

Enforcement Ladder for Licensed Premises

It should be noted that the whole emphasis of this enforcement ladder is to achieve the common aim of good ‘good housekeeping’ and working together to achieve this. There is no absolute intention at all to review a license as long as problems are willingly addressed by the licensee with the support of Thames Valley Police.

Any incident at a Licensed Premises will be judged entirely on its own merit. The main consideration will be how the premises managed the incident i.e. if the premises called for Police help; then this will be seen as a positive step.

The Licensing Authority and Thames Valley Police will always work closely with any Licensed Premises that requires help and guidance.

If a Licensed Premises fails to be managed in a responsible manner it will then be introduced to the Enforcement Ladder:

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Result</i>
Stage 1	<p>The Licensing Authority and Thames Valley Police will work together with the premises to resolve any issues.</p> <p>Thames Valley Police will visit premises as a priority premises.</p> <p>Review period: 2 months</p>	<p>If successful then the premises will be removed from the Enforcement Ladder after a period of 2 months.</p> <p>If there are still concerns then the premises will be moved to Stage 2</p>
Stage 2	<p>A formal meeting will be called for by the Licensing Authority and Thames Valley Police to be held at the Council Office or Police station.</p> <p>A formal action plan will be agreed and a written warning will be given.</p> <p>Review period: 3 months</p>	<p>If successful then the premises will be removed from the Enforcement Ladder after a period of 3 months.</p> <p>If there are still concerns then the premises will be moved to Stage 3</p>
Stage 3	<p>Thames Valley Police will apply for a review of the premises license to the Licensing Authority; in addition a prosecution may be sought.</p>	<p>Review of the License and/or prosecution.</p>

Thames Valley Police and the Licensing Authority will do everything possible to assist and work with a licensee to remove the Licensed Premises from the enforcement ladder. However, the onus of the responsibility is on the licensee to manage the premises in a manner that promotes the four licensing objectives.

If an incident or series of incidents occur of a serious nature, and the premises is partly or wholly seen as responsible, then they can be placed on the Enforcement Ladder at a level that is deemed appropriate. Thames Valley Police will apply for a review of a Premises License at any stage, if it is appropriate.

Before any action is taken, a meeting will take place between the Licensing Authority and Thames Valley Police. This is to ensure that any action that is called for is a proportionate and fair response to the issue.