

What's a designated premises supervisor (DPS)?

A designated premises supervisor (DPS) is the person identified as such for a particular premises who is named on the premises licence. Any premises where alcohol is supplied under a premises licence must have a DPS.

They will be named in the operating schedule for any premises with a premises licence. The DPS will not necessarily be the premises licence holder, although this may sometimes be the case. It is expected that they will be the point of contact for the premises always for licensing authorities, or the police or fire services if problems occur at the premises.

Any application for a premises licence must also include a separate form of consent given by the individual whom the applicant wishes to have specified in the premises licence as the DPS.

Do the designated premises supervisor (DPS) have to be on the premises at all times when alcohol is being sold?

No, in some cases this will not physically be possible. However, it will be expected that the DPS will spend a significant amount of time on the premises. What will be essential is that the DPS is contactable, particularly should problems arise with the premises.

Can I be a designated premises supervisor (DPS) at more than one premises at the same time?

Yes. The only requirement for being a DPS is that the individual concerned must be the holder of a personal licence. This ensures that where the activities concern the supply of alcohol there is a person associated with the premises who understands the social issues and potential problems associated with the sale of alcohol.

Can anyone object to a person who is specified as a designated premises supervisor (DPS)?

The chief officer of police only will be able to make representations about the specification of any DPS if he feels, in the exceptional circumstances of the case, that the crime prevention objective could be undermined by that specification. This could include fears that the DPS would not be able to fulfil the responsibilities in respect of the crime prevention objective for more than one premises at the same time. Where the chief officer of police makes representations about the DPS, the licensing authority must hold a hearing to consider them (unless all parties agree that this is unnecessary). Because of the consideration of the representations, the licensing authority will refuse to specify the DPS if it considers it necessary for the promotion of the crime prevention objective to do so.

Can there be more than one designated premises supervisor (DPS) at the same premises?

The Licensing Act 2003 specifies that there may only be one DPS for any premises.

What happens if the designated premises supervisor (DPS) leaves his employment, notifies the licensing authority, but does not tell the premises licence holder?



The DPS must inform the relevant licensing authority if he or she wishes to be removed as DPS. Within 48 hours of the notice being given to the licensing authority, the individual must also give the premises licence holder a copy of the notice sent to the licensing authority. The DPS must also send a notice directing the licence holder to send to the relevant licensing authority the premises licence or if that is not practicable, a statement of the reasons for the failure to provide the licence within 14 days of receiving the notice.

If the holder fails to comply with the direction he will commit an offence.

How we can help?

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