

Camden's Statement of Licensing Policy consultation 2025 - 2030: Response Summary

Appendix 2

The Camden Statement of Licensing Policy consultation commenced on 17 December 2024 and ended on 14 March 2025. The consultation invited responses through an open access online survey. The online consultation received 177 responses, and 11 responses were received by email. A high percentage of respondents answered “unsure” to a number of questions.

Responses received by email

Respondent	Submission comment	Response
Metropolitan Police	The Police consider that a risk assessment is needed in order for applicants to produce their operating schedule. This would assist in selecting the appropriate conditions to minimise risk, especially with regards to crime and disorder.	The section on Risk assessment has been amended and reintroduced to the policy
Covent Garden Community Association (CGCA)	The CGCA in conjunction with the Police, industry representative and other community groups have proposed a revision of the model conditions. The CGCA have asserted their view of the importance of the policy requesting a risk assessment from applicants	<p>The model conditions have been further amended and aligned with the recommendations of the stakeholders, at appendix 5</p> <p>The section on Risk assessment has been amended and reintroduced to the policy</p> <p>An additional paragraph to set out expectation to review dispersal policy has been included in Appendix 3</p> <p>Paragraph 4.53 which addresses Public Nuisance has been amended</p>
Charlotte Street Association	The Charlotte Street Association urges Camden to reconsider the extended framework hours due to the impact on residential amenities and suggests refining licensing conditions for clarity and practicality. They also propose additional conditions to address takeaway delivery noise, women's safety, and alcohol sales restrictions.	<p>Paragraph 5.8 has been amended to emphasise that applicants should consider appropriate condition in their operating schedule to prevent crime & disorder and public nuisance regardless of hours.</p> <p><i>“Whatever the hours within which licensable activities are proposed, we expect the applicant to consider the risk and volunteer appropriate conditions in their operating schedule to promote the licensing objectives and in particular to prevent crime and disorder and public nuisance.”</i></p> <p>The model conditions have been further amended and aligned with the recommendations of the stakeholders, at appendix 5</p>

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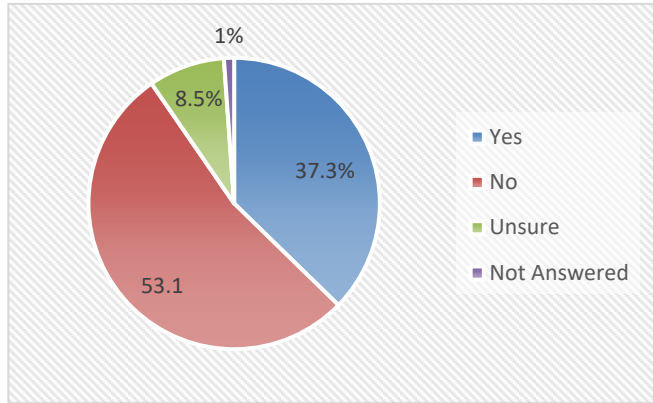
Shaftesbury Capital	Shaftesbury Capital strongly supports Camden's proposed licensing policy as it balances economic growth with public safety. They encourage the removal of SPAs, the modest extension of Framework Hours, and the implementation of risk assessments and updated model conditions. Additionally, they emphasize the importance of ensuring women's safety and inclusivity in Camden's night-time economy.	Noted
Primrose Hill Conservation Area Advisory Committee	The Advisory Committee supports improved community engagement, monitoring, and enforcement but opposes framework hour extensions until stronger safeguards and enforcement measures are established.	<p>Noted</p> <p>Paragraph 5.8 has been amended to emphasise that applicants should consider appropriate conditions in their operating schedule to prevent crime & disorder and public nuisance regardless of hours.</p> <p><i>"Whatever the hours within which licensable activities are proposed, we expect the applicant to consider the risk and volunteer appropriate conditions in their operating schedule to promote the licensing objectives and in particular to prevent crime and disorder and public nuisance."</i></p> <p>An additional paragraph to set out expectation to review dispersal policy has been included in Appendix 3</p>
Peter Bloxham	Peter Bloxham objects to the proposed changes in Camden's Licensing Policy, arguing that they weaken essential protections against public nuisance and antisocial behavior. He believes the policy prioritizes business interests over residents' well-being. That the policy should improve enforcement, and ensure businesses take responsibility for their impact on residents.	<p>Noted</p> <p>Paragraph 5.8 has been amended to emphasise that applicants should consider appropriate conditions in their operating schedule to prevent crime & disorder and public nuisance regardless of hours.</p> <p><i>"Whatever the hours within which licensable activities are proposed, we expect the applicant to consider the risk and volunteer appropriate conditions in their operating schedule to promote the licensing objectives and in particular to prevent crime and disorder and public nuisance."</i></p>
The Barbary and The Barbary Next Door (Neals Yard)	The founders of The Barbary and The Barbary Next Door support Camden's new licensing proposals, particularly the extension of Framework Hours. They believe these changes will help independent hospitality businesses thrive while maintaining responsible operations.	Noted

