

Sussex Police Consultation Response – September 2018

Responding as a Responsible Authority – Sussex Police

Special Stress Area

The Council, supported by Police Licensing, and local ward Councillor are proposing to extend the Special stress Area (SSA) ref. 3.2 of the SoLP)) to cover Central Hove, to extend from the west side of Holland Road northwards/ intersection with the North side of Lansdowne Road, going westwards along Eaton Road/Blatchington Road to the junction and then south along Sackville Road down to the seafront ([see link for map of proposed extension](#)).

The SSA is defined as an area of concern to be monitored for levels of public nuisance and anti social behaviour (ASB). Applications in the SSA are expected to have a robust operating schedule with appropriate conditions. Unlike the CIZ there is no presumption of refusal. This proposal reflects the number of licensed premises in Church Road Hove, concerns which have been raised by residents and local Councillor in relation to the area, and the evidence from Public Health framework document. The proposal would also be consistent with the current SSA that acts as a buffer to the Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ).

Q1.

Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to extend the SSA into Central Hove?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know / not sure

Police Comments:

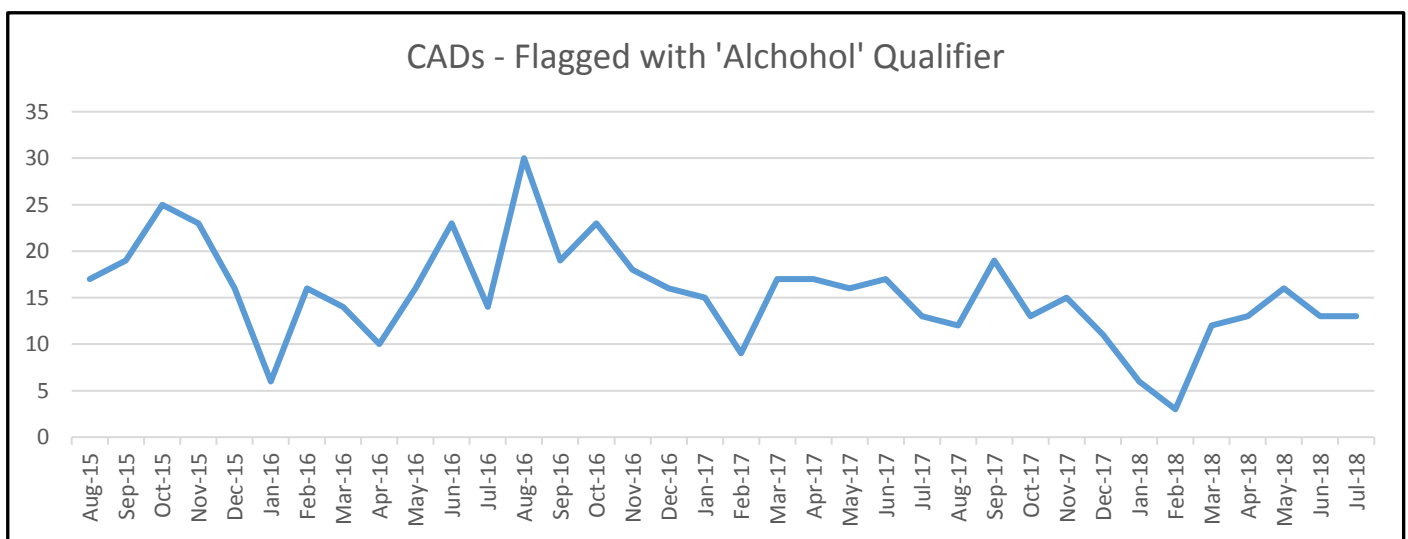
In response to the above Sussex Police Licensing asked analysts within the Prevention team to look at data around the proposed area where the SSA will be extended. The research request was to review the number of alcohol related crimes and incidents in Hove (area as shown in the consultation document) between August 2015 and July 2018 to establish if offending has increased and any hotspots.

Incident (CAD) data from Sussex Police's initial reporting system, Storm, are tagged with 'qualifiers' dependent on the content of the report. As a result, CAD data with an 'Alcohol' tag has been extracted to produce a report. Crime data held on police recording systems, Niche, also possess 'Alcohol' markers enabling easier extraction of alcohol related offences. Both data-sets were extracted using iBase (a further police system) but the accuracy of the figures are dependent on the consistency of staff entry.

Initial incident reporting (CAD data)

The number of reported alcohol-related incidents reduced in the previous 12 months to 146 from 210 reported between August 2016 and July 2017. The graph below shows that over the previous eighteen months, **there has been 12-18 incidents consistently reported each month that are given an alcohol marker by the call-handler.** It is likely that the cold weather in the winter months of January and February caused a dip in reporting.

