

Invercargill District Licensing Committee Annual Report to the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority For the period ended 30 June 2026



Purpose

Section 199 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 requires a report to be submitted prior to 30 September 2026 from the District Licensing Committee to the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority covering the period ending 30 June 2026.

1. Overview of the District Licensing Committee Workload

(a) DLC Structure and personnel

Councillor Darren Ludlow is the Chairperson of the Invercargill District Licensing Committee (IDLC), with Councillor Ria Bond and Councillor Andrea de Vries as members.

For unopposed applications, the Chairperson alone forms the quorum and may determine the application. Where an application is opposed, the quorum consists of the Chairperson and two list members. The Chairperson also forms the quorum for Temporary Authority applications.

Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council work together to implement the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. This allows each to co-opt from their list members.

Jonathan Shaw is Secretary to the Invercargill District Licensing Committee. The Invercargill District Licensing Committee (IDLC) is supported by a full-time Licensing Support Officer and a dedicated Alcohol Licensing Inspector. Both positions report to the Team Leader Environmental Health, who holds the role of Chief Licensing Inspector. This structure provides administrative, regulatory, and inspection support to the Committee in carrying out its functions under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

The IDLC received 293 applications for period of 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

The Invercargill district includes a Licensing Trust area where the monopoly provisions of section 350 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 apply. As a result, premises within the Trust area are prohibited from operating as taverns, hotels, or bottle stores.

To ensure compliance with these provisions, on-licences are issued with conditions that define the nature and purpose of the premises. Restaurants must operate principally as places where food is provided, with the sale and supply of alcohol remaining ancillary to dining.

Similarly, premises licensed as entertainment venues or function venues are subject to conditions that ensure their operation remains consistent with the requirements and intent of section 350 and does not encroach on activities reserved to the Licensing Trust.

Decision	On Licence	Off Licence	Club Licence	Remote S40	Manager's Certificates
Expired	1	0	0	0	79
Surrendered	0	0	0	0	0
Withdrawn	0	0	0	0	0
Issued	8	1	0	2	89
Renewed	18	10	12	0	135
Refused	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number	74	24	44	3	427

(b) DLC Meetings and Hearings

The Committee meets weekly to consider and discuss applications. Decisions are approved by email, and licences and certificates are issued electronically to applicants. In accordance with ARLA requirements, a copy of each application, together with the relevant decision and issued licence or certificate, is forwarded to ARLA.

Public hearings are conducted in an open, welcoming, and supportive manner to encourage community participation. Each hearing is opened and closed with a karakia. Standing at the commencement and conclusion of proceedings is no longer required. Members of the public who have lodged objections are encouraged to visit the Council Chambers beforehand to familiarise themselves with the venue and hearing environment.

Two public hearings were held during the period ending 30 June 2026.

On 26 November 2025, the IDLC conducted a public hearing in relation to a new On-Licence application submitted by GANA Limited. The application was not opposed by any of the reporting agencies. Two public objections were received; however, these primarily related to parking and noise concerns rather than matters relevant to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. Following consideration of the application and objections, the IDLC granted the On-Licence with a latest closing time of 10.00 pm.

On 29 April 2026, the IDLC conducted a public hearing in relation to the renewal applications for the On-Licence and Off-Licence held by Golden Age Tavern (2018) Limited. The applications were opposed by the Licensing Inspector, New Zealand Police, and the Medical Officer of Health under sections 105(1)(a), (b), (d) and (j), and 131(1)(a) and (c) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. The opposition primarily related to concerns regarding the adequacy of the licensee's systems, staffing, and staff training. Following consideration of the evidence presented, the Committee determined that both licences should be renewed, subject to a reduced renewal period of one year, with the licences due for renewal again in March 2027.

2. DLC Initiatives

Most applications are submitted electronically via email, and licences and manager's certificates are issued digitally. Work is underway to enable full online lodgement through functionality on Council's new website, with implementation currently expected in early 2027.

