

Attachment D: Email from Queenstown Police

From: [BROOKS, Christopher \(Chris\)](#)
To: [Sian Swinney](#)
Subject: Christmas Day/Boxing Day Alcohol Restrictions
Date: Wednesday, 20 October 2021 8:03:28 AM [j](#)

Hi Sian

Prior to the restrictions being placed on Christmas day/boxing day in 2020 Police were having to specifically roster officers to police this area. Significant crowds were forming through the day with large amounts of alcohol present. What should be one of the quietest days for emergency services this was now being considered in police's planning due to the imminent threats of disorder.

Along with gross intoxication from alcohol and drug use, large amounts of glass and rubbish were being piled up along the beach front. People were also using the gardens area as a toilet despite extra facilities being put in place by council.

This is not a situation where police can simply make arrests. Any large crowd situation has inherent dangers and although an arrest make seem like a simple answer, this could cause crowd to turn on police and other members of the public. As such we adopt a community policing approach and use preventative measures such as high profile patrols through the crowd engaging with them and providing safety messaging.

The alcohol restriction is just that it, does not stop members of the public using the waterfront. After the Christmas day restriction was put in place the water front was able to be used by families again and open to all members of the community. Local businesses were again able to provide Christmas lunches and dinners without the view of previous years.

Although the police crime statistics will not show large amounts of arrests or alcohol infringement notices from this area we adopt a prevention approach to this situation in order not to inflame or make it worse. This prevention approach works alongside the intended alcohol restriction. In nearly all cases we obtain compliance through our prevention approach. This also avoids overloading the justice systems with low level behaviour arrests and criminalising people.

This alcohol restriction allows for emergency services to better deploy their resources. Police have not noticed any significant displacement from this alcohol restriction being put in place last year. Those groups that did choose to continue the party at private addresses were subject to the conditions placed on them by the owners of those houses and the fact they had to clean up their own mess.

It has been suggested that 'National Crate day' is an example of the problem being moved. We dispute this and have seen very little displacement issues. Of note is that through our prevention approach where we work alongside bottle stores to not promote the day we have also been in communication with 'Media Works' who through the 'Rock' radio station have been the key promoters of this day. Recently 'Media Works' have advised that they will no longer support this day.

Police support the Queenstown Lakes District Council in continuing to restrict alcohol through the Christmas/New Years period. This is a key tool alongside the prevention approach we take to keep all members of our community safe.

Sergeant Chris Brooks
Drug and Alcohol Harm Prevention
Otago Lakes Central Area
Southern District | New Zealand Police



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