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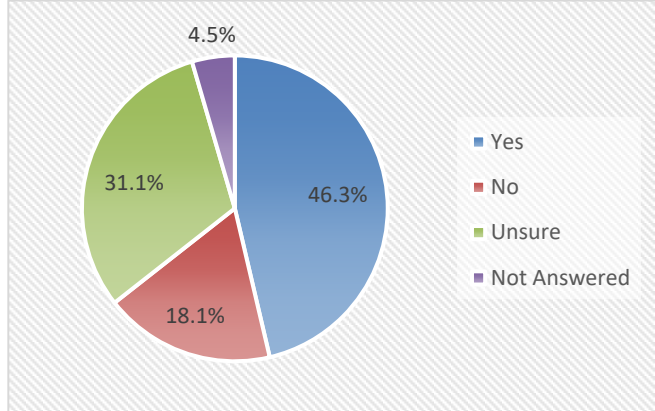
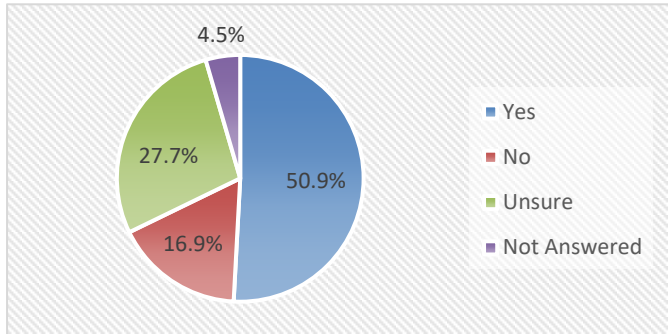
KERB (Andrew Stones)	KERB strongly supports Camden's proposed licensing changes, arguing that they will remove barriers for small businesses, boost entrepreneurship, and positively impact Camden's hospitality and retail sectors.	Noted
Chick n Sours (David Wolanski)	<p>Welcomes the proposed changes that will hopefully make it easier for small aspiring restaurateurs to open in Seven Dials and beyond.</p> <p>Local resident groups and the authorities would still have plenty of power and opportunity to restrict licence hours and conditions etc. where there are specific concerns.</p>	Noted
Ryan Heng	Strongly objects to the extension of the Framework hours by 30 minutes.	<p>Paragraph 5.8 has been amended to emphasise that applicants should consider appropriate condition in their operating schedule to prevent crime & disorder and public nuisance regardless of hours.</p> <p><i>"Whatever the hours within which licensable activities are proposed, we expect the applicant to consider the risk and volunteer appropriate conditions in their operating schedule to promote the licensing objectives and in particular to prevent crime and disorder and public nuisance."</i></p>
Compagnie des Vins Surnaturels Wine Bar in Neal's Yard	<p>Supports the proposal to extend framework hours. The positive changes will help our neighbours and any fledgling independent hospitality businesses looking to move to the area.</p> <p>Considers that there are still plenty of controls under licensing regimes and policy to provide local residents and the authorities with the protection they need.</p>	Noted

