

# **Controlling alcohol-related violence in the night-time economy**

## **Insights from regulation theory**

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Seminar 14 – Tackling alcohol misuse and violence in the night time economy:  
challenges and potential solutions

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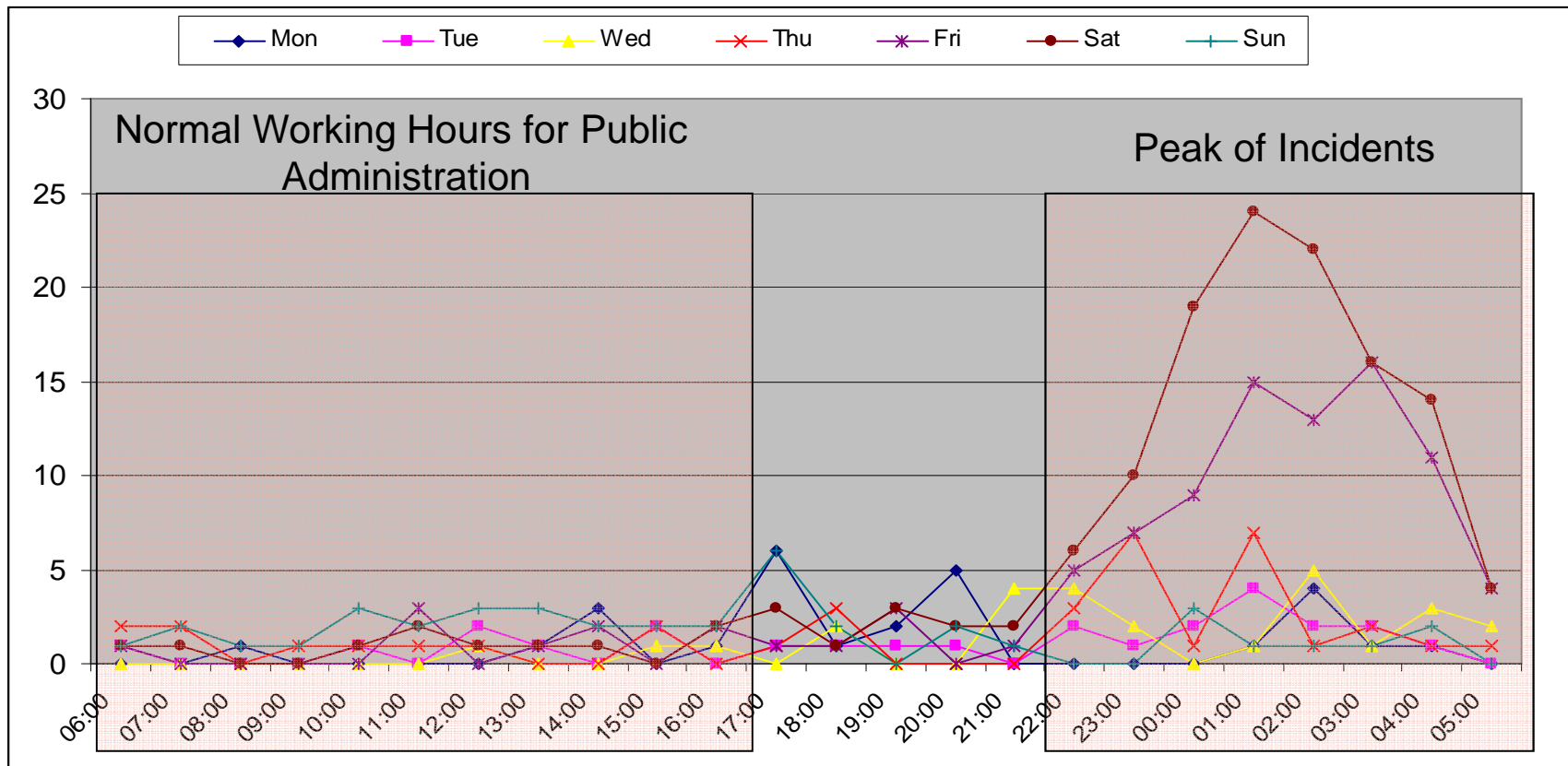
# Overview

