



# South Wales Police

## Cardiff City Centre Night-time Economy Policing overview

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Cardiff is the Capitol City of Wales which has experienced exponential population growth in the last decade. Footfall in the City Centre has increased by 61% since 2009, with the City hosting over 300 events each year and becoming a renowned international venue after recently hosting, Rugby World Cup fixtures, Olympic events, NATO, UEFA Super Cup final, UEFA Champions League Final, World Heavy weight unification Boxing events, ICC International Cricket matches, PDC World Darts tournament, Music Concerts and the upcoming prestigious Volvo Ocean Race – May 2018. It is evident that the Night time economy in Cardiff City centre is thriving due to the facilities that Cardiff as a City has to offer – 5 international sporting events per square mile. It is recognised that Cardiff City Centre already attracts up to 40,000 people on weekend evenings and up to 120,000 on large event days. It is acknowledged that the expansion of the late night economy in Cardiff City Centre places a significant demand and pressure on Police resources.

There are a number of emerging Challenges facing Cardiff City Centre over the next couple of years. These include the anticipated increase in the profile of Cardiff and the continued use of the Stadiums for international sporting events and concerts. The Night time economy footfall was 9.7 million last year, but it is expected the population and footfall will increase in the coming years.

There were a total of 16,597 occurrences recorded in Cardiff city centre during 2017, 42% (7,046) of which were recorded during the analysed period of 18:00hrs to 06:00hrs, which is generally recognised as the Late night economy period. There have been many examples in the media in recent years where late night disorder and general anti social behaviour fuelled by alcohol has been used to portray a negative image of Cardiff City centre night time economy. This negative impact is often referred to as the Cumulative impact of the late night economy.

The analysis examined this period throughout the week; however it was noted that 42% (3,381) of the occurrences were recorded between 18:00hrs on Friday to 06:00hrs on Saturday and between 18:00hrs on Saturday and 06:00hrs on Sunday, which has historically been identified as the busiest period within the City centre.

Analysis of the 7,046 occurrences recorded between 18:00hrs and 06:00hrs throughout the week, indicated that 'CR37 Violence Against the Person' was the highest recorded Occurrence

type, with 1,520 (21%) incidents recorded. This was closely followed by 'Theft & handling' and 'Concern for Safety.'

When comparing this to recorded occurrences over a full 24 hour period it was noted that this was reversed with, 'Theft' having the highest volume and 'Violence' being second. This would suggest that violent offences occur or are reported more frequently between 18:00hrs and 06:00hrs. Any links to the consumption of alcohol cannot be assessed at this time but common sense would indicate that there is likely to be a correlation.

47% (3,326) of all recorded occurrences during the LNE period resulted in a recordable crime, with 'assault with injury NO INTENT' & '(S.47) assault with injury' being the most frequently recorded offence. This was closely followed by 'Common Assault.' (It would appear that Assault with injury No INTENT was replaced by (S.47) Assault with injury in April 2017)

There were 158 different street locations where, occurrences were reported between 18:00hrs and 06:00hrs, with St Mary Street, having the highest volume, followed by Queen Street, Castle Street, Greyfriars Road and Westgate Street. When examining the recorded occurrences during the evening / night period, it was noted that a late night bar with a premise licence until 04:00hrs had the highest volume of recorded occurrences, mainly relating to Violence and Theft, although other incidents of ASB, drugs etc. were also recorded. Late Night refreshment premises, Queen Street and St Mary Street, also displayed high volumes of incidents relating to violence, ASB and concern for safety.

The problems associated between alcohol and crime cannot simply be managed by consideration of premises on an individual basis as evidence exists from research conducted by Stewart (2009:2) which suggests that geographic density is important, where there is an over concentration of outlets then greater problems arise. This was also recognised by Maguire (2003:54) who concluded as a result of the research conducted in Cardiff, that concentrated growth of new licensed premises in one small area St Mary Street is likely to bring with it an increase in alcohol related disorder.

Temporal analysis of the City Centre revealed that the highest volume of occurrences are reported on Saturday and Sunday, with the peak times being between 18:00hrs and 19:00hrs and between 01:00hrs and 03:00hrs.

To manage this NTE demand in the City Centre, South Wales Police introduced – Cardiff After Dark – CAD. Policing resources from around the Cardiff Borough are deployed in the City Centre on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights to support the local officers in meeting the Night time economy demand in the City Centre. CAD duties run from 1830hrs to 0600hrs which matches the peak demand of the NTE. The purpose and intention of officers working CAD is for the early intervention and engagement with visitors to the City Centre, a high visible deterrent to crime, disorder, ASB and public reassurance. The cost to South Wales Police in resourcing CAD per year is approximately £1,067,540

Keeping visitors to the City Centre NTE is a partnership approach and supporting the Police operation is the Alcohol Treatment Centre – ATC. The ATC runs from 2000 – 0800hrs Friday and Saturdays and it provides a medical response to alcohol and drug misuse. It safe guards the vulnerable within the NTE and it has over 1000 attendances per year.

