



**MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2009**

**SBPA RECEIVES £12,000 IN COSTS FROM THE CITY OF GLASGOW LICENSING BOARD FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL LEGAL CHALLENGE**

The Scottish Beer and Pub Association (SBPA) has received a cheque from the City of Glasgow Licensing Board for £12,000 as payment for the costs awarded against the Board following SBPA's legal challenge to the Board's argument that, following the introduction of the new licensing regime next year in Scotland, that there was a requirement for a Personal Licence Holder (PLH) to be "on the (licensed) premises at all times when alcohol was being sold."

The SBPA pursued the action in the Court of Session in Edinburgh in May, but the Glasgow Licensing Board amended its stance a couple of days before the case was due to heard in court, although the hearing still went ahead on the subject of costs with the SBPA being awarded 75% of its costs because of the late change of position by the Board.

The payment of £12,000 was reached by agreement with the Glasgow Board's legal representatives.

Said Patrick Browne, Chief Executive of the Scottish Beer and Pub Association: "We are glad that the matter has now been settled by the City of Glasgow Licensing Board by them paying the costs awarded against them. In May, we welcomed the Board's decision to amend its earlier stated position on Personal Licence Holders, although we still had to pursue the issue of our costs in court. We did not receive all of the costs back which were incurred by the Association, only court costs can be recovered, but we knew that would be the position in launching our legal challenge."

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"The industry remains fully in support of the process of licensing reform in Glasgow and across Scotland, as long as this is in line with what we believe to be the letter of law under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Regulations associated with that."

"The SBPA will continue to seek to represent the concerns and interests of its members going forward and will not hesitate to seek legal clarification of any policies being undertaken by any of Scotland's Licensing Boards where this is deemed necessary."

**ENDS**

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