Reported Alcohol-related Incidents per year period	
Aug 15 - July 16	199
Aug 16 - July 17	210
Aug 17 - July 18	146



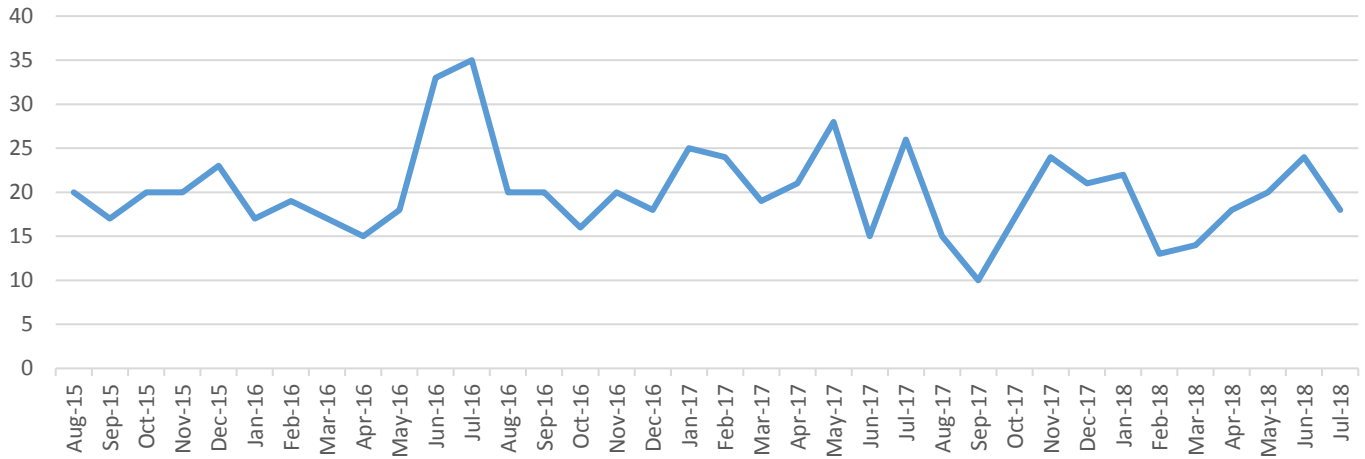
Recorded Crimes (Niche)

Recorded crimes with an alcohol-influenced marker have decreased over the previous 12 month period similarly to reported incidents. Between August 2017 to July 2018 there were 51 (216 from 267) fewer offences recorded which were recorded as linked to alcohol.

Although the graph below presents that offending has remained fairly consistent between 15 -25 offences per month but a few anomalies such as a spikes in June-July 2016 and May 2017 and dips in September 2017 and February 2018 have influenced the yearly totals.

Recorded Alcohol-related Crimes per year period	
Aug 15 - July 16	254
Aug 16 - July 17	267
Aug 17 - July 18	216

Niche recorded crime/incidents with Alcohol influence



Alcohol related crime hotspots

The map below shows the hotspot for crimes involving alcohol over the three-year period considered. The predominant hotspots are near the public houses at the south of George Street and near the hostels at the south end of Seafield Road. For an individual road, Church Road has suffered the greatest level of offending, which is depicted by secondary hotspots stretching along the road.



Although incidents have slightly reduced over the last 3 years, looking at the hotspot map it shows that alcohol tagged incidents happen in key areas of Hove including George Street, Blatchington Road, sections of Church Road and the Southern End of Seafield Road/Osborne Villas.

When plotting existing licensed premises in the proposed area for the SSA to be extended to it is very clear that the hotspots for crime are focused in the areas where there are clusters of licensed premises.



◆ Off licence
 ◆ On licence
 ◆ On and off licence
 ◆ LNR
 ◆ Club Premises

This suggests a clear link between the availability of alcohol and the associated crime.

When looking at the Public Health Framework (published October 2017), Central Hove Ward, where the majority of the extended area lies, is ranked 5th for Police recorded alcohol related incidents and 5th for Alcohol suspected ambulance call outs. It is also 3rd for Alcohol specific hospital admissions in 2016-17 and 4th for A&E attendances with a record of alcohol. The other areas in the top 5 are as follows:

It is worth noting that the Royal Sussex County Hospital lies in the East Brighton Ward.

Police recorded alcohol related incidents:

Ward	Rank	CIZ/SSA?
St Peter's & North Laine	1	CIZ & SSA
Regency	2	CIZ
Queen's Park	3	CIZ & SSA
East Brighton	4	No
Central Hove	5	Proposed SSA

Alcohol suspected ambulance call outs:

Ward	Rank	CIZ/SSA?
Regency	1	CIZ
St Peter's & North Laine	2	CIZ & SSA
Queen's Park	3	CIZ & SSA
East Brighton	4	No
Central Hove	5	Proposed SSA

Alcohol specific hospital admissions:

Ward	Rank	CIZ/SSA?
Regency	1	CIZ
East Brighton	2	No
Central Hove	3	Proposed SSA
Westbourne	4	No
Rottingdean Coastal	5	No

A&E attendances with a record of alcohol:

Ward	Rank	CIZ/SSA?
Queen's Park	1	CIZ & SSA
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	2	No
St Peter's & North Laine	3	CIZ & SSA
Central Hove	4	Proposed SSA
East Brighton	5	No

Data taken from:

https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/docforms/Public%20Health%20Framework%20for%20assessing%20Alcohol%20Licensing%20Annual%20Report%202017_0.pdf

Central Hove ward consistently sits amongst other wards already covered by the special policy in the BHCC Statement of Licensing Policy suggesting that an extension to cover it and the specific problems relating to alcohol, including crime and disorder, would be beneficial.

