded.

¹ In hearings where a licence is being reviewed, references in this procedure to ‘applicant’ should be read as references to the licence holder and references to ‘those making representations’ should be read as references to those applying for the review.

9. In the event that the Sub Committee has decided that cross-examination will be permitted, those making representations will be invited to ask questions of the applicant and their witnesses (if any). The applicant and any witnesses giving evidence in support will then answer any questions put to them by members of the Sub Committee.
10. The Chairman will ask all parties if there is anything else they would like to add in support of their respective cases.
11. Those making representations will then be invited to make closing submissions followed by the applicant.
12. The Sub Committee will then retire to consider their decision. They may call for assistance by the representatives of the Town Clerk and/or the Comptroller & City Solicitor but those persons will play no part in the decision-making process.
13. In due course, the Sub Committee will return to announce their decision or to inform those present when the decision will be given.