

## GUIDANCE NOTE

# COVID-19: A guide to restrictions on hospitality businesses in Scotland

9 OCTOBER 2020

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main changes which apply in **Scotland other than in the Central Belt** are as follows:

- Pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes may only open indoors between 6am and 6pm, with no sales of alcohol.
- Pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes may open outdoors until 10pm, with sales of alcohol.
- Takeaways (including from pubs and restaurants) can continue.
- Evening meals may be served in accommodation for residents only but no alcohol can be served.

Changes which apply only to the **Central Belt** are:

- Pubs, bars and restaurants will be required to close, with the exception of takeaway services.
- Cafés (licensed and unlicensed premises) will be able to open between 6am and 6pm, with no alcohol sales.
- Takeaways (including from pubs and restaurants) can continue.
- Evening meals may be served in accommodation for residents only but no alcohol can be served.
- Snooker/pool halls, indoor bowling, casinos and bingo halls are to close.
- No outdoor live events.

Across Scotland specific life events, such as weddings and funerals, may continue with alcohol, with current meeting rules for these events (20 person limit).

Current meeting rules, maximum of six people from two households, continue to apply.

**How long will these changes last?**

The Scottish Government announced on 21<sup>st</sup> October the restrictions will not end on 25<sup>th</sup> October as originally intended. They are due to last until 2<sup>nd</sup> November when the Scottish Government's tiered framework comes into force.

**SCOTLAND EXCLUDING THE CENTRAL BELT**

**What can a hotel owner / operator not in the Central Belt do until 6pm?**

Serve food but not alcohol to resident and non resident guests indoors.

**What can a hotel owner / operator not in the Central Belt do after 6pm?**

Serve food and alcohol until 10pm but only in OUTDOOR dining areas to resident and non resident guests, if this is permitted by their licence where alcohol is involved.

Serve meals in their restaurant but this can only be to guests who are resident in the hotel.

Continue with room service including serving alcohol.

Sell alcohol through in room mini-bars.

Sell alcohol to guests at weddings and funerals – recognising that regulations only allow 20 people to attend but the sale of alcohol must cease at 10pm.

Permit guests to bring their own alcohol for consumption within their hotel room.

**What is a hotel owner / operator not in the Central Belt prevented from doing?**

Sell alcohol for indoor consumption either in a hotel bar, lounge or dining area at any time.

Allowing guests to bring their own alcohol (BYOB) with them to consume as part of a meal served in inside the hotel.

**What can a pub / restaurant / cafe owner / operator not in the Central Belt do until 6pm?**

Serve food but not alcohol to resident and non resident guests indoors.

**What can a pub / restaurant / cafe owner / operator not in the Central Belt do after 6pm?**

Serve food and alcohol until 10pm but only in OUTDOOR dining areas, if this is permitted by their licence where alcohol is involved.

**What is a pub / restaurant / cafe owner / operator not in the Central Belt prevented from doing?**

Selling alcohol for indoor consumption on their premises.

**Weddings / Funerals / Life Events**

Specific life events, such as weddings and funerals, may continue with alcohol, with current meeting rules for these events (20 person limit).

**THE CENTRAL BELT**

We mentioned earlier in the note the central belt is defined here as being five health board areas. The relevant health board area and the corresponding local authorities are as follows:

**Ayrshire & Arran Health Board** - East, North, and South Ayrshire

**Forth Valley Health Board** - Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, and Stirling

**Greater Glasgow & Clyde Health Board**, Glasgow City, East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, and West Dunbartonshire

**Lanarkshire Health Board** - North and South Lanarkshire

**Lothian Health Board** - the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, and West Lothian

**What can a hotel owner / operator in the Central Belt do until 10pm?**

Serve meals in their restaurant but this can only be to resident guests who are resident in the hotel.

Continue with room service including serving alcohol.

Sell alcohol through in room mini-bars.

Sell alcohol to guests at weddings and funerals – recognising that regulations only allow 20 people to attend.

Permit guests to bring their own alcohol for consumption within their hotel room. Guests are not permitted to BYOB of alcohol with them to consume as part of a meal served in the hotel's indoor dining area.

**What is a hotel owner / operator in the Central Belt prevented from doing?**

Sell alcohol for indoor consumption on the hotel premises.

**What can a pub / restaurant owner or operator in the Central Belt do?**

Serve takeaway food and drink.

**What is a pub / restaurant owner or operator in the Central Belt prevented from doing?**

Having customers inside their premises or selling alcohol for indoor consumption on their premises.

**What can a cafe owner / operator in the Central Belt do?**

Serve customers from 6am to 6pm. However if they have a licence to sell alcohol there are not permitted to sell alcohol.

**Weddings / Funerals / Life Events**

Specific life events, such as weddings and funerals, may continue with alcohol, with current meeting rules for these events (20 person limit).

**Travel**

Unlike the restrictions in March no mandatory travel restrictions are in place at this time and as such there is no expectation that people should cancel half term breaks. However the ask of people in the Central Belt by the Scottish Government is that they should not travel out-with their area unless it is essential.

**New Bookings**

In light of the travel guidance in place the Scottish Government would not expect people to be planning new or additional trips during this period, as this is contrary to the advice, however

the regulations do not prevent accommodation providers from taking further bookings, either in advance or as walk ins.

There's an expectation that accommodation providers consider the advice for themselves, and the potential risks. However they expect operators to be sensible, particularly with someone who turns up at their premises looking for accommodation. The Government doesn't expect a walk in to be turned away and left without a place to stay.

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**Contact us:**

This note is provided for your assistance in these unprecedented and fast moving times.

It does not constitute legal advice and it is provided on the basis that it does not create any duty of care or liability on our part.

If you require specific advice, one of our experts would be delighted to assist.

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