

Residents

A key feature of the new licensing regime is to allow local communities a say in licensing decisions that affect them, as well as ensuring that professionals such as the police, fire authorities, trading standards and environmental health officers are able to scrutinise applications and take action if problems occur.

The 2003 Act allows the views of local people and businesses to be taken into account when someone applies for a licence or certificate to carry out a licensable activity such as selling alcohol, providing [regulated entertainment](#) and providing [late night refreshment](#).

Are you an interested party?

To have your say, you must be an "Interested Party" for the premises concerned. This means you must be either:

A person living in the vicinity of the premises

A body representing people that live in that vicinity

A person involved in a business in the vicinity of the premises

A body representing people involved in these businesses

Whether somebody lives or works "in the vicinity" of a premises is a matter that will be decided, in the first instance, by the relevant [licensing authority](#) (and where there are disputes, by the courts). In deciding this, licensing authorities may look at whether that party is likely to be affected by the grant of the licence application in respect of those premises. While licensing authorities may wish to give broad indications of where they consider the vicinity to be, each case must be considered on its own merits.

Interested parties have a number of rights under the Act. If they think granting a new, or changing an existing licence or certificate would undermine any of the [licensing objectives](#), they can make representations to the relevant licensing authority. They can also ask the licensing authority to review a licence or certificate if problems occur which undermine the licensing objectives. The licensing objectives are:

The prevention of crime and disorder

Public safety

The prevention of public nuisance

The protection of children from harm

To help interested parties engage in the licensing process, DCMS has issued the following Guidance notes:

[Guidance for Interested parties - Making Representations](#) (PDF 182k)

[Guidance for Interested parties: Appealing licensing decisions in the courts](#) (PDF 82k)

[Guidance for Interested parties: Applying for a review](#) (PDF 117k)