Questions:

1. Please provide the name of your District Licensing Committee.
   Ōtorohanga District Licensing Committee
2. Please provide the name, email, and contact phone number of your Committee's Secretary.
   Tanya Winter | Chief Executive
   tanya@otodc.govt.nz
   07 873 4000
3. Please name each of your licensing inspectors and provide their email and contact phone number.
   Mary Fernandez
   mary@otodc.govt.nz
   027 581 5861

   Cindy Norris
   cindy@otodc.govt.nz
   027 236 9507
4. The following questions relate to the number of licences and managers' certificates your Committee issued and refused in the 2020-2021 financial year.

   Note: the 2020-2021 financial year runs from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

   Licences 2020-2021 (new)

   In the 2020-2021 year, how many 'on licences' did your Committee issue?

   2

   In the 2020-2021 year, how many applications for 'on licences' did your Committee refuse?

   0

   In the 2020-2021 year, how many 'off licences' did your Committee issue?

   0

   In the 2020-2021 year, how many applications for 'off licences' did your Committee refuse?

   0

   In the 2020-2021 year, how many club licences did your Committee issue?

   0

   In the 2020-2021 year, how many applications for club licences did your Committee refuse?

   0

   Managers' certificates 2020-2021

   In the 2020-2021 year, how many managers' certificates did your Committee issue?

   26

   In the 2020-2021 year, how many applications for managers' certificates did your Committee refuse?

   0

   In the 2020-2021 year, how many applications for managers' certificates were withdrawn?

   2

   Licence renewals 2020-2021

   In the 2020-2021 year, how many licence renewals did your Committee issue?

   7

   In the 2020-2021 year, how many licence renewals did your Committee refuse?

   0

As at 30 June 2021 what is the total number of licences (new and existing in your licensing district?

On-licences	Off-licences	Club licences
6	6	10

5. Please comment on any changes or trends in the Committee's workload in 2020-2021.

Otorohanga is a relatively stable area, with no burgeoning growth, resulting in a steady hospitality sector. One brand new on-licence was issued and another one due to new ownership. No licensed premises permanently closed due to COVID 19.

6. Please comment on any new initiatives the Committee has developed/adopted in 2020-2021.

A DLC training day was held offsite on 16th April 2021.

7. Has your Committee developed a Local Alcohol Policy?

Yes

7A. If the answer is yes, what stage is your Local Alcohol Policy at?

Ōtorohanga District Council has had a Local Alcohol Policy in force since 17 May 2016 and is due to be reviewed in 2022.

8. If the answer to **7** is Yes, what effect do you consider your Local Alcohol Policy is having?

During the year the new on-licensed premises had to curtail their desired hours to comply with the LAP.

9. If the answer to **7A** is 'in force', is your Local Alcohol Policy due for review?

The LAP is due to be reviewed in 2022.

10. If the answer to **9** is Yes, has such a review been undertaken; and, if so with what result?

This will be the first review.

11. Please comment on the manner in which Covid-19 has impacted on DLC operations.

District Licensing Committee (DLC) staff were resourced by Waipa DC (as part of the shared services arrangement) to work from home as soon as restrictions started. Administrative functions and reporting was able to continue largely unaffected.

The Otorohanga DLC was able to avoid hearing during level 3 and 4 restrictions. Remote interviews were carried out during restrictions, though were not as popular as face to face interviews.

12. Please comment on the ways in which you believe the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 is, or is not, achieving its object. Note: the object of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 is that:
    a) *the sale, supply, and consumption of alcohol should be undertaken safely and responsibly; and*
    b) *the harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol should be minimised.*

    It is difficult for Council/DLC to measure many of the parameters the Act references, in particular "harm". Subjectively, Licensing Inspectors do not receive the amount of negative feedback in respect to alcohol related harm that was the case under the previous Act. Reports of public disorder and other behaviour is uncommon.

    Very little information from agencies that may deal with alcohol related harm is received by the DLC and where it is, it is general and not in respect to specific premises unless it is a failed controlled purchase operation.

    The DLC is consistently implementing conditions the objective of which are to reduce harm. Most recently these have related to training, and for clubs the training of committee as well as staff and conditions related to remote sales. However unless there are complaints, or matters are identified during monitoring visits, the effectiveness of these is hard to establish.

    The purpose of the Act, to put in place a reasonable system of control, appears to have been generally achieved. Hearings have been held when there are legitimate concerns to be addressed, but the majority of applications are dealt with on the papers.

13. To what extent, if any, do you consider that achievement of the object of the Act may have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic?

    Its difficult to tell if Covid 19 affected the object of the Act. It resulted in more people drinking at home rather than in licensed premises during lockdown, so there was probably less harm from this.

    However, people did have generally the same access to off licence sales so consumption and resulting harm may not have been affected as much (violence outside home compared with domestic violence). There must have been less drink-drive incidents during lockdown.

    With a lockdown in place and the concerns many agencies raised around potential increases in domestic violence the DLC staff were surprised that alcohol remained available in supermarkets, and that government moved to consider off-licences as 'essential businesses' where they could offer contactless sale and delivery. This could have been very detrimental to the objectives of the Act.

    Easy availability of alcohol through remote sales, click and collect, home delivery etc raised questions on the robustness of controls on assessing age verification and intoxication, particularly when Inspectors and Police were not in the field actively monitoring. These options have been continued by many suppliers, so the availability of alcohol may have increased as people not willing or able to go to the store now have other options.

    The District Licensing Agency is not aware of whether there was any significant increase in alcohol related harm when COVID controls were relaxed.

14. What changes or trends in licensing have you seen since the Act came into force?

As a small rural DLC, Otorohanga has not as yet seen the attempts by licensees to diversify their operations, as in larger urban DLCs.

15. What changes to practices and procedures under the Act would you find beneficial?

The Act would certainly benefit from a much more detailed interpretations section to avoid reliance on case law definitions.

There are many changes that could be made to the wording of the Act in different places that would clarify the meaning of the requirements. It would be recommended that there is an interpretations document that goes with the Act to clarify what the legislator meant when drafting the sections.

Modify some of the out dated templates in the Regulations using plain English for easy interpretation.

A streamlined process that would allow a club to host a members funeral (or any funeral) without a special licence could have some value. While the District Licensing Committee does all it can to process these promptly, there can be as little as two days' notice of a funeral in some cases.

Thank you for completing your annual report.