

APPENDIX D

From: Mason, Hugh (Cllr)
Sent: 06 March 2022 20:01
To: Licensing Shared Email
Subject: 22/01282/LAREVI - Noble House

Re: Review of the Licence for the Noble House - 22/01282/LAREVI

I should be grateful if the following observation could be brought to the attention of the Sub-Committee.

I have been a frequent patron of the Noble House for many years.

I have always found that Mr Choi and his family run a very well ordered establishment which meets, so far as I can ascertain, all four licensing objectives. It is certainly a place to which one could safely take young children. It causes neither nuisance nor discord in the neighbourhood. Mr Choi, his family and his staff are always careful when selling alcohol to patrons.

So far as the alleged misdemeanours are concerned, I have long been aware that Mr Choi provides accommodation for legitimate asylum seekers who are prohibited from taking paid employment and have little or no recourse to public funds. While Mr Choi has never sought to hide this fact, he has equally never publicised the assistance which he provides. I understand that the people whom he accommodates have limited knowledge of the English language and thus might not be understood in another environment.

A report has appeared in the press that Mr Choi boasted that he "had friends in high places". This would be totally out of character. I have learned over the years from the local Chinese community that Mr Choi is indeed well respected by the Chinese Embassy and that very senior officials have dined at his restaurant. I have also gathered that leading members of the Hampshire community are amongst his patrons. He, however, has never told me of this and certainly not boasted of the fact.

I trust that these observations will be of assistance to the Sub-Committee.

Hugh Mason
Councillor for Saint Jude Ward