- 1) Background to the research
- 2) Objectives of the research
- 3) Key findings & recommendations

# 1.) Background

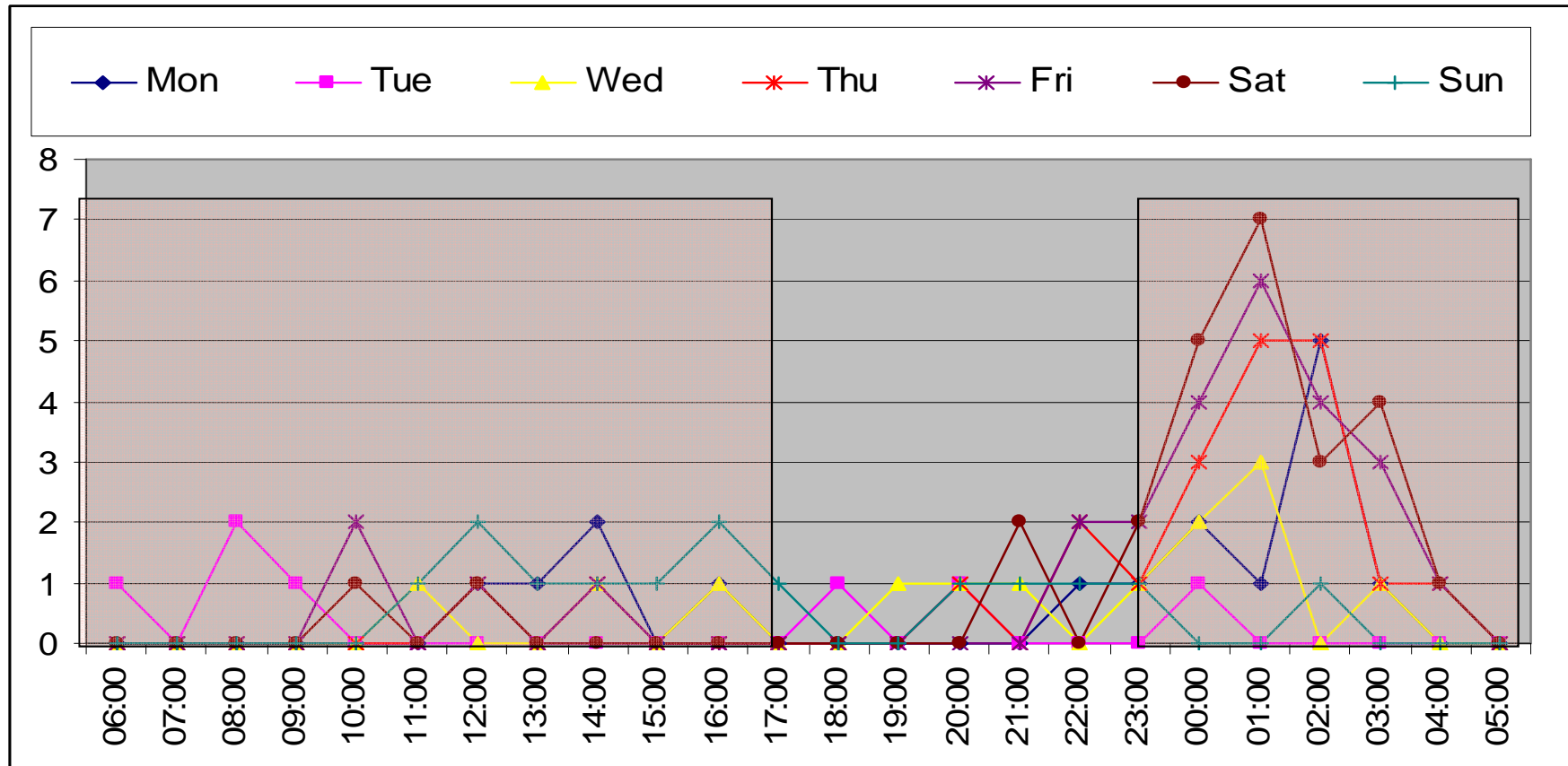
- Funding for the Night-Time Economy Co-ordinator (NTEC) post out of the Home Office Tackling Violent Crime Programme (HOTVCP):
  - Dec. 2007 – Mar. 2009, with evaluation requirement.
- In recognition of:
  - Rapid expansion of Cardiff's NTE;
  - Associated issues of public health and safety;
  - 'Regulatory deficit'.