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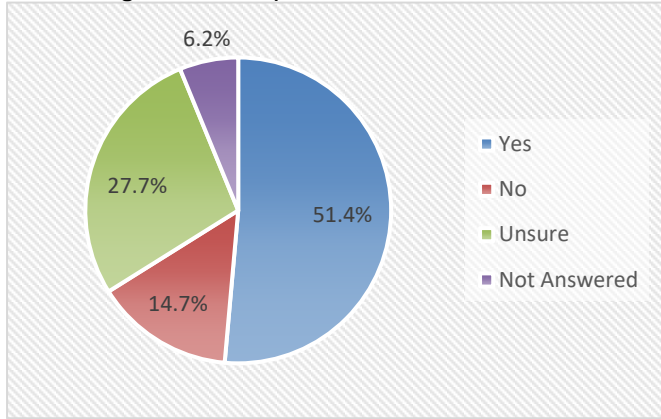
Responses from online survey

Theme	Responses	Comments Summary										
1. In your opinion does the draft Policy balance the interests of residents, businesses, and visitors?	<p>A total of 175 responses received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">53% respondents all of whom are residents did not agree that the draft policy balances their interest.37% respondents all of whom are either venues, trade group or employees agreed that the policy did balances interest of both residents and businesses,8% were unsure.1% gave no response.  <table><tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>Yes</td><td>37.3%</td></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>53.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Unsure</td><td>8.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Not Answered</td><td>1%</td></tr></table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	37.3%	No	53.1%	Unsure	8.5%	Not Answered	1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A significant number focus on the proposal to extend framework hours by 30 minutes.Residents consider longer operating hours will lead to increased noise, late-night disturbances, and anti-social behaviour.Respondent expressed concern about inadequate enforcement and policing, pointing out that existing problems (such as drug dealing, noise, and disorderly behaviour) are likely to be exacerbated.Respondents suggest stronger enforcement measures, including more visible policing and better management of public nuisance.Some respondents agree the policy provides a positive boost for businesses and customers.Several comments underline the importance of a vibrant night-time economy as a driver for employment, cultural exchange, and overall economic growth.Some consider that a well-regulated, business-friendly environment enhances safety and reduces unregulated activities attracting people to well managed venues.Several comments consider that the wording for the Prevention of Public Nuisance licensing objective in Chapter 4 should be strengthened.to align with the Prevention of Crime and Disorder.
Response	Percentage											
Yes	37.3%											
No	53.1%											
Unsure	8.5%											
Not Answered	1%											

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2. Engagement with local communities and Responsible Authorities as part of the pre-application advice service will improve the licensing process. Do you agree?	<p>A total of 169 responses were received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 46% agreed engagement with local communities, and responsible authorities improve the licensing process• 18% disagreed• 31% were unsure• 5% gave no response  <table><thead><tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Yes</td><td>46.3%</td></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>18.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Unsure</td><td>31.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Not Answered</td><td>4.5%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	46.3%	No	18.1%	Unsure	31.1%	Not Answered	4.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respondents suggest structured dialogue helps to address potential issues before applications are submitted. Further early engagement with local communities and responsible authorities will improve the licensing process.• Responses highlight that the policy should mandate, rather than encourage early engagement.• Responses indicate scepticism about whether local residents' views genuinely influence licensing decisions.
Response	Percentage											
Yes	46.3%											
No	18.1%											
Unsure	31.1%											
Not Answered	4.5%											
3. In your opinion are the measures in the draft Policy (e.g. adoption of the Women's Night Safety Charter) effective in ensuring safety for women in Camden?	<p>A total of 169 responses were received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 51% agreed.• 17% did not agree• 28% were unsure.  <table><thead><tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Yes</td><td>50.9%</td></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>16.9%</td></tr><tr><td>Unsure</td><td>27.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Not Answered</td><td>4.5%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	50.9%	No	16.9%	Unsure	27.7%	Not Answered	4.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 87 substantive comments were made in response to this question.• Several respondents express support for the adoption of the Women's Night Safety Charter, considering it an important step toward improving safety.• Some respondents acknowledge that raising awareness and setting safety expectations for licensed premises is beneficial and believe more concrete action is needed beyond policy commitments, such as mandatory training for venue staff and enforcement of safety standards.• Multiple comments stress the importance of proper training for bar staff, security personnel, and venue managers to
Response	Percentage											
Yes	50.9%											
No	16.9%											
Unsure	27.7%											
Not Answered	4.5%											