Matrix approach in relation to café bars

The second proposal is regarding the café bar category as described in 3.3.3 of the SoLP and categorised in the matrix ([see link to current SoLP where the matrix is shown on page 16](#)).

The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy (SoLP) (paragraph 3.3.3) states:

Café Bars - the licensing authority may be prepared to look favourably upon an application for the grant of a licence, subject to the following conditions that will prevent the premises becoming a public house.

- The sale of intoxicating liquor and other beverages shall be waiter/waitress service for consumption by persons seated at tables.
- Substantial food shall be available at all times.

It is suggested that the term "café bars" to define this category of premises is misleading. Officers suggest the term "café" is more appropriate as essentially we are not talking about bars but small food led cafes or delis where alcohol is not the primary activity and the venues do not open late. It is also suggested adding notes to the matrix that this category is defined as "small food led establishments".

The Annual report shows an increase in café bars granted 2017/18 but a big decrease in pubs/clubs. There are considerably more pubs and restaurants in the City compared to café bars. As of March 2018 there were 323 Pubs, bars & nightclubs, 297 Restaurants and 89 café bars. [Please see link to Licensing Committee Report](#)

Concern has been raised about the increase in café bars granted in the CIZ. Resident's representations to licensing panels have highlighted issues of saturation of licensing premises in the CIZ, particularly the North Laine area, leading to an increase in public nuisance and Members have raised their concerns.

Therefore, it has been agreed to consult on whether to reduce the hours of café bars in the CIZ from the current 11.30pm to earlier in the evening.

Q2a.

Do you agree to the change of name from "café/bars" to "café" (notes to Matrix to be amended to "small food led establishment")?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know / not sure

Police Comments:

A café suggests a seated environment where food and drink are readily available and more of a coffee shop with an added small alcohol element. Currently Police Licensing would ask for the following conditions to be added to the licence to ensure this:

1. The sale of intoxicating liquor and other beverages shall be by waiter/waitress service for consumption by persons seated at tables and there will be no vertical drinking.
2. Substantial food shall be available at all times that alcohol is offered for sale on these premises.

Sussex Police would agree that the name café/bars is misleading for what is intended as an application under this category of the matrix. 'Bars' are more in keeping with a 'Pub' style environment where the emphasis is far more on the alcohol offering e.g. cocktails, beers etc than the food. The renaming to 'café' would provide more clarity on what BHCC is expecting under the matrix and that food should be the lead part of any premises of this nature. '*Small food led establishments*' would suggest that the premises applying would have significant kitchen facilities in order to be able to cook and prepare food.

Q2b.

Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to reduced hours for café/bar category in CIZ to earlier in the evening?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know / not sure

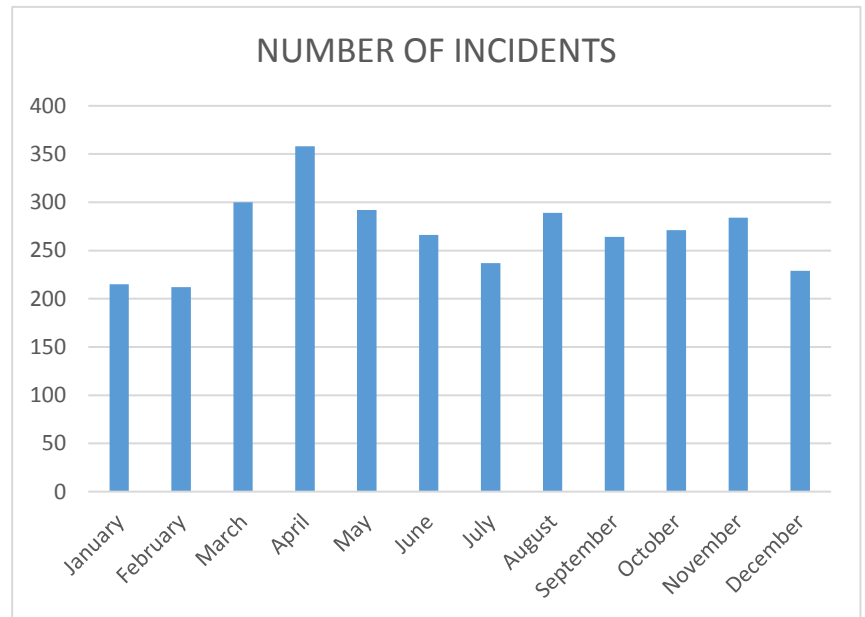
Police Comments:

Sussex Police Licensing have reviewed data on their systems relating to premises types (broadly defined by the Matrix in the BHCC SoLP 2016). The following data is taken from the licensing recording system and is recorded by Licensing staff from 999 and 101 calls to police as well as crime reports and information received. An incident is only put on the record of the premises if it can be directly attributed to that premises. If it is a vicinity incident where the premises is used as a marker it will be described as such. Again, the accuracy of the figures are dependent on the consistency of staff entry. All data is for the period 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2017.