# ST MARY STREET VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSON 2008/09



Source: Safer Capital, published in Edwards, A. (2010) *Evaluation of the Night-Time Economy Co-ordinator Post*, Cardiff, Centre for Crime, Law and Justice (Appendix 3).

# GREYFRIARS RD VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSON 2008/09



Source: Safer Capital, published in Edwards, A. (2010) *Evaluation of the Night-Time Economy Co-ordinator Post*, Cardiff, Centre for Crime, Law and Justice (Appendix 3).

## 2.) Objectives of the Evaluation

- To identify the formal and informal powers and resources available to the NTE coordinator for regulating compliance with community safety priorities;
- To identify the regulatory mechanisms that facilitate or hinder such compliance;
- To clarify which other authorities are responsible for regulating compliance with community safety priorities in Cardiff's night-time economy and how the post of coordinator can support these authorities;
- To clarify the problem-solving skills required by night-time economy coordinators in regulating compliance with community safety priorities;
- To identify the strategic and operational aspects of coordinating community safety in night-time economies and their implications for the future development of the office of NTE coordinator.

## 2.) Objectives of the Evaluation

- Action-research element, given the novelty of the NTEC-post
  - Creation of a unified measurement of performance and enforcement arm for the regulation of the night-time economy (NTE);
  - Engage local authority service areas with an identifiable role in preventing or reducing violence in the NTE;
  - Establish a late-night transport system that is easily accessible and clearly sign-posted for clientele; and
  - Enhance the surveillance capacity for reducing violence in the NTE.
- Basic conjecture informing these objectives
  - The regulatory deficit in Cardiff NTE can be significantly reduced through improved intelligence on 'hot-spots' and 'hot-times' for problems of health and safety and situational measures that reduce opportunities for their commission.

### 3.) Findings: Defining the brief for the NTEC

- Not obvious, given the various meanings of the 'night-time economy':

