

BRIEFING PAPER

Updates to Section 182 Licensing Act 2003 Guidance

1. Summary

The Home Office issued significant updates to the Section 182 Licensing Act 2003 Guidance in November 2025 and further revisions on 12 February 2026.

2. Key Changes Introduced in November 2025

2.1 Economic Growth (New Para 1.18)

Authorities must consider economic growth and benefits when making licensing decisions.

2.2 Spiking Safeguarding (Para 10.10)

Guidance now advises adding conditions to safeguard patrons from spiking where evidenced.

3. Key Changes Introduced in February 2026

3.1 Local Plans (New Para 1.19)

Authorities must account for relevant local plans and strategies.

3.2 Case-by-Case Assessment (Updated Para 8.65)

Each application must be assessed individually, with weight to applicant-proposed conditions.

3.3 TENs Updates

Updated limits and clearer intervention processes for responsible authorities.

3.4 Off-Sales Easement

Continuation of off-sales easement reflected in the guidance.

Annex A – Tracked Changes Comparison

Includes all additions and revisions from Nov 2025 and Feb 2026.