



# Internal Memorandum

## APPENDIX A

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|----------------|--|-----------|---|
| <b>FROM</b>    | Emma Nee - Licensing Officer<br>Mid Bedfordshire                     | <b>TO</b> | <b>Licensing Committee<br/>Central Bedfordshire Council</b> |
| <b>Extn</b>    | [REDACTED]   |           |   |
| <b>Date</b>    | <b>12/03/2015</b>  |           |   |
| <b>SUBJECT</b> | Application for Temporary Event Notice for HQ Sports Bar - Dunstable |           |   |

Sir,

May I take this opportunity to raise objections on behalf of the police to the application for a temporary event notice that has been requested by the HQ Sports Bar, Units 5 & 6 Grove Park, Court Drive, Dunstable for the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> May from 03:30 to 08:00hrs, on the grounds that its issue may undermine three of the four licensing objectives.

1. The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
2. Public Safety
3. The Prevention of Public Nuisance

Bedfordshire Police are objecting to this temporary event notice due to the following reasons:

The HQ Sports Bar is a relatively new premises and one which the Police have had concerns over from soon after opening.

The DPS and management team are very young and inexperienced and there have been a series of incidents which ultimately have led to the premises being placed on an action plan. These include:

A manager of the location being intoxicated and abusive. The same manager stating that police officers in uniform could not come into the venue. This was captured on police body worn video.

Allowing a large group of males to leave the location carrying glasses and bottles which led to a large scale fight in Asda carpark. This was captured on CCTV.

Door staff allowing persons to leave the premises carrying glasses. This was witnessed by a police licensing officer who stated that there was no doorman on the door to prevent this, as he was inside watching television. This account was disputed by the venue.

A manager of the location visiting a neighbouring premises where he refused to pay for drinks consumed and became abusive to staff and management.

The licensing sergeant visited the location when he found doorstaff not displaying SIA badges. Also no means of keeping track of how many customers were inside the location, eg. Not using a clicker. The doorstaff were also found to be hostile and uncooperative.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> February a meeting took place between Bedfordshire Police Licensing team and the DPS/Management team from the HQ Sports Bar.

The meeting was held to discuss various issues and concerns with regards to the running of the venue ie Drug Dealing/Taking, Under age drinking, Doorstaff and their attitude, lack of respect and their inability to do the role that they are employed to do.

It became apparent throughout the meeting that the lack of knowledge and understanding in terms of their

licence was very concerning and clearly they had not read their licence. This is a major concern as it is fundamental requirement that the DPS and her team actually understand their licence. As a result of the meeting the HQ Sports bar were placed on an Action plan and several of the conditions from the licence were also incorporated into the plan, questions were then asked by the DPS/Management team how it was possible to achieve at least one of the conditions on the Action plan, even though the conditions on the licence were agreed from Day One. Various other conditions that were on the licence had not been put into place such as the Door Supervisors Register, Refusals log Book and Incident Log Book.

This is not the first occasion where conditions on the licence were not being met and had to be pointed out to them.

The Hq sports have only been on the Action Plan for Approximately 3 weeks and already 2 incidents of Disorder have occurred at the venue.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March the venue were showing several high profile sporting events throughout the day which included families with children being present as well as other patrons inside the Hq Sports Bar. A fight broke out inside the venue whereby bottles and glasses were being thrown around which in turn left a lot of smashed glass throughout the premises, the venue itself was full to capacity and yet full control of the premises had been lost by the management and staff. This disorder spread to neighbouring premises including Go Bowling where there were families including children present.

In an effort to mitigate any blame for this incident, the DPS of the location criticised the lack of police response.

Police officer numbers are worked out on the basis of perceived and predicted demand. It is not normal for a large scale disorder such as what took place to happen late afternoon on a Sunday and the police position is that this would not have happened had the venue been operating responsibly.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> March a large scale Public Disorder started inside the venue this in fact was an argument that started by the pool tables over who was going to stay playing on them. During this fight, which involved a large number of people, a male is seen to be glassed and another is hit over the head with a chair. This then spilled out into grovehouse gardens, where CCTV shows a male being knocked to the floor and then kicked in the head as he lay defenceless on the ground. This has been crimed as a GBH with intent, and resulted in the victim receiving a fractured eye socket and a broken ankle. A female is also punched in the face during the fracas. This violent disorder resulted in 4 persons being arrested. It is fortunate that more serious injuries were not received.

In light of these events, and the fact that even though on an Action Plan, incidents such as these are becoming more common at the premises. Consideration is currently being given by Bedfordshire Police as to applying for a review of the premises licence.

Bedfordshire Police have serious concerns and issues with this temporary event notice being granted, and the fact that the HQ sports bar are looking for this notice to run till 08:00hrs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Our concerns are also that the DPS and management of the HQ sports bar are not able to control the premises to an acceptable standard for such an event to take place without incident. This could potentially lead to a large crowd of people who have been drinking for a considerable period of time disgorging onto the streets of Dunstable after the traditional Night Time Economy policing operation has finished.

It is for these reasons that Bedfordshire Police respectfully ask that this Temporary Event Notice is not granted.