

E-News December 2012

New Year's Eve

Many Premises Licences already allow the sale of alcohol from the end of usual permitted hours on New Year's Eve to the start of permitted hours on New Year's Day. If you benefit from this flexibility, you are already permitted to stay open all night on New Year's Eve. However, please do check your Premises Licence carefully to ensure you have this permission.

The Westminster Police Licensing Team are also asking premises in the West End to ensure all customers are in the premises by 23:30pm with doors to remain closed until 1.00am (even smokers) to prevent members of the public migrating from Trafalgar Square and Embankment to licensed premises after midnight. This is not a condition of your licence and as we understand it, compliance is voluntary although; may in some cases, be advisable.

Westminster Red in the Face over Rare Burgers

Westminster City Council inspectors reportedly ordered a Davy's Wine Bar to stop serving "underdone" burgers. A panic amongst some restaurants followed, with medium or rare burgers being taken off the menu. After various reports in the media, Westminster have denied that they have banned medium or rare burgers. The story will no doubt continue.

If you need any further guidance on this issue, or food safety training for your staff, please do contact one of our partners.

Anti-Social Behaviour Bill

The Government has recently published their draft Anti-Social Behaviour Bill. The Bill proposes new powers for the police and the courts to issue closure notices for premises that have caused or are likely to cause nuisance or disorder or persons drinking in public places.

Due Diligence

Authorities are catching an increased number of premises in breach of the Licensing Act, for example selling alcohol to persons under 18. It is essential operators implement and maintain comprehensive policies, procedures, training and documented review practices to ensure they have exercised all due diligence. Taking these steps can be extremely helpful to (a) prevent an offence happening in the first place; and (b) provide a due diligence defence in the event an offence is committed.

We have assisted a number of operators in preparing due diligence documents, including policies, procedures and training regimes. If you think we can assist with your premises please do not hesitate to contact one of our partners.

Recent News – What we've been up to...

- Licensing the new Café Royal on Regent Street - <http://www.hotelcaferoyal.com/>. The Grade I listed building, famous for hosting Oscar Wilde and Winston Churchill, has had extensive refurbishment, restoring many of its rooms to their original splendor. Thomas

and Thomas were able to obtain a 3am Licence as an exception to the Councils' licensing policy.

- Advising the operators of the Newman Street Tavern in respect of their new venture on Newman Street - <http://www.newmanstreettavern.co.uk/>
- Helping to organise Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Foundation's Christmas Market - <http://www.jamieoliver.com/news/fifteen-s-foodie-christmas-market>
- Obtaining a late Licence for Lucky Voice, Sushi Samba and the opening of Opium in Chinatown.

Seasons Greetings

Any finally, from all the team at Thomas & Thomas, we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Alun Thomas

E: athomas@tandtp.com

T: 07956 805464

Thomas O'Maoileoin

E: tomaioileoin@tandtp.com

T: 07786 966173