

# RURAL CITY LIVING

26 February 2025

██████████  
Health Promotion Advisor, Alcohol Healthwatch  
██████████



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Dear ██████████

Thank you for your request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, received by the Gore District Council on 5 February 2025.

You asked a number of questions specifically about the number of off-licences and on-licences that operate in our territorial authority, and those that may deliver remotely.

The majority of our district is operated through the Matura Licencing Trust, and as a result, we do not have the same number of licensed premises (or new premises/operators) as other territorial authority; and additionally, supermarkets within the Trust's area are not permitted to sell alcohol.

Please see the responses to each of your questions in turn.

1. How many off-licences were operating in your territorial authority boundaries as at 31st December 2024 (if you cannot confirm at that specific date, how many off-licences do you currently have operating in your territorial authority boundaries? Please kindly confirm which date you have used).

There are 12 off-licences operating within the territorial authority boundry as at 31 December 2024

2. Of these, please advise how many are endorsed under section 40 (i.e. remote sellers only).

There is one endorsed under section 40.

3. We are interested in getting a sense of how many licensees are engaging in remote delivery, and while we understand that off-licences not endorsed under section 40 can start delivering remotely without notifying you, if you have any figures for off-licences that have delivered remotely in the last year we would appreciate seeing that as well.

To the best of our knowledge, we understand that three deliver remotely and this includes the one remote seller.

4. How many on-licences were operating in your territorial authority boundaries as at 31st December 2024 (if you cannot confirm at that specific date, how many off-licences do you currently have operating in your territorial authority boundaries? Please kindly confirm which date you have used)

There are 9 on-licences were operating in this territorial authority boundry as at 31st December 2024

5. A copy of your most recent annual report to the Alcohol Regulatory & Licensing Authority (ARLA). This is submitted in an online format.

A copy of the responses to ARLA's online questions are attached. If you are unsatisfied with the response, you are entitled to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsmen.

You can find more information on its website [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact me on 03 209-0330.

Yours sincerly



Lornae Straith  
General Manager Corporate Support / Chief Financial Officer

## Questions:

1. Please provide the name of your District Licensing Committee, and a generic email address to which general correspondence will be certain of a response. **Gore District Council**, [alcohol@goredc.govt.nz](mailto:alcohol@goredc.govt.nz)
2. Please provide the name, email, and contact phone number of your Committee's Secretary. **Debbie Lascelles**, [dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz](mailto:dlascelles@goredc.govt.nz) 209 0330
3. Please name each of your licensing inspectors and provide their email and contact phone number. **Frances Shepherd**, [fshepherd@goredc.govt.nz](mailto:fshepherd@goredc.govt.nz) [REDACTED]
4. The following questions relate to the number of licences and managers' certificates your Committee issued and refused in the 2023/24 financial year.

**Note: the 2023/24 financial year runs from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.**

### **Licences 2023/24**

4A: In the 2023/24 year, how many total Applications did your committee grant for New 'on licences' and to renew existing 'on licences'? **1**

4B: In the 2023/24 year, how many total Applications did your committee refuse for New 'on licences' and to renew existing 'on licences'? **0**

4C: In the 2023/24 year, how many total Applications did your committee grant for New 'off licences' and to renew existing 'off licences'? **0**

4D: In the 2023/24 year, how many total Applications did your committee refuse for New 'off licences' and to renew existing 'off licences'? **0**

4E: In the 2023/24 year, how many total Applications did your committee grant for New 'club licences' and to renew existing 'club licences'? **0**

4F: In the 2023/24 year, how many total Applications did your committee refuse for New 'club licences' and to renew existing 'club licences'? **0**

### **Managers' certificates 2023/24**

4G: In the 2023/24 year, how many managers' certificates did your Committee issue? **24 (new only)**

4H: In the 2023/24 year, how many applications for managers' certificates did your Committee refuse? **0 (new only)**

4I: In the 2023/24 year, how many applications for managers' certificates were withdrawn? **0**

### **Renewals 2023/24**

4J: In the 2023/24 year, how many licence renewals did your Committee issue? **13**

4K: In the 2023/24 year, how many licence renewals did your Committee refuse? **0**