Public notices are published on Council's website to ensure statutory timeframes are met. Information on current special licences and licensed premises is also available online.

To streamline the renewal process, applicants renewing a manager's certificate are required to complete a questionnaire rather than attend an interview. Face-to-face interviews remain mandatory for all new manager's certificate applications.

Following changes in legislation On-licences are being updated as part of the renewal process. The last On-licences renewals completed prior to the legislative changes will be reviewed and amended as time and resources permit.

3. Local Alcohol Policy effect

Invercargill City Council has a current Local Alcohol Policy (LAP) adopted 27 April 2026 and In Force 29 April 2026 with the exception of maximum trading hours for off-licences, which came into force on 29 June 2026.

The Policy will be reviewed after an initial period of five (5) years and thereafter every six (6) years, unless an earlier review is required.

Key changes from the previous policy include:

- Consultation with sensitive sites is required where a licensed premises is located within 100 metres of a childcare or educational facility, religious premises, residential activity, community facility, or marae.
- Consultation is not required where a new licence application arises solely from a change of ownership, provided the licence type and scope remain the same as those of the existing licence.
- The latest permitted closing time for off-licences is 10.00pm.
- The use of "Buy Now, Pay Later" payment services for the sale and supply of alcohol is prohibited.
- Special licences will not be granted for events held on school grounds or for events primarily focused on children and young people.

As a result of the new policy, seventeen (17) off-licences within the district were amended to reflect the revised maximum closing time.

4. Legislation – The Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Sales On ANZAC Day Morning, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Christmas Day) Amendment Act 2026

Legislation changes effective 3 April 2026 remove restrictions on the sale of alcohol on statutory days for On-licences only. The provisions of the Act take precedence over any existing licence conditions.

While licences are not required to be updated until renewal, it is considered best practice to amend licence conditions where practicable to ensure they accurately reflect current legislative requirements.

5. Changes, trends and initiatives

During the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, two On-licences ceased. One restaurant entered liquidation on 2 June 2026, and another chose not to renew its On-licence, which expired on 29 May 2026.

One club consolidation was unsuccessful, with one club withdrawing from the process and the other remaining in place to assume the club licence.

Organisers of large events continue to report challenges in sourcing canned low-alcohol beverage options. Demand for non-alcoholic beverages also remains stronger than for low-alcohol products.

Applicants submitting a high number of Special Licence applications are encouraged by licensing agencies to consider whether obtaining an On-licence would be a more suitable and efficient licensing arrangement, where applicable.

Enquiries continue to be received regarding emerging alcohol-related activities such as party buses, “sip and paint” events, and bottomless brunches, with guidance provided on licensing requirements, host responsibility, and special licence obligations.

Reporting agencies have advised that they intend to deliver Drink Safe workshops to sports clubs, focusing on key areas of responsible alcohol management, including host responsibility, the management of intoxicated patrons, age verification requirements, and compliance with the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

Work has been undertaken with local Four-Square operators to relocate single alcohol sales displays away from store entrances, reducing the visibility of alcohol products and supporting the responsible sale and supply of alcohol in line with the objectives of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

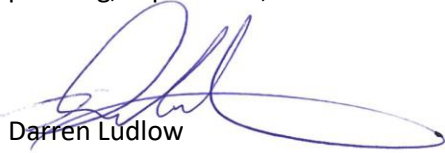
6. Statistical information

Annual Return and Current listing of Licensed Premises are attached to this Report.

Conclusion

While district-specific data on alcohol-related harm and domestic violence is not readily available, broader evidence suggests that off-licensed premises remain a significant contributor to alcohol-related harm. The promotion of events such as Crate Day through social media and radio advertising is also unhelpful from a harm-minimisation perspective, as it can encourage excessive alcohol consumption and undermine efforts to promote responsible drinking behaviours. Similarly, a culture of excessive alcohol use continues to be associated with some rugby-related events, although reporting agencies are actively working with organisers to address these concerns.

