

# APPENDIX C



Dear PCC Licensing Committee,

We are writing to you having read in the Portsmouth News of the temporary license suspension enforced against the Duke of Devonshire pub, and the subsequent decision to review the landlord's license on a longer-term basis. We are resident at number 1 Boulton Road, the premises adjoining the Duke of Devonshire, and hope that our experience with the pub, its landlords, and the surrounding area, might be useful in your evaluation of the pub's license and its future.

We would like to state that Tom and Sam, the landlords, have been consistently considerate of their neighbours since they took up management of the Duke, and we have been impressed by the lengths they have gone to in ensuring their pub is a safe and civilized environment in the often-chaotic Albert Road area. We've seen them turn away drunk would-be customers, ensure doormen are present on busy nights (Tom himself is often keeping a close eye on things), restrict the times in which under-25s can enter, and adopt a rigorous adherence to social distancing and cleanliness during times in which COVID-related restrictions were in place. We have never felt in any way disturbed or upset by any incident originating at the Duke of Devonshire, and were surprised to hear of the occurrences of recent weeks, as they had not disturbed us at the time. We are very used to being disturbed by activity along Albert Road: passing drunks shouting and arguing at all hours of the night, drunks outside of Ken's Fried Chicken opposite the Duke, and (most commonly) the unchecked drunken behaviour of customers at the Royal Albert next to the Duke, a pub which is far busier, far louder, is frequented by much heavier drinkers, and which frequently plays music at unnecessarily loud volume out of speakers placed in its garden (which backs onto our property), which not only adds up to a constant background noise for local residents whenever the pub is open, but also causes patrons in their pub garden to have to shout even louder to hear each other over the noise from the speakers. Needless to say, we were very surprised to hear of the action taken against the Duke and its landlords, when the latter have been extremely vigilant against causing upset, in the very difficult circumstances following the COVID pandemic, while the causes of far more disruption in the area are in plain sight.

Speaking as residents who are directly affected by way the Duke of Devonshire is managed, we are confident that Tom and Sam are doing all they can to ensure their pub is as safe and civilized as possible, and we also respect them as neighbours and members of the local community. If their license were to be revoked, new landlords would be brought to the pub that are unlikely to have as much consideration for their impact on the local residents, and that could only have a negative impact on the area.

Please get in touch if you need any further information from us or if we can assist at all in this matter.

Many thanks,

Nick Fletcher

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