

Mr Salik Miah  
The White Hart  
125 Dunstable Street  
Ampthill  
Beds  
MK45 2NG

**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** CB/ PNOI/12/10194  
**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Dear Mr Miah

**Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part III - Statutory Nuisances**  
**Complaints of noise arising from The White Hart, 125 Dunstable Street,**  
**Ampthill, Beds**

I write with regard to ongoing investigations into noise from the White Hart, 125 Dunstable Street, Ampthill.

As you may recall on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012 the Police Licensing Officer – Chris Carey and myself met with you at the Drovers Arms in Steppingley, to discuss persisting noise issues at the White Hart, Ampthill.

This was ultimately as a result of the Temporary Event held at the White Hart on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012 led to the service of a noise abatement notice as a result of excessive noise emanating from the cellar bar area of the premises. From the service of this notice noise from the cellar bar, further investigations were undertaken following continued complaints which resulted in a visit by two officers on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012 which noted, on entering your premises, that the door to the cellar bar was propped open. The doors adjacent to the stair case leading to the upstairs restaurant/bar were also propped open. This represented a breach of the conditions on the Premises License.

As a result of this breach and the continued complaints, I suggested a 'three strike' system for which this breach represented the first strike, allied to the complaints and noise monitoring. After three strikes, Public Protection, as a responsible authority will seek a review of the Premises License in an attempt to achieve improvements with recommendations which could include reducing the operating hours or restricting regulated entertainment in the cellar bar among others.

Since this meeting and subsequent letter sent on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012, the Public Protection out of hours service has visited on a number of occasions. Over the summer months it was noted that improvements were indeed made and noise emanating from the White Hart was much reduced. This was confirmed by the complainants who said that things had been much better and that they had not been unduly disturbed.

More recently we have had further complaints, indicating that the noise was becoming problematic again. On 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012 I visited the White Hart and noted that the doors adjacent to the stair case leading to the upstairs restaurant/bar were propped open. My colleague, Simon Joynes visited on the following weekend and noted again that the doors adjacent to the stair leading to the upstairs restaurant/bar propped open on 21st September 2012. This represents further breaches of the Premises License and as a result this represents the 'second strike'.

Additionally, the complaints specify that music is going on past the stated hours on the Premises License – reporting that music can be heard to 2.30am and beyond on some occasions. I would like to remind you that regulated entertainment should be finished by 2am on Saturday morning and 1am on Sunday morning according to the premises license as is currently stands. Public Protection has not substantiated this allegation, however, efforts will be made to ascertain whether this is the case and appropriate action taken should this be so.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Edwin Mater of Punch Taverns to inform him of this recent activity as Punch Taverns are the License Holders. I also intend that the out of hours officers make continued visits to the White Hart, Ampthill on nights when there is regulated entertainment to check that conditions on the Premises License are not being breached for the foreseeable future.

Please be aware that if any further breaches of the Premises License conditions are witnessed or if music amounting to a statutory nuisance is witnessed by an officer of the Council then I will have no option but to request a review of the Premises License.

I trust that this information is self explanatory. If, however, you have any queries or would like any assistance in this matter then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Alan Stone  
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**Cc: Edwin Mater, Business Relationship Manager, Punch Partnerships**