

JOELSON WILSON

ALCOHOL DISORDER ZONES

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- After nearly two years of debate, drafting and re-drafting, the Government's proposals for Alcohol Disorder Zones (or 'ADZs') finally came into force on 5th June 2008. Licensees whose premises are situated in an area which suffers from alcohol-related nuisance or disorder will be forced to pay the costs of additional policing and council enforcement activity if that area is designated as an ADZ.
- The procedure leading to the designation of an ADZ is complex. It involves a consultation process by the local authority followed by the publication of an "action plan" aimed at making the designation of the area as an ADZ unnecessary. However, the implementation of the action plan may still provide that premises licence holders in the area pay contributions to the costs of extra policing, for example.
- Once the action plan has been implemented, the local authority will decide whether this is sufficient to deal with alcohol-related annoyance to members of the public or disorder in the locality. At this point, if the action plan isn't working, the local authority may designate the area as an ADZ and all licence holders in that area will be required to pay monthly fees.
- Those premises whose principal use is not the sale or supply of alcohol will be exempt from the charge and substantial discounts from the payment may be granted to those licence holders who are able to demonstrate that they have complied with the steps set out in the action plan.
- It is essential that licence holders react quickly to any proposal to designate their local area as an ADZ and that they benefit from the assistance of licensing law specialists with extensive experience of making representations to licensing authorities and negotiating with both those authorities and the police.
- Lawyers in our specialist licensing and gaming team have over 25 years' experience of advising the licensed trade. Independently recommended as "*understanding all the licensing processes to the core...a real talent for liaising with authorities, officials and councils*", we are your ideal partners in resisting the designation of your area as an ADZ. We will advise you on how best to comply with an action plan in order to qualify for the highest possible discount from compulsory charges, and will negotiate on your behalf for an exemption from the charges where appropriate.

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Need to know more?

Ask us. *“Truly proactive practitioners, well versed in licensing law, greatly knowledgeable and utterly dependable in fighting its clients’ battles ...”* – Chambers Guide to the UK Legal Profession 2008. For information/advice on alcohol or entertainment licensing matters, gaming, betting, lotteries or remote gambling, please contact:

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This document is not intended to be a comprehensive review of all developments in the law or practice, or to cover all aspects of those referred to. Readers should take legal advice before applying the information contained in this publication to specific issues or transactions.

Joelson Wilson LLP

August 2008