

Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Please contact: Fiona Goldsmith
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Date

Public Services
Licensing Service
Town Hall
Crossley Street
Halifax
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Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Support for our Local Hospitality Economy

The Hospitality sector is key to our local economy and it has been significantly affected by Covid-19. We are fully aware many of you are having to make significant changes to the way that you do business in order to reopen safely to the public. We have been working with West Yorkshire Police, local BIDs, Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and Calderdale & Kirklees Manufacturing Alliance as we want to help businesses adjust to the new ways of working and to support the longer-term economic recovery within Calderdale.

The purpose of this letter is to sign-post you to information and guidance that can inform any decision you need to take to re-open or not and hopefully provide support with your planning.

The latest Government Guidance (published on 23rd June 2020) was aimed at the hospitality sector *“Keeping workers and customer’s safe during COVID-19 in restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services”* and can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>

In addition to this there is a useful online tool that can help you to assess the risks and make suitable adjustments to the working environment to make sure both staff and customers stay safe <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-reopening>.

The new Business and Planning Bill 2020 published on 25th June 2020 proposes significant changes designed to assist licensed premises to survive and bounce back from the pandemic lockdown.

The provisions include:

1. A new “Pavement Licence” Regime, to be administered by local authorities, designed to make it easier for premises in England serving food and drink such as bars, restaurants and pubs to seat and serve customers outdoors through temporary changes to planning procedures and alcohol licensing.
2. Alcohol licensing changes that will allow operators with existing on-sales licence to



also serve alcohol for consumption off the premises and to make deliveries.

Details and guidance in relation to these changes can be found on the Council's website at:

Pavement Licences:

<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/businesses/licences/entertainment/pavement-cafe-licence>

Alcohol Licences:

<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/businesses/licences/entertainment/alcohol-entertainment-licences>

Applications for pavement café licence applications will be considered in consultation with the Council's Highways and Environmental Health services and the police as it is important that highway safety be maintained. If you have any suggestions regarding longer term changes to the highway that the Council could investigate to support you with the reopening of your business than please use the interactive map that we have developed in partnership with West Yorkshire Combined Authority to provide further feedback.

<https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/safeststreets>

We, as the Licensing Authority, will be regularly updating our website with frequently asked questions. We will be conducting visits to licensed premises in partnership with the Police to offer guidance and support to licensed premises with the transition into this new way of working. Please make sure that you read all the relevant guidance held on the Gov.uk website.

We fully acknowledge that any decision to re-open or not will need careful consideration. You will need to decide if this is the right time for you to re-open your business and can you operate safely and within the guidelines produced. To help you to do this you should create a "risk assessment" for your premise utilising the checklists contained within the guidance.

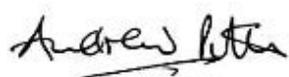
If you do not feel this is the right time for you to re-open your business, it is important to regularly check for any changes to the furlough scheme (using the link below) and how it may affect your business. We will be updating the information and guidance on the Council's website regularly please keep checking it for the latest updates.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/calculate-how-much-you-can-claim-using-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

If you do believe that this is the right time to re-open then we are keen to work with you and to help you do this safely and in accordance with government guidance. If you think you would benefit from an early discussion with our Licensing Team please contact us.

Regardless of what decision you arrive at please be re-assured that we will continue to work with you in these unprecedented times.

Yours Faithfully



Andrew Pitts
Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods