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The Licensing Act 2003 ("the Act") defines three key groups that have important roles in the context of applications, inspection, enforcement and reviews of premises licences.

Authorised persons

Authorised persons are bodies empowered by the Act to carry out inspection and enforcement roles. These include:

- Officers of licensing authorities
- Fire authority inspectors
- Inspectors locally responsible for the enforcement of Health and Safety at Work
- Environmental health officers
- And in respect of vessels only – The Marine and Coastguard Agency

Interested parties

Interested parties are the bodies or individuals who are entitled to make representations to licensing authorities on applications for the grant, variation or review of premises licences. Any representations must be about the likely effect of granting the application on the promotion of the licensing objectives. In addition, interested parties may themselves seek a review of a premises licence. This group includes:

- A person living in the vicinity of the premises
- A body representing persons who live in that vicinity
- A person involved in a business in the vicinity of the premises
- A body representing persons involved in these businesses

Responsible authorities

Responsible authorities include public bodies that must be notified of applications and are entitled to make representations to the licensing authority in relation to the application for the grant, variation or review of a premises licence. Any representations must be about the likely effect of granting the application on the promotion of the licensing objectives. They are:

- The chief officer of police for the area in which the premises are situated
- The fire authority for the area in which the premises are situated
- The health and safety authority for the area in which the premises are situated
- The local planning authority for the area in which the premises are situated
- The environmental health authority for the area in which the premises are situated
- The body recognised as being responsible for protection of children from harm for the area in which the premises are situated
- Inspectors of Weights and Measures (trading standards officers)
- And in respect of vessels only - i) The Environment Agency; ii) The British Waterways Board; iii) The Maritime and Coastguard Agency and if different from these, iv) the relevant navigation authority / authorities for the place(s) where the vessel is usually moored or berthed or any waters where it is proposed to be navigated at a time when it is used for licensable activities.