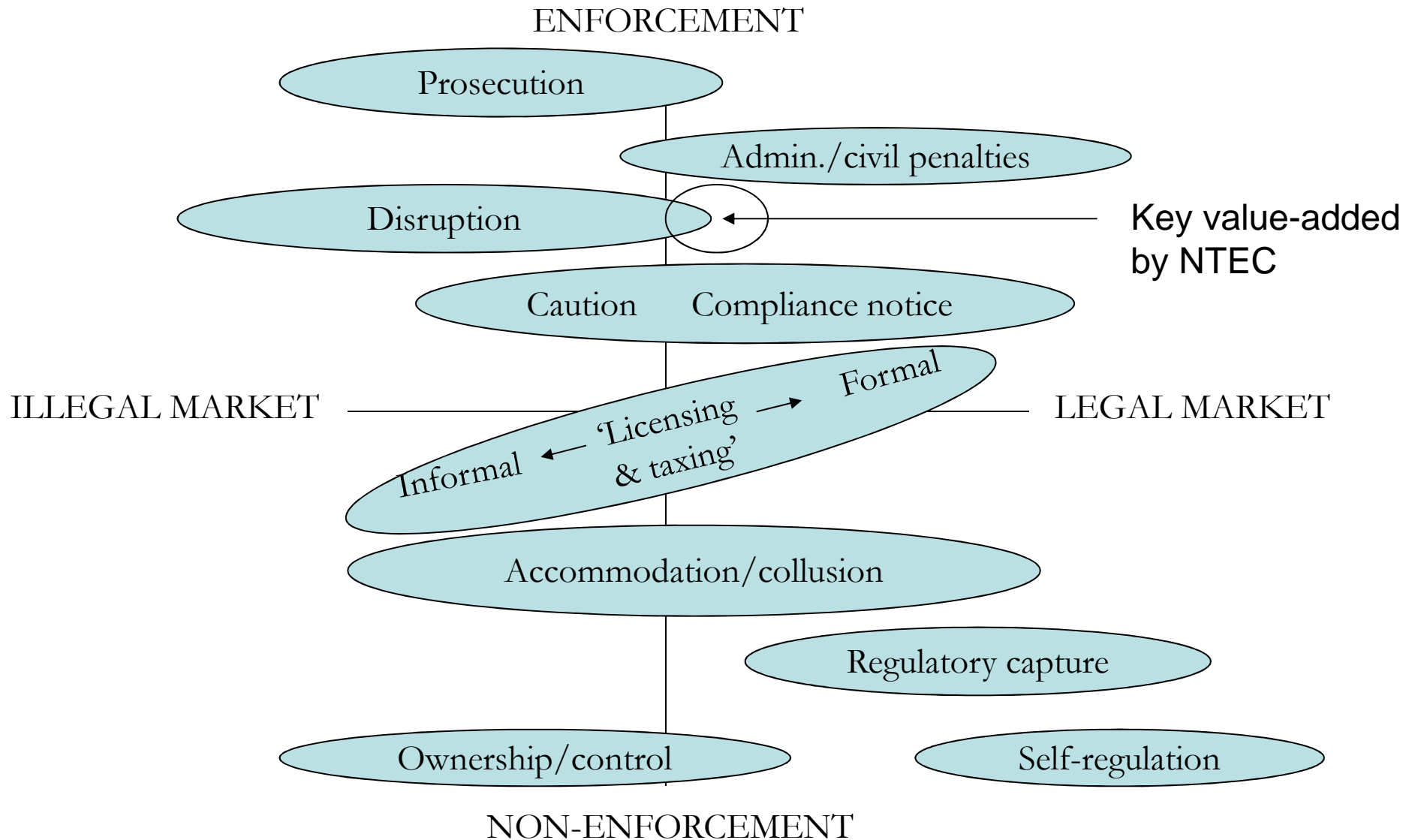
- 'Licensed eating, drinking and dancing';

And/or

- Illicit trade in narcotics, vice and gambling.



# Regulation in Licit & Illicit Markets



### 3.) Findings: Defining the brief for the NTEC

- ... the different targets for regulation

– Individuals

– Venues

– Places

– Markets



Operational management



Strategic management

## 3.) Findings: The NTEC role

- Limited powers, hence premium placed on ‘brokerage’ in recruiting agencies with enforcement powers into multi-agency operations against licensed venues and places;
- Resources for operations that ‘disrupt’ irresponsible alcohol consumption and its consequences (e.g. surveillance, road closures, marshalled taxi ranks);
- Limited strategic management in altering the markets in licensed eating, drinking and dancing (‘Thirst Class’/Purple Flag award schemes; cultivation of ‘evening economy’ and distinct city centre ‘quarters’).

### 3.) Recommendations (what value can the NTEC add to governing the City?)

- Location of NTEC in the **neighbourhood management** of the city centre, with a brief to ensure compliance with s.17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998;
- Enhanced **strategic management** role for the NTEC, collating intelligence on the impact of diverse licit (and illicit) markets on trends in public health and safety;
- Enhanced strategic management role for collating intelligence on the **displacement/deflection** of public health and safety problems from the city centre to residential suburbs and liaising with neighbourhood management teams in these suburbs.