Number of incidents in 2017

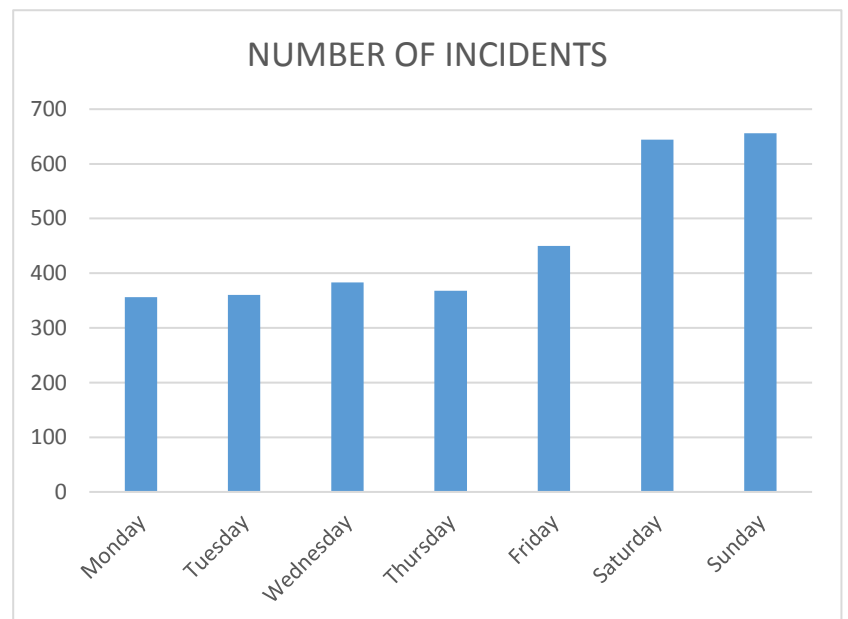
Monthly breakdown

MONTH	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
January	215
February	212
March	300
April	358
May	292
June	266
July	237
August	289
September	264
October	271
November	284
December	229
TOTAL	3217



Weekly breakdown

DAY	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
Monday	356
Tuesday	360
Wednesday	383
Thursday	368
Friday	450
Saturday	644
Sunday	656
TOTAL	3217



The majority of incidents occur at the weekends in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday morning.

Incident breakdown by type of premises

Premises are defined by the conditions they have on their licence so a café bar will have seated consumption at tables with waiter/waitress service, restaurants will have alcohol ancillary to food etc

Highlighted in bold are the top 3 types of premises for average incidents as well as café bars.

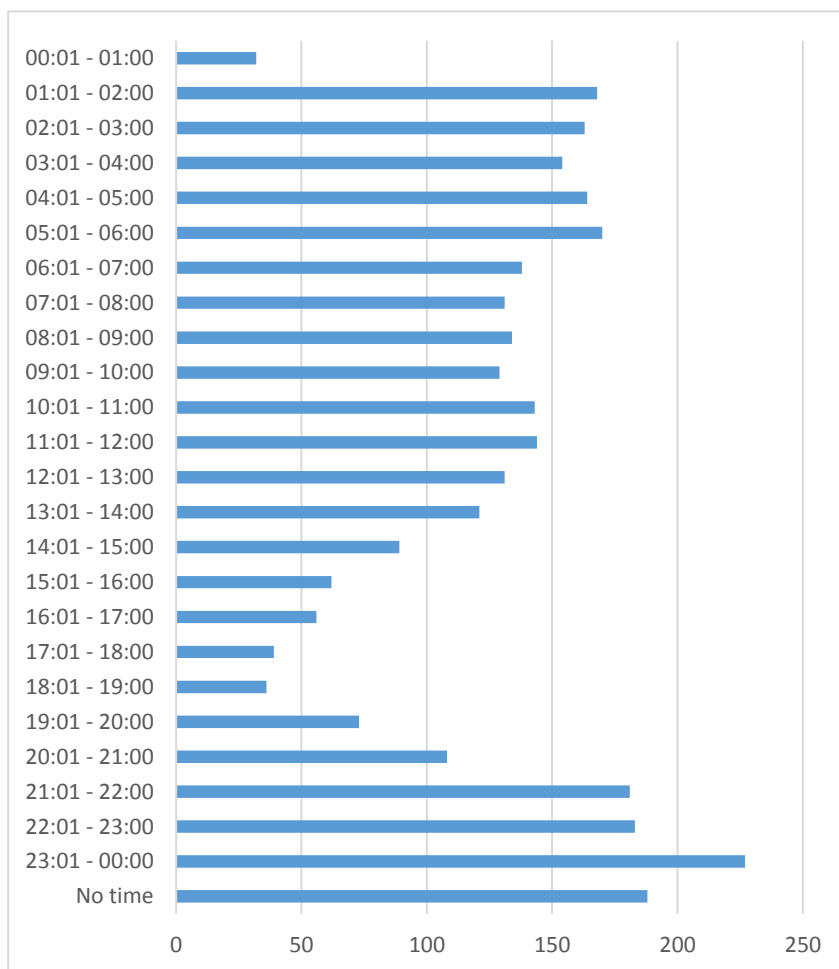
PREMISES TYPE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	NUMBER OF PREMISES	Average incidents per premises
Pub/Bar	1140	300	3.8
Night Club	686	27	25.4
Supermarket	297	32	9.3
Off licence	283	288	1
Residential/Hotel	212	76	2.8
Takeaway/Fast Food	163	120	1.4
Restaurant	130	317	0.4
Convenience Store	77	44	1.8
Other business (inc. SEV)	64	55	1.2
Café/Café Bar	48	137	0.4
Petrol/Service Station	34	9	3.8
Gaming Venue	30	14	2.1
Social/Sports Club & Grounds	21	68	0.3
Public Parks/Open Spaces	18	30	0.6
Theatre/Performance Venue	6	13	0.5
Community Centre	2	13	0.2
Religious Building	2	11	0.2
Retail Shop Other	2	18	0.1
B&B/Guesthouse	1	3	0.3
Club Premises	1	6	0.2
Educational Building	0	17	0
Farm/Brewery/Vineyard	0	3	0
Festival	0	1	0
Garden Centre	0	2	0
Holiday Venue	0	1	0
	3217	1605	

