



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SCOTTISH BEER AND PUB ASSOCIATION PUBLISHES RESEARCH ON
LIQUOR LICENCE NUMBERS FOR SCOTLAND**

The Scottish Beer and Pub Association (SBPA) has today (Tuesday 10th July 2007) published research compiled from Freedom of Information requests lodged with Scotland's 32 Councils detailing the number of Liquor Licences in force across Scotland. The figures suggest that at 31st December 2006 there were a total of 17,097 commercially licensed premises in Scotland, a fall of 90, from the 17,187 licensed premises that were recorded by the Scottish Executive in its own research as of 31st December 2005.

Other figures from the research suggested that:

- As of 31st December 2006, the number of licensed public houses in Scotland had remained more or less the same with there being 5,151 liquor licences in force for pubs (an increase of one on the 5,150 licences recorded by Scottish Executive figures for the end of 2005);
- As of 31st December 2006, the SBPA research suggested that there were 6,197 off sales licensed premises (supermarkets, grocer shops, etc) a fall of 181 from the total of 6,378 which the Scottish Executive's research reported as being in place at the end of 2005;
- As of 31st December 2006, the SBPA research suggested there were 2,260 hotel licensed premises (compared to 2,261 recorded on 31st December 2005), there were 1,532 restaurant licensed premises (up from the 1,506 recorded on 31st December 2005), there were 894 entertainment licensed premises, or nightclubs (up from the 866 recorded by the Executive research for 31st December 2005), with their being 669 refreshment licensed premises, or cafes (up from the 604 of these recorded by the Executive research at the end of 2005.)

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Said Patrick Browne, SBPA Chief Executive: "These figures suggest that the number of pub licensed premises in Scotland has remained more or less constant over the last year to the end of 2006 which has been the position in Scotland for several years, which is a reflection of the fact that pubs are diversifying into areas like food and entertainment, rather than being focused on selling alcohol."

"However, we should treat these figures with caution given that it is generally only when a licensed premise comes up to be re-licensed every three years that we find out whether the business is still trading. This could be a factor going forward in assessing whether there has been any impact on the industry as a result of the smoking ban, but these figures do not show any apparent impact as regards the total numbers of pubs that are still licensed."

"Our research however, also suggests that there has been a very marked fall in the number of off sales licensed premises of 181, which is surprising given that the number of off licensed premises has been growing steadily for a number of years. This may suggest that the larger supermarket developments which have taken place in Scotland over the last few years are now beginning to impact on the independent licensed grocer sector in Scotland."

Other issues which became apparent during SBPA carrying out its research, was that there have been unexplained fluctuations in the numbers of licensed premises reported in previous Scottish Executive Statistical Bulletins which need to be further examined. One return submitted by Highland Council to SBPA in response to its FOISA request, suggested that there was a unexplained variance of 5% in the total licence numbers for 31st December 2005 reported for Highland in the last Scottish Executive Statistical Bulletin.

The responses obtained by SBPA also suggest that there may have been errors in accurately recording the 2005 licence numbers in some Council areas, noticeably Argyll and Bute, Angus and South Lanarkshire where there were major differences between the figures published by the Executive for the end of 2005 and figures obtained by SBPA for the end of 2006. For example, comparing the number of licenses for South Lanarkshire suggests a fall of 124 in the number of licences in twelve months to the end of 2006.

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Said Patrick Browne: "These anomalies have been highlighted with the Scottish Executive and require explanation, particularly given the importance which many Licensing Boards place on these numbers in making judgements about whether there are too many licensed premises within their areas. Clearly if fluctuating or incorrect numbers are used in making these comparisons then this would be unwise and as such Licensing Boards should be very cautious in making use of these figures until these anomalies have been explained and corrected. These issues need to be resolved."

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Notes for Editors

1. The Scottish Beer and Pub Association was originally formed in 1906. Members are brewing and large pub companies representing the licensed trade industry in Scotland. The main aim of the Association is to contribute to the economic and social well-being of Scotland through employment, investment and training. Members account for 1,500 of the 5,100 licensed public houses in Scotland.
2. Using the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA 2002), the Scottish Beer and Pub Association asked all of Scotland's 32 Councils for the number of liquor licensed premises within their areas under the 1976 Licensing (Scotland) Act. These requests were answered between January and April 2007.
3. The Scottish Executive produces an annual Statistical Bulletin on the Number of Liquor Licences in Scotland. The last edition of this information, published in November 2006, is available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/liqtables0105>.
4. In addition there are over two thousand registered members clubs, e.g. golf clubs, bowling clubs, etc ... that were not included within the scope of the SBPA's research.