Conversely, on-licensed premises operate within a regulated environment that includes certified managers, host responsibility practices, and the active monitoring of patron behaviour, providing greater opportunities to minimise harm. Annual events such as the Ascot Park Christmas at the Races, Burt Munro Challenge, and George Begg Festival continue to show ongoing improvements in planning, management, and harm-minimisation measures, while the Distilled Festival's inaugural Invercargill event in February 2026 demonstrated a high standard of organisation and responsible alcohol management. These examples highlight the positive outcomes that can be achieved through effective planning, supervision, and a commitment to responsible drinking practices.



Darren Ludlow

Chairperson

Invercargill District Licensing Committee

Annual Report under Regulation 19 of the Sale And Supply of Alcohol (Fees) Regulations 2013 for the Period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026



Background

Regulation 19 Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Fees) Regulations 2013 requires an annual report on income and expenditure:

Every territorial authority must, each year, prepare and make publicly available a report showing its income from fees payable in relation to, and its costs incurred in, —

- (a) the performance of the functions of its licensing committee under the Act; and*
- (b) the performance of the functions of its inspectors under the Act; and*
- (c) undertaking enforcement activities under the Act.*

Income

The income from fees payable under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 for the **period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026** was \$181,159.

Costs

The costs incurred in performance of the functions as set out in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 are:

(a) District Licensing Committee	\$183,865.40 ⁽¹⁾
(b) Alcohol Licensing Inspectors, support staff and associated costs	\$170,330.40
(c) Undertaking enforcement activities	– (2)

Notes:

1. This amount is made up of the \$170,330.40 for point (b) and also includes \$13,535 of fees paid to the Alcohol Regulatory Licensing Authority, \$4350.00 of fees to the DLC chairperson and committee members; the balance relates to administration and other associated costs.
2. The inspector's work included enforcement and costs of which are covered within that budget.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gillian Cavanagh".

Gillian Cavanagh

MANAGER – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Dated: 30 September 2026

Annual Return (Fees) to Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority

Territorial Authority:

Annual Return for the Year Ending 30 June 2026

On-licence, Off-licence and Club Licence Applications Received						
Application Type	Number received in Fee Category - Very Low (17.25)	Number Received in Fee Category - Low (34.50)	Number Received in Fee Category - Medium (51.75)	Number Received in Fee Category - High	Number Received in Fee Category - Very High (172.50)	Total
On-licence new		3	4			
On-licence variation			1			
On-licence renewal		9	11	1		
Off-Licence new		1	1			
Off-licence variation						
Off-licence renewal		4	7			
Club licence new						
Club licence variation						
Club licence renewal	4	7				
Total number	4	24	24	1		
Total fees paid to ARLA (GST incl)	69	828	1242	86.25		2225.25
Annual Fees for Existing Licences Received						
Licence Type	Number received in Fee Category - Very Low (17.25)	Number Received in Fee Category - Low (34.50)	Number Received in Fee Category - Medium (51.75)	Number Received in Fee Category - High	Number Received in Fee Category - Very High	Total
On-licence	3	26	44	5		
Off-licence		6	14	7		
Club licence	13	29	1			
Total number	16	61	59	12		
Total fees payable to ARLA (incl GST)	276	2104.5	3053.25	1035		6468.75

Manager's Certificate Applications Received							
Application Type						Number Received	
Manager's Certificates new						100	
Managers' Certificates renewal						139	
Total number						239	
Total fees paid to ARLA)(GST incl).						6871.25	6871.25
Special Licence Applications Received							
				Number Received in Category - Class 1	Number Received in Category - Class 2	Number Received in Category - Class 3	
Special licence				14	34	79	
Temporary Authority Applications Received						Number Received	
Temporary authority						3	
Permanent Club Charter Payments Received						Number Received	
Permanent club charter payments						1	
TOTAL PAID TO ARLA (incl. GST)						15565.25	