Timings of incidents in 2017

For this only selected premises types were looked at so the total number of incidents considered reduces to 3164 as opposed to the whole years count of 3217.

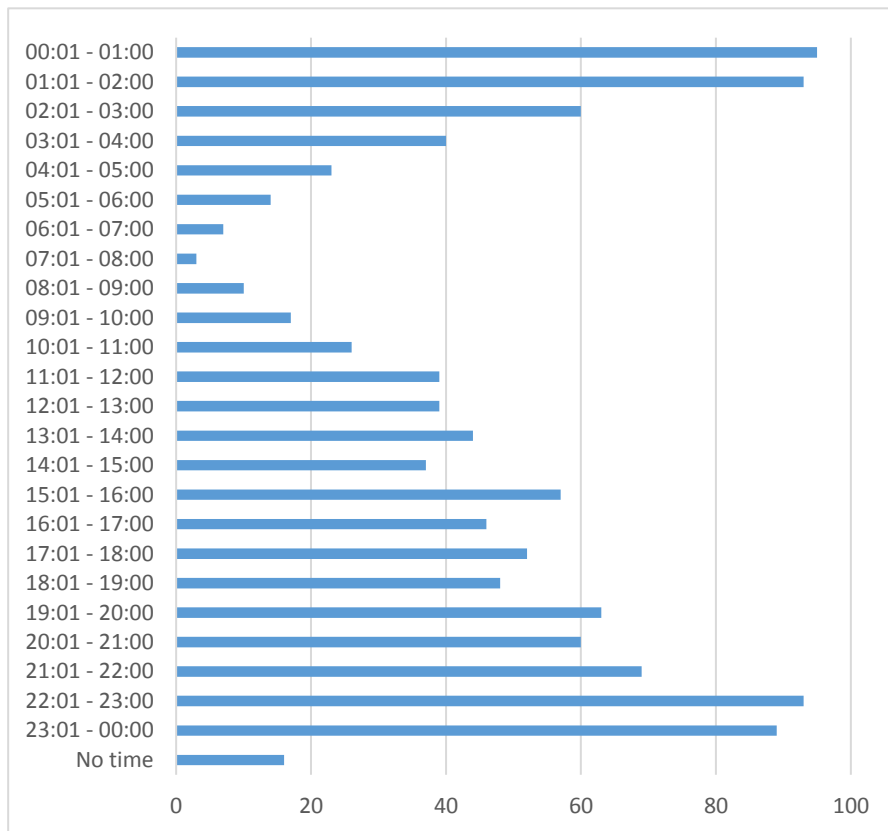
Yearly timing breakdown

Selected premises types	3164
Timings	
No time given	188
23:01 - 00:00	227
22:01 - 23:00	183
21:01 - 22:00	181
20:01 - 21:00	108
19:01 - 20:00	73
18:01 - 19:00	36
17:01 - 18:00	39
16:01 - 17:00	56
15:01 - 16:00	62
14:01 - 15:00	89
13:01 - 14:00	121
12:01 - 13:00	131
11:01 - 12:00	144
10:01 - 11:00	143
09:01 - 10:00	129
08:01 - 09:00	134
07:01 - 08:00	131
06:01 - 07:00	138
05:01 - 06:00	170
04:01 - 05:00	164
03:01 - 04:00	154
02:01 - 03:00	163
01:01 - 02:00	168
00:01 - 01:00	32
	3164