4L: In the 2023/24 year, how many managers' certificate renewals did your committee issue? **28**

4M: In the 2023/24 year, how many managers' certificate renewals did your committee refuse? **0**

4N: As at 30 June 2024 what is the total number of On-Licences (new and existing) in your licensing district? **7**

4O: As at 30 June 2024 what is the total number of Off-Licences (new and existing) in your licensing district? **12**

4P: As at 30 June 2024 what is the total number of Club-Licences (new and existing) in your licensing district? **17**

5. Please comment on any changes or trends in the Committee's workload in 2023/24.

The past 12 months have seen an increase in the number of special licences being applied for as clubs and organisations continue to recover from the effects of Covid and now looking to host events/functions and the cost of living has also had an impact on the number of events being held and supported in the district.

A total of 62 special licences were applied for (71 the previous year). None of these applications attracted any opposition from the Police or the Medical Officer of Health and all were issued.

A total of 52 applications were received for manager's certificates during the past twelve months. There were 24 new certificates and 28 renewals. These applications were unopposed and have been granted or renewed.

6. Please comment on any new initiatives the Committee has developed/adopted in 2023/24.

The Committee continues to support the local liquor liaison group known as SEAL, which comprises of inspectors and support staff from Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council, Gore and Invercargill Police and Public Health South. This group meets monthly (many via Zoom over the past year) to talk through issues that we are experiencing in our own areas. The group continues to work together on a variety of projects to provide consistent and clear guidance to licensees and applicants applying for special licences and manager's certificates in our areas. This is a successful group which has been meeting for several years now.

- 7A. Has your Committee developed a Local Alcohol Policy?

Yes or No

- 7B. If the answer is yes, what stage is your Local Alcohol Policy at?

Draft

Provisional

Under Appeal to ARLA

Adopted

In force

Abandoned

8. If the answer to 7 is Yes, what effect do you consider your Local Alcohol Policy is having?

The LAP provides consistency to applicants and licensees. Most of our district is a licensing trust area therefore we do not have the same number of licensed premises (or new premises/operators) as our neighbours. We produced our LAP alongside our neighbouring Councils in an effort to provide consistency across the southern region.

9. If the answer to 7A is 'in force', is your Local Alcohol Policy due for review? 2026

10. If the answer to 9 is Yes, has such a review been undertaken; and, if so with what result?

N/A

11. Please comment on the manner in which Covid-19 has impacted on DLC operations.

~~The operation of the DLC did not significantly change during Covid-19. No hearings were held and all applications were processed in a timely manner~~

12. Please comment on the ways in which you believe the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 is, or is not, achieving its object. Note: the object of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 is that:

- a) *the sale, supply, and consumption of alcohol should be undertaken safely and responsibly; and*
- b) *the harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol should be minimised.*

The Act ensures that in licensed premises there is consistency and accountability to ensure licensees are supplying alcohol in a manner to ensure that it is being consumed safely while on the premises and they are not supplying prohibited persons (including off sales).

The Act cannot control the consumption when off sales are made.

13. What changes or trends in licensing have you seen since the Act came into force?

We have a licensing trust that covers most of our district so we do not see the same issues with proliferation of licensed premises. There is certainly consistency in how licensees are required to operate and this is evident with the minimal number of licensed premises within our area and limited operators.

14. What changes to practices and procedures under the Act would you find beneficial?

Online sales / deliveries – we believe it is time for a review of how these are managed. This is becoming more popular way for people to purchase alcohol and the check and measures in place a ticking a couple of boxes online. Tighter requirements for delivery/signing for product/ID checks needs to be considered.

A number of licensees are continuing to find it hard to find staff and retain them in the hospitality industry. Licensees continue to remark that it is OK to purchase alcohol at 18 but yet applicants must be 20 years to obtain a managers certificate and wondered if there is any likelihood this age limit would be looked at to allow people 18 years to obtain a managers certificate.

**NB: Additionally, in accordance with the Authority's obligations prescribed in s 65(1) of the Act would you also please provide to [ARLA@justice.govt.nz](mailto:ARLA@justice.govt.nz) a separate detailed list of the names, addresses and types of licensed premises currently operating in your licensing district?**