

Licensing Policy Review

Consultation Document 2026

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Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



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Introduction

1. The current licensing policy was adopted by the authority in February 2024, following a consultation, which included a review of the existing Cumulative Impact Assessments for Lamma Street, Carmarthen and Station Road, Llanelli, and the consideration of adopting a further Cumulative Impact Assessment for Nott Square, King Street and Queen Street, Carmarthen.
2. However, the authority must undertake a full review of the Cumulative Impact Assessments at least every three years to ensure that they are still appropriate.
3. As part of this consultation the authority is reviewing the existing Cumulative Impact Assessments in force for Station Road, Llanelli , Lamma Street, Nott Square, King Street and Queen Street Carmarthen.
4. The policy review is an opportunity for local residents, businesses, existing licence holders and their representatives to formally comment on the document and provide feedback on licensing matters. This could include details of events, businesses and activities such as live music, which you would like to see encouraged in the county. Alternatively you may wish to highlight problems associated with licensed premises, which affect a certain community or area.
5. The consultation commences on the 18th of May 2026 and finishes on the 11th of August 2026.
6. Under the Licensing Act 2003 the council, as Licensing Authority, is responsible for issuing the following authorisations.

Personal licence

- For supplying alcohol, or authorising its supply in accordance with a premises licence.

Premises licences and club premises certificates

- For supplying alcohol; and/or
 - For providing regulated entertainment including plays, films, indoor sporting events, music and dancing or similar entertainments, in the presence of an audience; and/or
- For supplying hot food or drink to the public between 11.00 pm and 5.00 am.

7. As mentioned above, the consultation document is seeking views and evidence as to whether the existing Cumulative Impact Assessments contained within the current policy relating to a portion of Station Road, Llanelli and Lamma Street, Nott Square, King Street and Queen Street Carmarthen should be retained.
8. The Licensing Act 2003 sets out a formal process which must be followed by the licensing authority when looking to review Cumulative Impact Assessments at least every three years.
9. The following paragraphs have been reproduced from the guidance issued by the Home Office under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.

What is Cumulative Impact?

14.20 The concept of “Cumulative impact” has been described within this guidance and used by licensing authorities within their statements of licensing policy since the commencement of the 2003 Act. ‘Cumulative impact assessments’ were introduced in the 2003 Act by the Policing and Crime Act 2017, with effect from 6 April 2018. Cumulative impact is the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a number of licensed premises concentrated in one area.

14.21 In some areas where the number, type or density of licensed premises, such as those selling alcohol or providing late night refreshment, is high or exceptional, serious problems of nuisance and disorder may arise outside or some distance from those premises. Such problems generally occur as a result of large numbers of drinkers being concentrated in an area, for example when leaving premises at peak times or when queuing at fast food outlets or for public transport.

14.22 Queuing in itself may lead to conflict, disorder and anti-social behaviour. Moreover, large concentrations of people may also attract criminal activities such as drug dealing, pick pocketing and street robbery. Local services such as public transport, public lavatory provision and street cleaning may not be able to meet the demand posed by such concentrations of drinkers leading to issues such as street fouling, littering, traffic and public nuisance caused by concentrations of people who cannot be effectively dispersed quickly.

14.23 Variable licensing hours may facilitate a more gradual dispersal of customers from premises. However, in some cases, the impact on surrounding areas of the behaviour of the customers of all premises taken together will be greater than the impact of customers of individual premises. These conditions are more likely to arise in town and city centres, but may also arise in other urban centres and the suburbs, for example on smaller high streets with high concentrations of licensed premises.

Cumulative impact assessments

14.24 A cumulative impact assessment (CIA) may be published by a licensing authority to help it to limit the number or types of licence applications granted in areas where there is evidence to show that the number or density of licensed premises in the area is having a cumulative impact and leading to problems which are undermining the licensing objectives. CIAs relate to applications for new

premises licences and club premises certificates and applications to vary existing premises licences and club premises certificates in a specified area.

