



1 May 2017

Hutt City Council
Private Bag 31912
Lower Hutt 5040

Dear Graham

Re: Submission on Draft Hutt City Local Alcohol Policy

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission on this consultation document.

Regional Public Health serves the greater Wellington region, through its three district health boards (DHBs): Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa and as a service is part of the Hutt Valley District Health Board.

We work with our community to make it a healthier safer place to live. We promote good health, prevent disease, and improve the quality of life for our population, with a particular focus on children, Māori and working with primary care organisations. Our staff includes a range of occupations such as: medical officers of health, public health advisors, health protection officers, public health nurses, and public health analysts.

We are happy to provide further advice or clarification on any of the points raised in our written submission. We wish to appear before the committee to speak to our submission. The contact point for this submission is:

Andrea Boston
Public Health Advisor
Email: Andrea.Boston@huttvalleydhb.org.nz
Phone: 04 570 9138

Kind regards

Dr Stephen Palmer
Medical Officer of Health

Peter Gush
Service Manager

Summary

Regional Public Health (RPH) supports all amendments to the current alcohol policy.

The amendment to include a maximum number of off-licences in certain areas has been carefully drafted assessing known harms and risk by location across Lower Hutt City. The amendment places an additional control on those areas that are of greatest concern.

This supports those in the community who have consistently raised concern with the number of off-licences and wish to have controls in the policy that ensure there are no more off-licence outlets.

Commentary

Hutt City Council consulted with the Medical Officer of Health prior to drafting the amendment as required under section 78(4) in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. This culminated in the briefing paper Alcohol in Health and Crime produced jointly with police.

The literature review concluded that there is a relationship between the density of off-licenced premises and alcohol related harm. Off-licences have been identified as the major supplier of alcohol and it is these supply outlets that have been identified by communities as being of most concern.

All communities have some degree of alcohol related harm. However some communities exhibit higher levels of alcohol related harm than others. Not all harms directly caused by alcohol are measurable, the majority are not. However research indicates that the demography of a districts population and other indicators such as health and crime are good indicators of risk.

RPH developed a risk matrix for Lower Hutt residents categorising level of risk by area unit location. This matrix used hospital admissions diagnostic data analysed to determine their contribution to alcohol injury and disease plus demographic indicators known to have a higher risk of alcohol related harm to identify those area units of greater risk. This assisted council select those locations where density controls would assist in reducing harm and provide a more balanced alcohol harm burden across all communities.

We support the introduction of density controls to the policy such that no new off- licences be issued in the following communities:

Naenae
Stokes Valley
Taita
Avalon
Hutt Central
Wainuiomata.