

Appendix C



HAMPSHIRE
CONSTABULARY

Licensing and Alcohol Harm Reduction
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Our ref:
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26th May 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Application for the Variation of a Premises Licence, Pryzm, Stanhope Road, Portsmouth

On Behalf of the Chief Officer of Police, I make representations in relation to the application for a variation of premises licence at Pryzm, Stanhope Road, Portsmouth

I make these representations under the grounds of:

- 1) The prevention of crime and disorder
- 2) Prevention of Public Nuisance
- 3) Public Safety
- 4) Protection of Children from Harm

Pryzm

Pryzm is a nightclub with a capacity of around 1900 persons in the Cumulative Impact Zone in Portsmouth. It has been operated under the banner of Liquid/Envy until very recently.

The premises currently has a premises licence which allows the sale of alcohol until 02:00 hours in the morning Sunday through till Thursday with opening until 03:00 hours. Friday and Saturday the licence allows the sale of alcohol until 03:00 hours.

The premises was previously in 2015 taken to Review following a large increase in disorder. The committee heard the evidence presented to it and imposed a large number of conditions onto the licence. No change was made to the hours or the management.

Following the review the incidents attributed to the premises reduced. A new Designated Premises Supervisor was installed and since his inception the current DPS has worked very hard with the Police in order to ensure that the premises is operated in a way which supports the licensing objectives. As a result the Police Licensing Team have a good, strong, positive working relationship with the premises at this moment in time.



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Pre meeting prior to submission of the application.

In late March/early April 2017 the applicant met with officers Hampshire Constabularies Police Licensing Team. In order to discuss the potential for an extension of the premises licence Monday through to Thursday.

During this meeting the Police raised the following concerns:

- Concerns around the CIZ and how the CIZ information shows that during all days of the week there is a higher portion of violent crime during the hours they would wish to open, compared with the rest of the week.
- Concerns that the premises opening later would contribute to further crime and disorder at the premises.

Following this meeting the Police received contact from the applicants solicitor regarding any potential application. A reply was provided detailing the concerns of the Police and is produced as Annex A in the Police bundle.

Again the Police raised the same concerns.

The Chief Officer of Police is satisfied that the applicant has engaged with the Police prior to submitting the application as per the Home Office guidance.

Application

Following the engagement the applicant has submitted an application for the variation of the Premises Licence.

The application wishes to keep the hours the same for Friday and Saturday night. However the applicant wishes to be able to sell alcohol for an extra hour until 03:00 hours Sunday through to Thursday.

The Chief Officer of Police has noted that the application makes no mention of the Cumulative Impact Zone.

The Chief Officer of Police has also noted that the applicant does not submit any new conditions to support the licensing objectives. The Chief Officer of Police agrees that this is because the premises licence is already heavily conditioned. This is as a direct result of the review in 2015 following an unacceptable number of violent incidents which seriously undermined the licensing objectives at the premises.

Cumulative Impact Zone

Set up in 2010 to combat the increase in violence in the NTE in the Guildhall Walk area which culminated in two tragic deaths as a direct result of violent incidents within licensed premises.

The Cumulative Impact Zone restricts the application for new licensed premises within the area and also restricts the application for an extension of hours for existing premises. It does this by putting the onus on the applicant to show that any application will not impact negatively on the



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licensing objectives rather than the usual process of the onus being on the person who makes the representation.

Following a successful application by another premises in the immediate area to extend their opening hours, a decision was made to revisit the figures and continue with the CIZ. This was performed in 2014 and again more recently this year, 2017.

It is also important to note that over the next two years a number of student living accommodations are to be opened within walking distance of the premises. This will undoubtedly increase the foot fall to the CIZ and potentially as a result increase the likelihood of crime and disorder.

Violence Report Portsmouth NTE areas and CIZ

This details the violent crime statistics within the CIZ and within Portsmouth and can be found attached as **Annex B** of the Police bundle.

CIZ Figures

The main points for the most recent CIZ figures found in the report in **Annex B** are as follows:

- Distinct increase in violent crimes between the day time and night time economies within the CIZ, with the NTE showing higher levels of violence. Currently the NTE contributes a figure of 471 violence incidents over a recent 10 month period. This represents 71.36% of all violence in the CIZ. This indicates that there is very real issue with violence in the NTE within the CIZ which is completely disproportionate compared to that of the day time. It must also be noted that this trend appears to be on the rise a small amount for the second time in as many years.
- The amount of violence within the CIZ is disproportionate to the rest of similar NTE areas within Portsmouth. Violence incidents over a recent 10 month period within the CIZ represent 6.56% of all violence incidents within the Portsmouth district. Other NTE areas with a much larger area, a higher proportion and density of licensed premises, do not go above contributing 2.39% of violence incidents.
- Between 19:00 – 07:00 hours, the CIZ, on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday, accounts for 67-70% of all NTE area violence within Portsmouth.
- 55.69% of the NTE violence relates to Friday and Saturdays.
- 45% of the NTE violence relates to Sunday - Thursday.
- It has been identified that the peak times for violence incidents are between 20:00 – 05:00 hours.

It is the belief of the Chief Officer of Police that these facts show that there is a very real and prevalent issue with violence in the CIZ, particularly during the times the applicant wishes to operate and would strongly urge the committee to be minded of this information when forming their decision.



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Summary

This application is one which the Chief Officer of Police has concerns with. These concerns are around the ability of the applicant to show that they will fully uphold the licensing objectives and not cause incidents of crime and disorder. They also refer to the Cumulative Impact of the granting of this licence. They are as follows:

Premises has been closed Sunday – Thursday majority of the time

It is the understanding of the Chief Officer of Police that the premises has been closed Sunday to Thursday for the majority of the last 18 months. This is with a few exceptions where special events have been held.

This has meant that there is not a clear picture around how the premises operates during these days which the applicant wishes to extend their hours. In fact when the premises have been open mid week for special events we have seen concerning incidents of crime and disorder where Police have been required to disperse large crowds of aggressive persons.

As such the Chief Officer of Police does not believe that the applicant can demonstrate that by granting an extra hour the premises will not undermine the licensing objectives and more importantly will not cause a negative cumulative impact on the area.

The CIZ

I have evidenced in **Annex A** evidence which shows that despite a long term reduction in violent crime in the CIZ there is still a higher, disproportionate to the day time, level of violent crime at night, in the area the applicant wishes to operate.

The current Portsmouth City Council, statement of licensing policy, relating to applications within a CIZ states:

“The Licensing Authority, therefore, will normally refuse the grant of new premises licences or club premises certificates or variations whenever it receives relevant representations about the cumulative impact on the licensing objectives which it concludes after hearing those representations should lead to refusal”

The Chief Officer of Police believes that the applicant has not demonstrated enough to show that they would not have a negative cumulative impact for the grant of the premises licence as it stands.

The granting of this application as it stands will lead to a negative cumulative impact and further crime and disorder at the premises and in the area.

Police Request to Refuse the Licence as it stands

Due to the above it is the belief of the Chief Officer of Police that the granting of the application as it stands will not only lead to a negative cumulative effect on the area but will also lead to incidents of crime and disorder at the premises itself.

As such the Chief Officer of Police requests that the **licence be refused and not be granted**.



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Yours Sincerely

PC 21945 Rackham
Licensing and Alcohol Harm Reduction Team
Hampshire Constabulary



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