14.25 Section 5A of the 2003 Act sets out what a licensing authority needs to do in order to publish a CIA and review it, including the requirement to consult with the persons listed in section 5(3) of the 2003 Act. The 2003 Act does not stipulate how the CIA should be used once published, because the requirements for determining applications for new licences or variations are the same in areas with a CIA as they are elsewhere, as set out in sections 18, 35, 72 and 85 of the Act. However, any CIA published by a licensing authority must be summarised in its statement of licensing policy. Under section 5(6D) a licensing authority must also have regard to any CIA it has published when determining or revising its statement of licensing policy.

14.26 The CIA must include a statement saying that the licensing authority considers that the number of premises licences and/or club premises certificates in one or more parts of the area described is such that it is likely that granting further licences would be inconsistent with the authority's duty to promote the licensing objectives. As part of the publication a licensing authority must set out the evidential basis for its opinion.

14.27 CIAs may relate to premises licensed to carry on any licensable activity, including the sale of alcohol for consumption on or off the premises, and the provision of late night refreshment. This includes late night refreshment providers which are not licensed to sell alcohol. A CIA may relate to all premises licences and club premises certificates in the area described in the assessment or parts thereof, or only to premises of a particular kind described in the assessment. For example, it may be appropriate for the licensing authority to only include off-licences or nightclubs within the scope of its assessment. The licensing authority must make clear, when publishing its CIA, which premises types it applies to. CIAs do not apply to TENs; however it is open to the police and environmental health authority (as relevant persons) to refer to evidence published within a CIA when objecting to a TEN.

Effect of Cumulative Impact Assessments

14.39 When publishing a CIA a licensing authority is required to set out evidence of problems that are being caused or exacerbated by the cumulative impact of licensed premises in the area described. The evidence is used to justify the statement in the CIA that it is likely that granting further premises licences and/or club premises certificates in that area (limited to a kind described in the assessment), would be inconsistent with the authority's duty to promote the licensing objectives.

14.40 In publishing a CIA a licensing authority is setting down a strong statement of intent about its approach to considering applications for the grant or variation of premises licences or club premises certificates in the area described. Having published a CIA a licensing authority must have regard to the assessment when determining or revising its statement of licensing policy. It is therefore expected that, in respect of each relevant application in the area concerned, the licensing authority will be considering whether it is appropriate to make a representation to its committee as a responsible authority in its own right. The CIA does not, however,

change the fundamental way that licensing decisions are made. It is therefore open to the licensing authority to grant an application where it considers it is appropriate and where the applicant can demonstrate in the operating schedule that they would not be adding to the cumulative impact. Applications in areas covered by a CIA should therefore give consideration to potential cumulative impact issues when setting out the steps that will be taken to promote the licensing objectives. Where relevant representations are received and a licensing authority decides to grant an application it will need to provide the applicant, the chief officer of police and all parties who made relevant representations with reasons for granting the application and this should include any reasons for departing from their own policy.

14.41 The CIA must also stress that it does not relieve responsible authorities (or any other persons) of the need to make relevant representations where they consider it appropriate to do so for the promotion of the licensing objectives. Anyone making a representation may base it on the evidence published in the CIA, or the fact that a CIA has been published. It remains incumbent on all responsible authorities and other persons to ensure that their representations can withstand the scrutiny to which they would be subject at a hearing. As with all licensing applications under the 2003 Act, if there are no representations, the licensing authority must grant the application in terms that are consistent with the operating schedule submitted.

14.42 The absence of a CIA does not prevent any responsible authority or other person making representations on an application for the grant or variation of a licence on the grounds that the premises will give rise to a negative cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives. However, in each case it would be incumbent on the person making the representation to provide relevant evidence of cumulative impact.

14.43 As noted above, CIAs may apply to the impact of a concentration of any licensed premises, including those licensed for the sale of alcohol on or off the premises, and premises licensed to provide late night refreshment. When establishing its evidence base for publishing a CIA, licensing authorities should be considering the contribution to cumulative impact made by different types of premises within its area, in order to determine the appropriateness of including different types of licensed premises within the CIA.

