

APPENDIX C

Licensing Manager
Licensing Service
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Guild Hall Square
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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to the licensing committee regarding the recent review of license at the Duke of Devonshire on Albert Road.

Firstly I would like to say having 16 years experience in the hospitality industry I was shocked to read the report in the Portsmouth news about the incidents that occurred last weekend. I didn't believe the statements made for various reasons. Firstly the staff have on multiple occasions ID'd customers using the challenge 25 procedures correctly whilst I've been present. The underage party in question was brought into the venue by an older relative who was buying drinks for them, behind the backs of Sam, Tom and the staff. Is this person in question being looked into for providing alcohol to a minor in a public house? If not, I'd personally like to know why? Furthermore the Saturday in question where the fight broke out is the first Saturday in many weeks that there wasn't a door supervisor present which I believe was due to them not showing up. These incidents were reported to the public with not wholly correct facts putting the reputation of the venue at risk in these difficult times.

Having been a regular in the venue since before the first lockdown I can honestly say Sam and Tom are two of the most personable and customer focused landlords I have met in many years. They strive themselves on making the venue a home away from home and a genuine community feeling like the pubs of old days. I believe to suspend or remove the license from these two hard working and honest people would mean the loss of another decent genuine pub in the southsea area and Albert road.

I believe with the measures discussed and agreed with the landlords this pub will see significantly less incidents and will continue to bring joy to many locals and tourists who frequent it. I for one will continue to support Sam and Tom on their journey keeping this historic pub alive and a vital part of Southsea's hospitality industry.

If you require any further information from me please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards
Chris Foulger