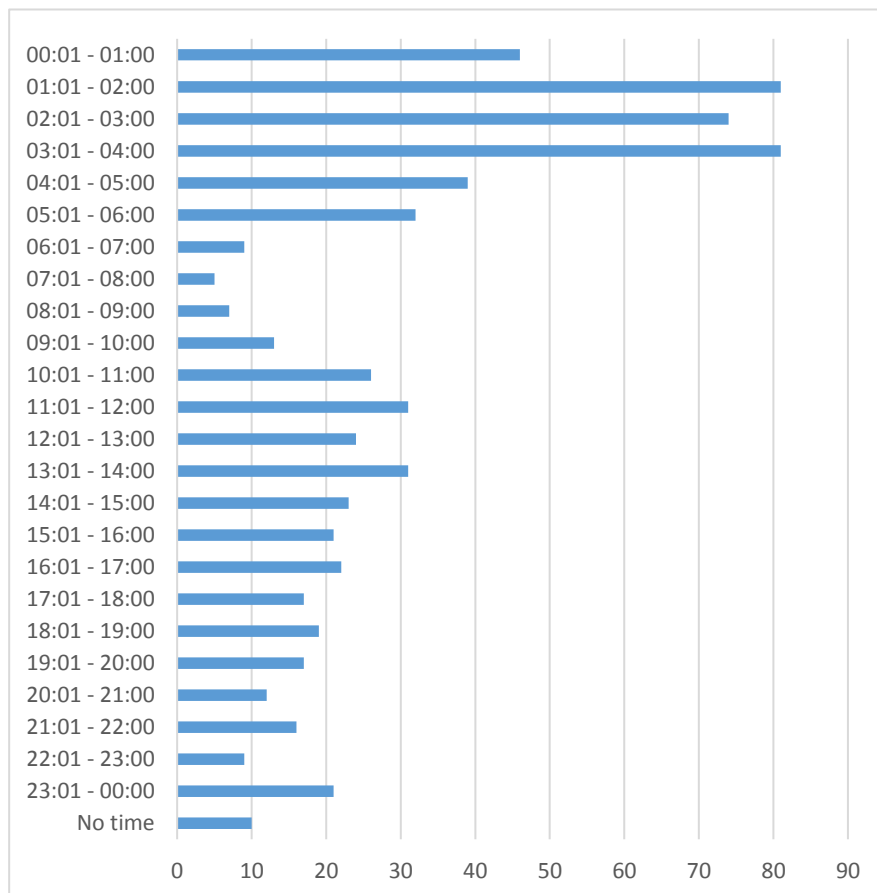


Timing breakdowns by Premises Type (Top 4 for average incidents & Café bar)

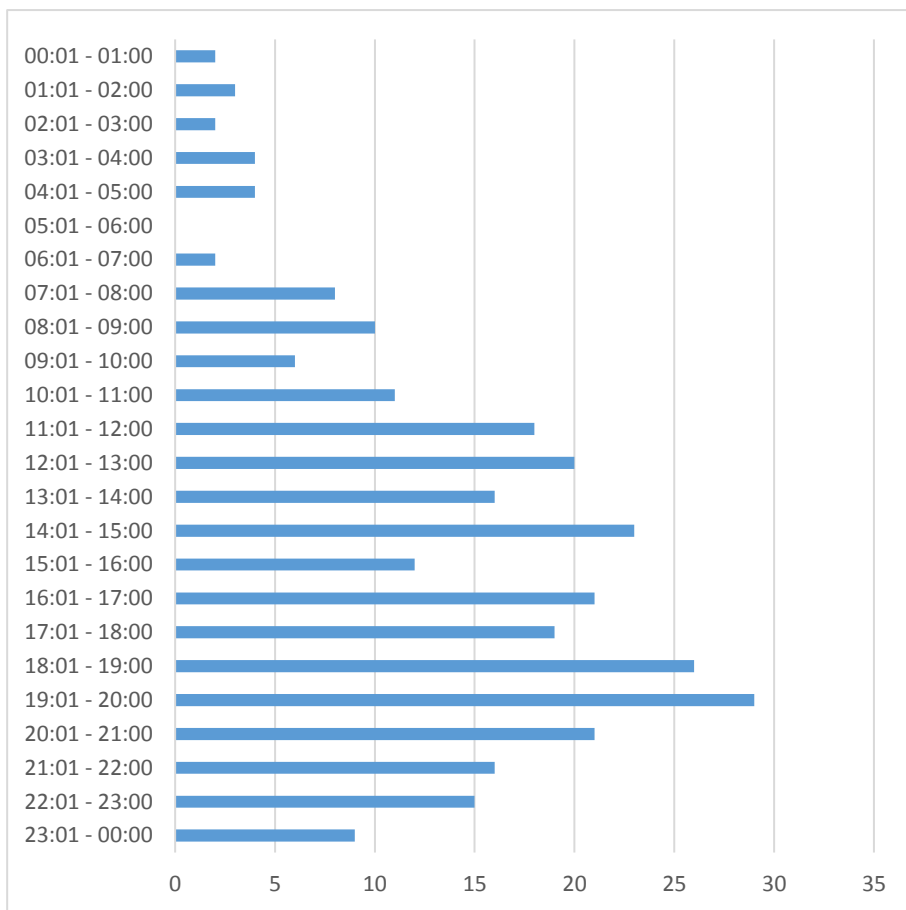
Pub/Bar	1140
No time given	16
23:01 - 00:00	89
22:01 - 23:00	93
21:01 - 22:00	70
20:01 - 21:00	60
19:01 - 20:00	63
18:01 - 19:00	48
17:01 - 18:00	52
16:01 - 17:00	46
15:01 - 16:00	57
14:01 - 15:00	37
13:01 - 14:00	44
12:01 - 13:00	39
11:01 - 12:00	39
10:01 - 11:00	26
09:01 - 10:00	17
08:01 - 09:00	10
07:01 - 08:00	3
06:01 - 07:00	7
05:01 - 06:00	14
04:01 - 05:00	23
03:01 - 04:00	40
02:01 - 03:00	61
01:01 - 02:00	93
00:01 - 01:00	95
	1140



