

Licensing

Interim licences

Under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, only interim licences will be issued to people who apply for a new licence between 19 December 2012 and 18 June 2013. This factsheet covers what an interim licence is, and what options are available to applicants.

What is an interim licence?

An interim licence is a temporary licence that may be granted to people who apply for a new licence (except for special licences) between 19 December 2012 and 18 June 2013. During this time, the criteria in the old Act, the Sale of Liquor Act 1989, are still in effect.

An interim licence will only last for one year. If the holder wants to continue selling alcohol, they will have to apply for a new licence under the criteria of the new Act before the interim licence expires. There is no guarantee that the holder of an interim licence will be granted a new licence.

Who do interim licences affect?

Interim licences will affect all new licence applications between 19 December 2012 and 18 June 2013. This includes people who apply for a new licence for existing premises (eg, if a bar has a new owner who is applying for a licence).

Interim licences will not affect current licence holders or licence renewals.

Why are there interim licences?

Interim licences ensure that the broader criteria in the new Act cannot be circumvented during the transitional period.

The new Act's criteria will be used to decide applications received on and after 18 June 2013.

What should applicants do?

If you are applying for a new licence between 19 December 2012 and 18 June 2013 you have two options:

1. Defer the application until 18 June 2013
You will need to notify your district licensing agency that you would like to defer your application. You will not be able to sell alcohol in the meantime. The district licensing agency will hear your application after 18 June 2013. The new Act's criteria and grounds for public objection will apply. If you are granted a licence, it will last for one year and can be renewed for up to three years.

OR

2. Continue the application
The district licensing agency will hear your application under the criteria of the old Act. If your licence is granted, it will be an interim licence that expires after 12 months.

The costs of applying are the same

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regardless of which option you choose.

What happens when an interim licence expires?

If the holder wants to continue selling alcohol, they will have to apply for a new licence under the criteria of the new Act before the interim licence expires.

There is no guarantee the holder of an interim licence will be granted a new licence under the broader criteria of the new Act just because the applicant held an interim licence.