

POLICY NOTE

THE HEALTH PROTECTION (CORONAVIRUS, RESTRICTIONS) (ABERDEEN CITY) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2020

SSI 2020/253

The above instrument was made in exercise of the power conferred by paragraph 1(1) of schedule 19 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 (“the Act”). The instrument is subject to made affirmative procedure by virtue of paragraph 6(3) of schedule 19 of the Act.

These Regulations amend the restrictions on hospitality businesses and premises in “the protected area”, namely the area of Aberdeen City, to include casinos and to include certain other premises where serving food and drink, otherwise opened up from 24 August.

Legislative background

1. The UK Coronavirus Act 2020 received Royal Assent on 25 March 2020. The Act confers powers on Scottish Government to take various actions in response to the serious and imminent threat to public health which is posed by the incidence and spread of coronavirus in Scotland, including imposing restrictions on the operation of business activity.
2. It is critical for the Scottish Government to take all reasonable steps to prevent the community transmission of disease, where possible. Severe acute respiratory coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was declared by World Health Organisation a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. These measures are deemed necessary to limit the further spread of the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in the protected area.

Policy Objectives

Requirement to close premises and businesses

3. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Aberdeen City) Regulations 2020 (“the principal regulations”) imposed requirements in respect of the City of Aberdeen to close a range of types of premises, namely pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes, subject to exceptions. They give Police Scotland powers to enforce the measures.
4. The Scottish Government as part of its Covid Route Map announced on 20 August that, from 24 August, certain additional restrictions would be removed throughout Scotland, such as Amusement Arcades, Funfairs, outdoor theatres, Bingo halls and Bowling Alleys.
5. These Regulations amend the principal regulations to add these activities to the list of restrictions, where and to the extent that food and drink is served.
6. In addition, that announcement removed restrictions on the opening of casinos. These Regulations amend the principal regulations to add all casinos to the list of restrictions, regardless of whether food and drink is served.

Consultation

7. There has been no public consultation in relation to this instrument. Where possible, the Scottish Government has informally consulted with public bodies and other relevant stakeholders affected by the Regulations.

Impact Assessments

8. Impact Assessments have not been prepared for this instrument because of the need to make and lay the instrument urgently to ensure compliance with restrictions on businesses and minimise the risks to public health arising from COVID-19.

The principal regulations expire at Midnight on 25 August, as will these amendments.

Scottish Government
Directorate for Constitution and Cabinet
August 2020