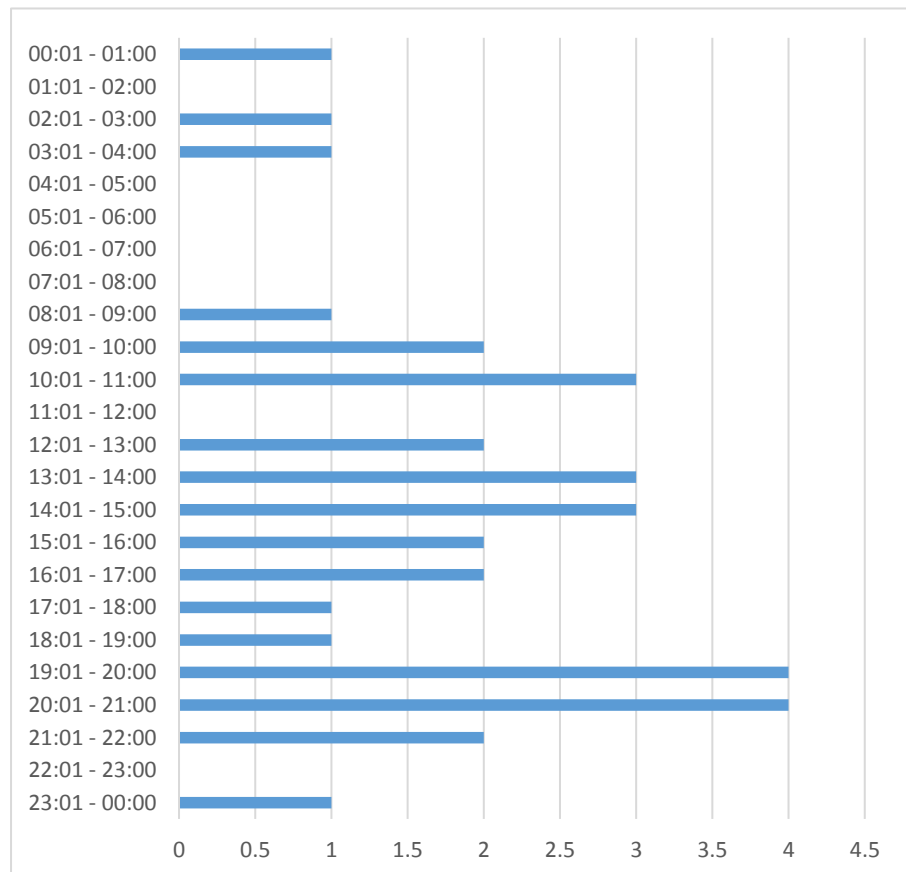
Nightclub	686
No time given	10
23:01 - 00:00	21
22:01 - 23:00	9
21:01 - 22:00	16
20:01 - 21:00	12
19:01 - 20:00	17
18:01 - 19:00	19
17:01 - 18:00	17
16:01 - 17:00	22
15:01 - 16:00	21
14:01 - 15:00	23
13:01 - 14:00	31
12:01 - 13:00	24
11:01 - 12:00	31
10:01 - 11:00	26
09:01 - 10:00	13
08:01 - 09:00	7
07:01 - 08:00	5
06:01 - 07:00	9
05:01 - 06:00	32
04:01 - 05:00	39
03:01 - 04:00	81
02:01 - 03:00	74
01:01 - 02:00	81
00:01 - 01:00	46
	686



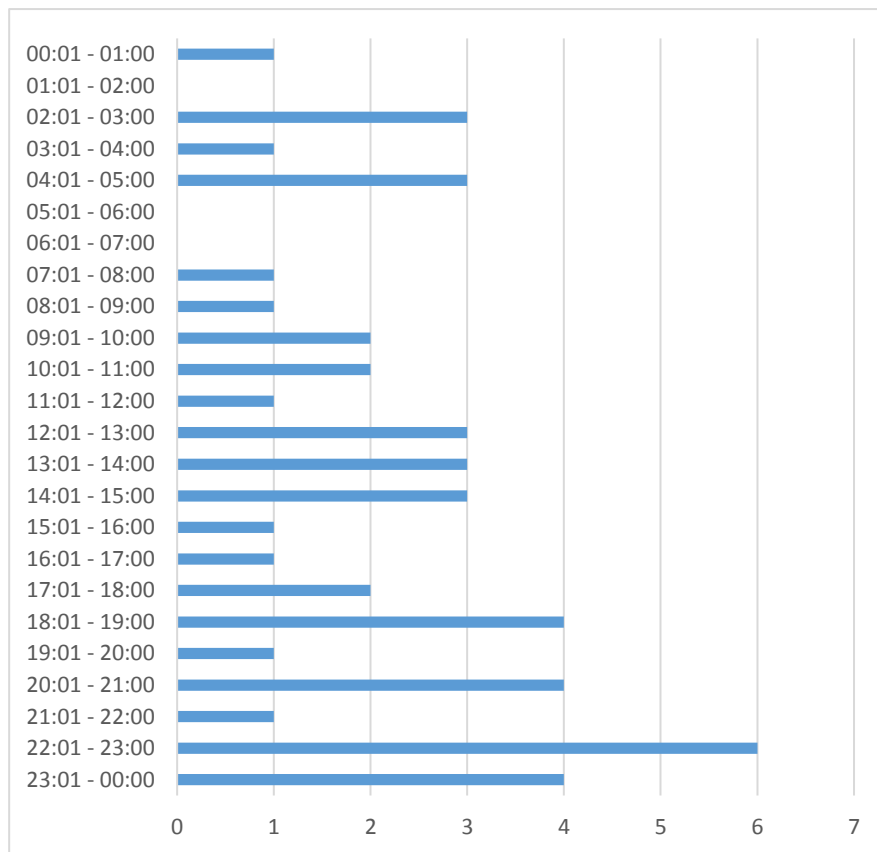
Supermarket	297
23:01 - 00:00	9
22:01 - 23:00	15
21:01 - 22:00	16
20:01 - 21:00	21
19:01 - 20:00	29
18:01 - 19:00	26
17:01 - 18:00	19
16:01 - 17:00	21
15:01 - 16:00	12
14:01 - 15:00	23
13:01 - 14:00	16
12:01 - 13:00	20
11:01 - 12:00	18
10:01 - 11:00	11
09:01 - 10:00	6
08:01 - 09:00	10
07:01 - 08:00	8
06:01 - 07:00	2
05:01 - 06:00	
04:01 - 05:00	4
03:01 - 04:00	4
02:01 - 03:00	2
01:01 - 02:00	3
00:01 - 01:00	2
	297



