

## SOURCE 7

**Police report from January 1917 on the effects of early shop closures as part of DORA regulations  
(PRO ref: HO 45/10956/322254/115)**

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### **HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :**

Look carefully at this source and consider what it tells you about how the Defence of the Realm Act affected people or how they reacted to DORA. You should consider:

### **ASK YOURSELF:**

- How has early closing affected people's shopping habits?
- Why are the poor more affected than the better off?
- What is the general feeling of shopkeepers towards the Act?
- Do you feel that this source is a good source for judging the feelings of the shopkeepers?

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The public have not experienced any serious difficulty in doing the necessary shopping or getting it done before the closing hour. Any difficulties that have arisen in the case of that section of the public which is engaged in business or labour during the day have been overcome by purchasing goods early, on the way home, or by asking friends to make small purchases during the hours of absence at work.

Generally speaking the Order affects the poorer class of the population, and not the upper or middle classes. The poorer class live in a hand to mouth fashion and the shops which cater for their needs are accordingly those which are affected. Apart from these shops, those of confectioners and tobacconists are affected to a greater extent than their neighbours.

The general feeling of shopkeepers towards the Order is not easy to gauge, as it is so largely dependent upon the human factor. The shopkeepers feel that they, in common with the rest of the public, must be prepared to abide by whatever restrictions are prescribed in the public interest at the present time. The general feeling is probably one of qualified satisfaction, sometimes it is <sup>one</sup> merely of toleration, and comparatively rarely of hostility. Many shopkeepers are glad to get the extra rest, and realise that, in view of the long evenings and darkened streets and shop windows, they are likely to gain as much as, or more than, they stand to lose.