Street Pastors is another partnership initiative and is funded by FOR Cardiff. Street pastors are trained volunteers from local Churches and they patrol from 2200 – 0400hrs on Friday and Saturday nights. They provide care for, listen to and help vulnerable people in the City Centre NTE.

Student Safety Bus is a partnership orientated project funded by FOR Cardiff, Cardiff University and Student Volunteers for Cardiff. Each bus is staffed by a Police Officer and Police student volunteers. They patrol the City centre on Friday and Saturday nights and respond to calls from partners /licensed premises. They take vulnerable people to a place of safety, and they assists up to 50 vulnerable people each night.

Vulnerability training is delivered by South Wales Police and the PCC. It is training offered to licensed premises in advance of peak periods and is provided to NTE staff – Bar staff, managers, door staff. The training is intended to raise awareness around identify vulnerable people and how to deal with them, with the primary aim of keeping visitors to the Cardiff City Centre NTE safe.

There are currently over 1350 licensed premises in Cardiff, with 299 of these in the City Centre. 103 of the 299 licensed premises are either Pubs, Bars or Nightclubs. In addition to the 103 Bars, Pubs and Nightclubs there are 12 Off licences in the City Centre. **Cardiff City Centre has the most licensing capacity per square metre in the whole of the UK.**

In order to manage this high and ever increasing demand in the City centre NTE, South Wales Police licensing team work in partnership to ensure that the licensing objectives are promoted. South Wales Licensing team operate the nationally recognised Traffic light system as a way of supporting licensed premises with early intervention and support when issues are experienced / identified at the premise. Over the past 2 years we have seen the introduction of numerous initiatives in licensed premises in the City Centre which have been driven by the proactive South Wales Police licensing team. These initiatives include, Body worn cameras by door staff, hand held Alcoblow devices and the introduction of metal detectors and search arches.

Emerging Challenges :

- i) Street drinking with all the associated crime and vulnerabilities.
- ii) Massively expanding night time economy in the City Centre with further development planned, despite already having the most licensing capacity per square metre in the UK. Over 9.7 million visits to the City Centre NTE last year, which is expected to increase.
- iii) Significant sporting events expected to continue / increase
- iv) Continued population growth in the City Centre

There is no doubt that alcohol fuelled crime is a major issue from a policing perspective. An Institute of Alcohol Studies paper of 2015 estimated the total cost to the police, and ultimately therefore the taxpayer, to be between 8-13 billion pounds every year.

There have been many relevant research studies which have investigated the relationship between crime, alcohol and the size of the late night economy. Some of this research was undertaken in Cardiff. The problems associated between alcohol and crime cannot simply be managed by consideration of premises on an individual basis as evidence exists from research conducted by Stewart (2009:2) which suggests that geographic density is important, where there is an over concentration of outlets then greater problems arise. The cumulative impact is further complicated by the fact that when large concentrations occur of late night economy premises in any given area they then act as a draw to people who have 'pre-loaded' with alcohol at other locations, and often confrontation and violence can occur at locations other than where much of the alcohol was consumed and therefore there is a need to consider the problem on an area basis rather than just as an individual premises basis.

South Wales Police request that the Cumulative impact Policy for Cardiff City Centre is retained.

The revised April 2018 guidance issued under s182 of the Licensing Act 2003 has been taken into consideration and in particular 14.29 of the guidance (Evidence of the Cumulative Impact). The rationale for South Wales Police requesting the retention of the Cumulative Impact Policy is based on South Wales Police data of reported incidents from 2015 – 2017 within the City Centre. The comparison analysis of years 2015 – 2017 compiled by a South Wales Police analyst demonstrates that the number of reported incidents involving : Violence against the person, Anti Social behaviour, Sexual Assaults and drugs have increased within the City centre by 14.4% from 2015 – 2017.

When these figures are broken down further it illustrates the following increases from 2015 – 2017

21.5% increase Violence against the person,  
2.3% increase Anti Social Behaviour,  
89% increase Sexual Assaults and  
30% increase for Drugs.

These figures demonstrate the continuing and increasing impact of the high density of licensed premises in the Cardiff City Centre and the detrimental effect it is having on the licensing objectives. As stated previously in this report, **Cardiff City Centre already has the most licensing capacity per square metre in the whole of the UK.** The concern from South Wales Police is if the Cumulative Impact Policy for the City Centre is removed, this will see further licensed premises entering this already highly saturated area, which will most certainly see a further increase in the number of Police incidents, which will have a further detrimental impact on the Licensing objectives.

## References

South Wales Police Crime and Incident Data Stewart, K (2009) Prevention Research Centre-Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, [www.resources.prev.org](http://www.resources.prev.org) 29.10.09

Maguire et al (2003), *Reducing alcohol-related violence and disorder: an evaluation of the 'TASC' project*, London, Home office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate.

Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 – April 2018