

## **General Procedures for Virtual Licensing Hearings**

The following procedural requirements shall be followed at all times:

- (a) The virtual meetings are to be webcast as appropriate.
- (b) They will be held on the Zoom application. All persons (officers, applicants and objectors) will have to join the virtual meeting.
- (c) There shall be no recommendation from officers on the agenda.
- (d) The Committee shall be supplied with copies of all relevant documentation and the process and order of procedure shall be as follows:

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Participants will join the meeting via the Zoom application using the link and passcode emailed to them.

All Licensing Sub-Committees are public meetings unless otherwise stated, and therefore, meetings will be webcast live to the internet.

It will be important in this virtual environment, for the conduct of the meeting, that all speakers go through the Chairman and wait to be called to speak. All participants should be muted unless asked to speak. If they wish to speak, they should raise a virtual (or physical) hand to attract the Chairman's attention.

Once all participants have joined the meeting virtually, the meeting shall begin and run as a normal Licensing Sub-Committee meeting as detailed below.

- (i) At the beginning of each meeting the Chairman will read out the webcasting introduction.
- (ii) The Chairman will open the meeting and introduce persons as appropriate asking applicants and representatives to identify themselves.
- (iii) The Chairman will outline the procedure to be followed.
- (iv) The Lead Officer will outline the matter in hand.
- (v) The applicant or representative will present his/her case, with or without witnesses, and be questioned by members and then by any objectors/persons making representations present.
- (vi) Any objectors/persons making representations may then present their objections/representation, with or without witnesses, and be questioned by members and then by the applicant/s or their representative.
- (vii) The objectors/persons making representations may make a final statement (without introducing new issues).
- (viii) Finally, the applicant has the right to make a final statement (without introducing new issues).

- (ix) All evidence/disclosures are to be made in the presence of all persons, unless someone voluntarily excuses themselves from the proceedings.
- (x) Committee members shall restrict themselves to questions and not discussion or comment.
- (xi) The applicant, objectors/persons making representations shall be allowed to ask officers questions of a technical/factual nature at any time during the proceedings.
- (xii) An adjournment should be granted where to do otherwise would deny a fair hearing.
- (xiii) The Committee may resolve to decide upon the application in private session, however, if it becomes necessary to recall anyone for additional information, everyone shall be invited to return to the Hearing.

The Committee will go into private session by putting all the participants into a Zoom 'waiting room' where they can wait without being able to hear or see the discussion taking place in private by the Sub-Committee members. At the end of the Sub-Committee's discussions all the participants will be invited back to the main meeting and told the decision of the Sub-Committee.

**If thought necessary, because the Sub-Committee's deliberations might take a long time, the Chairman can close the meeting for all participants and ask them to return later to a new Zoom meeting either later that day or the next day to receive the decision of the Sub-Committee.**

Officers can create another Zoom meeting for either later that day or the next day in order for the decision to be heard. Once created all the participants will be emailed a new date/time and joining details.

- (xiv) The decision shall be given in the presence of all parties that wish to be present and confirmed in writing as soon as possible thereafter. If legal advice is given to members, this advice will be repeated in summary form.