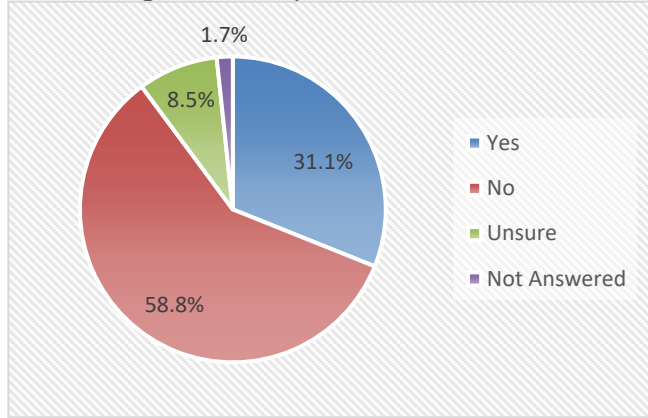
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		<p>recognize and respond to harassment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Many comments highlight the importance of enforcement, noting that licensing conditions must be strictly monitored to ensure compliance, respondents argue that venues should be held accountable for implementing safety measures, and there should be clear penalties for non-compliance.										
<p>4. In your opinion do the measures outlined in the draft Policy adequately address drink spiking and other alcohol-related harms?</p>	<p>A total of 166 responses received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">51% agreed the measures were adequate15% disagreed28% were unsure.6% gave no response.  <table><thead><tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Yes</td><td>51.4%</td></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>14.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Unsure</td><td>27.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Not Answered</td><td>6.2%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	51.4%	No	14.7%	Unsure	27.7%	Not Answered	6.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Respondents question whether the draft policy will effectively prevent drink spiking. Some consider clearer and enforceable actions are needed.Respondents emphasised the need for strict enforcement of safety measures in venues.Respondents suggested for penalties for venues that fail to protect customers from drink spiking incidents.Several respondents suggest training for bar staff and security personnel should be compulsory.
Response	Percentage											
Yes	51.4%											
No	14.7%											
Unsure	27.7%											
Not Answered	6.2%											

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5. In your opinion does the draft licensing Policy promote inclusivity in Camden's licensed venues?	<p>A total of 163 responses received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•48% agreed the policy promoted inclusivity•11% did not agree• 33% were unsure.•8% gave no response.  <table><tr><td>Yes</td><td>48.0%</td></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>11.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Unsure</td><td>32.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Not Answered</td><td>7.9%</td></tr></table>	Yes	48.0%	No	11.3%	Unsure	32.8%	Not Answered	7.9%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respondents agree on the importance of inclusivity.• Respondents suggested stronger monitoring and accountability for venues that fail to promote inclusivity.• Responses highlight that venues should implement tangible steps such as staff training and anti-discrimination policies.• Respondents highlight that public awareness campaigns and education initiatives could help shift the culture toward greater inclusivity.
Yes	48.0%									
No	11.3%									
Unsure	32.8%									
Not Answered	7.9%									
6. In your opinion does the draft licensing Policy promote accessibility in Camden's licensed venues?	<p>A total of 164 responses received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•45% agreed the policy promotes accessibility•17% did not agree•30% were unsure.  <table><tr><td>Yes</td><td>45.2%</td></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>16.9%</td></tr><tr><td>Unsure</td><td>30.5%</td></tr></table>	Yes	45.2%	No	16.9%	Unsure	30.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respondents agree the policy's intent and appreciate that accessibility is being addressed.• Respondents emphasised the importance for venues to consult with disabled individuals and advocacy groups in shaping accessibility policies.• Some responses express scepticism that businesses will invest in accessibility without financial support or strict requirements.		
Yes	45.2%									
No	16.9%									
Unsure	30.5%									

