



# B O S T O N

## B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 8QR

13 January 2021

Our ref:

Right Honourable Priti Patel MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department  
Palace of Westminster  
Westminster  
LONDON  
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Dear Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP, Home Secretary

### **Regulating & Safeguarding Boston's Economy**

As elected members of Boston Borough Council we are committed to ensuring a safe environment for our residents. Having received ongoing public complaints of anti-social behaviour within the borough and concerns relating to alcohol licensing, a task and finish group under the auspices of the parent Environmental & Performance Committee carried out an in depth review into regulating and safeguarding Boston's economy.

One strand of the review was to meet with representatives from both the Police and Council Licensing Teams. Following this meeting the Task and Finish Group made recommendations to take forward to Parliament. These recommendations were subsequently agreed and accepted by the Cabinet.

I set out below the recommendations approved by Cabinet and request that your department give due consideration to inviting Parliamentary consideration of the proposals; through amendments to the current licensing regime:

1. That a call for change in the legislation be tabled to prevent the sale of alcohol during an appeal period and that the Member of Parliament for Boston be asked to champion such a change regardless of the government's apparent lack of appetite to do so.
2. That the Government, take into consideration the significant loss of revenue to the UK from increasing sales of illicit tobacco, implement licensing of the sale of tobacco.
3. That closure of a business found to be in breach of its alcohol licence conditions be immediate until an official licensing hearing determined its future.



4. That the Police and senior council officers be empowered to serve fixed penalty notices for breach of licence conditions.
5. That all 11 responsible authorities be required to give consideration to all licence applications/reviews of licences.
6. That Parliament be asked for an increase in the alcohol licensing fees.

A copy of the full review can be viewed on our website at:

<https://modern.gov.boston.gov.uk/documents/s11217/Task%20and%20Finish%20Group%20Report.pdf>

I look forward to receiving your response.



Yours sincerely  
Paul Skinner  
Leader of Boston Borough Council

Cc Mr M Warman, MP for Boston & Skegness.