Petrol/Service Station	34
23:01 - 00:00	1
22:01 - 23:00	
21:01 - 22:00	2
20:01 - 21:00	4
19:01 - 20:00	4
18:01 - 19:00	1
17:01 - 18:00	1
16:01 - 17:00	2
15:01 - 16:00	2
14:01 - 15:00	3
13:01 - 14:00	3
12:01 - 13:00	2
11:01 - 12:00	
10:01 - 11:00	3
09:01 - 10:00	2
08:01 - 09:00	1
07:01 - 08:00	
06:01 - 07:00	
05:01 - 06:00	
04:01 - 05:00	
03:01 - 04:00	1
02:01 - 03:00	1
01:01 - 02:00	
00:01 - 01:00	1
	34



Café/Café Bar	48
23:01 - 00:00	4
22:01 - 23:00	6
21:01 - 22:00	1
20:01 - 21:00	4
19:01 - 20:00	1
18:01 - 19:00	4
17:01 - 18:00	2
16:01 - 17:00	1
15:01 - 16:00	1
14:01 - 15:00	3
13:01 - 14:00	3
12:01 - 13:00	3
11:01 - 12:00	1
10:01 - 11:00	2
09:01 - 10:00	2
08:01 - 09:00	1
07:01 - 08:00	1
06:01 - 07:00	
05:01 - 06:00	
04:01 - 05:00	3
03:01 - 04:00	1
02:01 - 03:00	3
01:01 - 02:00	
00:01 - 01:00	1
	48



It is worth noting that the incidents in the early hours for café bars consist of the following:

Timings	No. of Incidents	Incident description
22:01 - 23:00	6	D&D, THEFT X 2, CRIMINAL DAMAGE, INCIDENT IN VICINITY, HATE CRIME
23:01 - 00:00	4	BURGLARY (WHILE CLOSED), LICENCE BREACH, INFO RECEIVED, COMMON ASSAULT
00:01 - 01:00	1	LICENCE BREACH
01:01 - 02:00	0	
02:01 - 03:00	3	INCIDENT IN VICINITY, CRIMINAL DAMAGE (AFTER HOURS), LICENCE BREACH
03:01 - 04:00	1	INCIDENT IN VICINITY
04:01 - 05:00	3	LICENCE BREACH, CRIMINAL DAMAGE (AFTER HOURS) X 2
05:01 - 06:00	0	
06:01 - 07:00	0	

These are not incidents of ABH/GBH, sexual assault, anti social behaviour/noise or public order which would be of particular concern to Sussex Police.

Any licence breaches have been dealt with robustly. Burglaries and criminal damage have occurred after the Café bar premises has closed.

The incidents between 01:01-05:00 (7 in total) happened either after hours or in the vicinity of the premises or were breaches of the licence.

Therefore, Sussex Police do not currently hold evidence to support a reduction in the hours for café/bar category. Per defined café bar there were on average 0.4 incidents per premises in the year 2017 as opposed to 25.4 incidents per premises for night clubs and 3.8 for pubs/bars (the other main premises types which feature in the night time economy).

When looking closely at timings for these 3 premises types, the majority of incidents at pubs/bars peak between 22:00 and 02:00 and night clubs between 01:00 and 04:00. Café bars do not really see a significant peak as the amount of incidents are so small, the most being 6 between 22:00 and 23:00. Incidents occurring after 23:00 at café bars are not violent crimes or high levels of drunkenness/intoxication which is often what is being seen at pubs/bars and night clubs. Therefore, pubs/bars and night clubs pose a far greater risk of crime and disorder the later into the night time economy they remain open.