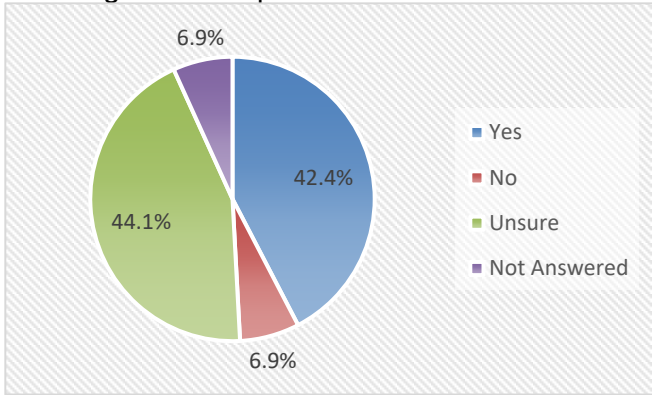
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7. Are the proposed framework hours (e.g. extending terminal hours by 30 minutes) suitable for balancing business interests and community needs?	<p>A total of 174 responses received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 31% respondents all of whom are venues, trade groups or employees, agree the extension would balance the needs of businesses and community.• 59% respondents all of whom are residents did not agree• 8% were unsure• 2% gave no response.  <table><thead><tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Yes</td><td>31.1%</td></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>58.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Unsure</td><td>8.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Not Answered</td><td>1.7%</td></tr></tbody></table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	31.1%	No	58.8%	Unsure	8.5%	Not Answered	1.7%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respondents believe extending framework hours will lead to increased noise, anti-social behaviour, and sleep disruption, particularly in areas where pubs and clubs are close to residential homes.• Respondents were concerned about crime, police and council enforcement resources, and the ability to enforce public order.• Some respondents support the extension, to help businesses recover financially post-pandemic and enhance Camden's reputation as a nightlife destination.• Some respondents argue that businesses operating later hours should contribute to community safety, cleaning, and public services. Also, the need for additional licensing conditions to offset potential negative impacts.• Several comments consider that the wording for the Prevention of Public Nuisance licensing objective in Chapter 4 should be strengthened.to align with the Prevention of Crime and Disorder.
Response	Percentage											
Yes	31.1%											
No	58.8%											
Unsure	8.5%											
Not Answered	1.7%											
8. In your opinion is Camden's approach to monitoring and enforcing licensing conditions as outlined in the draft licensing policy adequate?	<p>A total of 167 responses received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 45% agree the policy approach on monitoring and enforcement of conditions• 25% did not agree• 24% were unsure.• 6% gave no response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respondents considered a lack of police presence in night time economy areas, making enforcement ineffective.• Respondents consider licensing officers to be overstretched and unable to properly monitor all venues.• Respondents consider that licensed premises are not penalized when they cause issues like noise, littering, or anti-social behaviour.• Respondents want more transparency in how enforcement decisions are made and suggest a system for residents to report issues more easily.										

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	<p> ■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure ■ Not Answered </p>	
9. In your opinion are the proposed measures in the draft Policy adequate in promoting the licensing objectives?	<p>A total of 166 responses received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44% agreed the policy promotes the licensing objectives • 25% did not agree • 24% were unsure • 6% gave no response. <p> ■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure ■ Not Answered </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents consider that the policy aligns with licensing objectives and there is support for a partnership protocol involving local authorities, police, and businesses to manage night-time economy challenges. • Some doubt the council has the resources to effectively monitor and enforce the policy. • Some respondents consider that enforcement decisions could favour businesses over local residents in disputes and that one size fits all approach does not align with the different needs of areas within Camden.

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10. In your opinion, are the proposed model conditions helpful?	<p>A total of 165 responses received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 42% agreed the model conditions were helpful• 7% did not agree• 44% answered were unsure• 7% gave no response.  <table><tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>Yes</td><td>42.4%</td></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>6.9%</td></tr><tr><td>Unsure</td><td>44.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Not Answered</td><td>6.9%</td></tr></table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	42.4%	No	6.9%	Unsure	44.1%	Not Answered	6.9%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respondents agree the conditions provide useful guidance for applicants and help standardize expectations and make the application process easier.• Respondents considered the conditions lack specificity and are too broad to be effectively applied in different situations. Some suggesting that more tailored conditions for different venue types (e.g., pubs, clubs, late-night venues) would be beneficial.• Respondents feel that forcing all venues to follow the same conditions may be too restrictive and should allow applicants to adapt conditions to their specific needs.
Response	Percentage											
Yes	42.4%											
No	6.9%											
Unsure	44.1%											
Not Answered	6.9%											