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Liquor licences in force at 31 December 2006 in Scotland, by council area and type of premises – Source – FOISA Requests by SBPA

Council Area	Type of premises							Total
	Hotel	Restrict ed Hotel	Public House	Restaura nt	Entertain ment	Refreshm ent	Off-sale	
Aberdeen City	55	5	246	59	59	38	256	718
Aberdeenshire	175	6	172	40	22	21	279	715
Angus	46	4	116	31	16	17	106	336
Argyll & Bute	128	49	101	52	6	23	151	510
Clackmannanshire	13	0	38	11	7	0	73	142
Dumfries & Galloway	187	22	160	73	19	35	239	735
Dundee City	26	7	162	54	39	9	154	451
East Ayrshire	28	0	128	21	20	6	146	349
East Dunbartonshire	4	0	40	22	6	3	77	152
East Lothian	33	4	68	29	3	7	118	262
East Renfrewshire	6	0	28	26	7	8	59	134
Edinburgh, City of	143	34	733	174	99	96	638	1,917
Eilean Siar	28	8	13	10	5	2	38	104
Falkirk	28	0	121	32	20	1	97	299
Fife	142	15	343	75	46	32	442	1,095
Glasgow City	61	15	709	182	198	81	613	1,859
Highland	412	114	238	172	33	82	446	1,497
Inverclyde	9	2	57	20	11	8	79	186
Midlothian	18	2	64	13	6	2	81	186
Moray	72	8	104	30	11	16	144	385
North Ayrshire	58	10	123	36	20	14	157	418
North Lanarkshire	30		266	30	36	2	311	675
Orkney Islands	26	3	23	9	5	8	58	132
Perth & Kinross	162	35	159	68	7	39	223	693
Renfrewshire	19	3	181	34	27	9	170	443
Scottish Borders	97	17	126	38	7	19	168	472
Shetland Islands	17	4	18	9	45	5	55	153
South Ayrshire	70	8	138	41	27	29	151	464
South Lanarkshire	37	3	201	44	25	8	194	512
Stirling	81	14	99	38	15	41	171	459
West Dunbartonshire	18	2	64	25	26	2	115	252
West Lothian	31	0	112	34	21	6	188	392
Scotland Total	2,260	394	5,151	1,532	894	669	6,197	17,097

Changes in Numbers of Liquor Licensed Premises Between 2005 and 2006

Council Area	Type of premises							Total
	Hotel	Restricted Hotel	Public House	Restaurant	Entertainment	Refreshment	Off-sale	
Aberdeen City	9	-1	14	6	3	7	-9	29
Aberdeenshire	10	0	5	1	-2	1	21	36
Angus	-11	-1	-28	-7	-7	1	-13	-66
Argyll & Bute	-42	-5	-4	-2	3	-1	-15	-66
Clackmannanshire	-1	0	0	1	1	0	2	3
Dumfries & Galloway	-1	-5	-3	2	1	0	-8	-14
Dundee City	3	0	-2	4	-2	0	-6	-3
East Ayrshire	-1	0	7	2	-1	0	3	10
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	-1	0	0	0	2	1
East Lothian	2	0	4	5	-1	0	10	20
East Renfrewshire	0	0	2	1	1	3	-6	1
Edinburgh, City of	-2	-6	-4	-7	0	-1	2	-18
Eilean Siar	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Falkirk	5	-1	23	2	3	0	-79	-47
Fife	3	-4	-2	7	2	4	-5	5
Glasgow City	7	-2	-8	-6	28	16	-61	-26
Highland	13	1	11	26	1	16	21	89
Inverclyde	-1	2	3	3	-1	1	-5	2
Midlothian	0	0	-1	1	1	1	0	2
Moray	3	-2	6	0	0	5	8	20
North Ayrshire	15	2	11	2	1	2	6	39
North Lanarkshire	1	-1	-2	-2	0	0	-2	-6
Orkney Islands	0	0	3	0	0	1	2	6
Perth & Kinross	1	-1	5	5	-1	-1	2	10
Renfrewshire	-1	-2	13	4	2	1	-4	13
Scottish Borders	0	0	-3	-1	0	0	3	-1
Shetland Islands	-1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
South Ayrshire	-3	-2	-3	-3	1	2	-6	-14
South Lanarkshire	-10	0	-48	-19	-3	-1	-43	-124
Stirling	0	0	1	-2	0	6	2	7
West Dunbartonshire	0	0	0	2	-2	0	-1	-1
West Lothian	0	0	2	1	0	1	-5	-1
Scotland Total	-1	-28	1	26	28	65	-181	-90