Reviewing the CIA

14.35 After publishing a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) the licensing authority must, within three years, consider whether it remains of the opinion set out in the assessment. In order to decide whether it remains of this opinion it must again consult the persons listed in section 5(3). If having consulted with the statutory list of persons the licensing authority decides that it is no longer of the opinion set out in the CIA, it must publish a statement to that effect. The statement must make clear that any reference to the CIA in its licensing policy statement no longer applies. The licensing authority should remove any reference to the CIA within its licensing policy statement at the earliest opportunity.

14.38 As Cumulative Impact Policies (CIPs) were not part of the 2003 Act, there are no transitional provisions that apply to CIPs that were in place before 6 April 2018.

However, any existing CIPs should be reviewed at the earliest practical opportunity to ensure they comply with the legislation. It is recommended that the review should take place within three years of the commencement of the legislation on CIAs or when the licensing policy statement is next due for review, whichever is sooner. This will ensure that any CIPs in place before the commencement of the provisions on CIAs adhere to the principles in the legislation (in particular concerning relevant evidence and consultation).

10. The full statutory guidance relating to Cumulative Impact Assessment may be found [here](#).

11. The Licensing Policy has four main purposes, these are:

- To reinforce to elected members on the licensing committee, the boundaries and power of the local authority, and to provide them with parameters under which to make their decisions. The committee will be able to test the application against criteria set out in the policy and if necessary add conditions to those set out in the operating schedule.
- To inform the licence applicants of the parameters under which the authority will make licence decisions, set out examples of good management practice and therefore how a licensed premises is likely to be able to operate within an area. (Note however that each case must be examined on an individual basis).
- To inform residents and businesses of the parameters under which the authority will make licence decisions, and therefore how their needs will be addressed.
- To inform a court of law how the council arrived at its decisions when these are challenged in a court, and to support these decisions.

12. This consultation paper is aimed at local residents, businesses, existing licence holders and their representatives. Indeed, the council is anxious to receive the views of all interested parties.

13. The council has identified people and organisations that may be interested in responding to this consultation. However, the council would welcome the views of any interested parties and recipients should feel free to draw the attention of this paper to others who might be interested in responding to the consultation.

14. In order to comment in detail on the Cumulative Impact Assessments, respondents may first wish to refer to the guidance issued under the Act to local authorities by the Secretary of State, as well as the current Licensing Policy and the Licensing Act itself. These documents may be viewed on the council's website at www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk by searching for current consultations.

Copies of these documents have also been deposited for reference purposes at the council's customer service Hwbs at Unit A St Catherine's Walk, Carmarthen.

SA31 1GA or 41 Quay Street Ammanford SA18 3BS or 36 Stepney Street,
Llanelli, SA15 3TR.

Responding to the Consultation

15. Respondents are advised that any amendments to the content of the licensing policy must reflect the four (4) statutory licensing objectives. These are:-

- **The prevention of Crime and Disorder**
- **Public Safety**
- **The prevention of Public Nuisance**
- **The protection of Children from Harm**

16. Your views and evidence are important to the council in reaching a fair and proportionate licensing policy. **Please could you ensure that we receive your views by the 11th of August 2026, although an earlier response would be appreciated.**

17. To assist respondents, we have created an online survey, which includes questions requesting feedback on particular matters. Participants are advised that supplementary information such as statistics and supporting statements can be uploaded as an attachment to the survey in Word or PDF form

If you wish to receive a hardcopy of the questionnaire, please contact Emyr Jones whose contact details are given below.

The response document can also be e-mailed to us at publicprotection@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

18. All consultation responses will be taken into account during the policy review process. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to reply in detail to each consultation response.

19. Contact

Emyr Jones
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Healthy Communities and Public Protection
Department for Education and Leisure

Carmarthenshire County Council
3, Spilman Street
Carmarthen
SA31 1LE

Or by e-mail to: publicprotection@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.

20. If you require any further information regarding the consultation document or the Licensing Act, please contact the licensing section on 01267 228717.
This document is also available at :- www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**If you would like this document
in large print, Braille or on audiotape,
please phone:
 01267 228717**