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2ND NZEF ASSOCIATION
550 TAY STREET
BLUFF BOWLING CLUB
BLUFF GOLF CLUB
BLUFF MEMORIAL RSA
BLUFF RFC
CLUB SOUTHLAND
COLDSTREAM CLUB
COLLEGIATE RFC
GEORGETOWN BOWLING CLUB
GREEN ACRES COUNTRY CLUB
INVERCARGILL (BLUES) RFC
INVERCARGILL BOWLING CLUB
INVERCARGILL CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB
INVERCARGILL GOLF CLUB
INVERCARGILL MUSICAL THEATRE
INVERCARGILL NORTHEAST BOWLING CLUB
INVERCARGILL WORKINGMEN'S CLUB
KARTSPORT SOUTHLAND
KEW BOWLING CLUB
MAKAREWA COUNTRY CLUB
MAKAREWA SQUASH RACKETS CLUB
MARIST BROTHERS OLD BOYS RC
OLD BOYS AFC
OTATARA BOWLING CLUB
OTEPUNI COMMUNITY HUB
PIRATES OLD BOYS RUGBY CLUB
QUEENS PARK GOLF CLUB
RIVERSIDE SPEEDWAY
SOUTHEAST UNITED
SOUTHLAND CLAY TARGET CLUB
SOUTHLAND INDOOR BOWLS CENTRE
SOUTHLAND REFEREES CLUB
SQUASH CITY
STAR RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
TE RANGI BOWLING CLUB
TERETONGA PARK
THISTLE AFC
VINTAGE CAR CLUB
WAIHOPAI AFC
WAIHOPAI BOWLING CLUB
WAIKIWI BOWLING CLUB
WAIKIWI RFC
WAVERLEY BOWLING CLUB

ASCOT PARK MOTOR HOTEL
BLUFF DISTILLERY
BOTTLE-O BLUFF
BOTTLE-O OTATARA
CENTREPOINT LIQUORLAND

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INVERCARGILL REPERTORY SOCIETY
 INVITO FUSION RESTAURANT
 KELVIN HOTEL
 KICKSTART CAFE AT MOTORCYCLE MECCA
 KOJI JAPANESE RESTAURANT
 KOREAN BOB
 LONE STAR CAFE & BAR
 LOUIE'S SWAN ROOM
 MAIN STREET CAFE & RESTAURANT
 MAMA SAN INVERCARGILL
 MASH CATERING
 MO:MO GHAR
 NEWFIELD TAVERN
 NORTHERN TAVERN
 OCEAN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
 OUTPOST AT THE CABBAGE TREE
 OYSTER COVE
 PINCH OF SPICE
 PRIME GOLF INVERCARGILL
 READING CINEMAS INVERCARGILL
 ROWENA JACKSON RETIREMENT VILLAGE
 SAL'S PIZZA INVERCARGILL
 SALT RESTAURANT & BAR
 SIT CENTRESTAGE
 SOUTHLAND BUSINESS CHAMBER
 SOUTHLAND MUSICIANS CLUB
 SOUTHLAND TAVERN
 SPEIGHT'S ALE HOUSE
 STADIUM SOUTHLAND
 SUPERBOWL
 TE PUKENGA
 TE RAU O TE HUIA CAMPUS
 THAI OPAL
 THAI THAI RESTAURANT
 THE AUCTION HOUSE CAFE & BAR
 THE CHEEKY LLAMA
 THE EAGLE
 THE GRILLE
 THE LANGLANDS
 THE MAURYA'S
 THE ROCKS CAFE & SHOP 5
 TILLERMANS VINYL BAR AND DEVIL BURGER
 TRANSPORT WORLD
 TUATARA BACKPACKERS AND CAFE
 WAIKIWI TAVERN
 WAXY O'SHEA'S
 WAYFARER INVERCARGILL
 ZIFF'S CAFE & BAR