



**Application for the review of / Representation in respect of a  
Premises licence or Club Premises certificate  
under the Licensing Act 2003**

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Before completing this form, please refer to FPP 07001 (Licensing (Licensing Act 2003))

I Ben Lewington, on behalf of the Chief Officer of Hampshire Constabulary,  
(Insert name of applicant)

Apply for the review of a premises licence.

Apply for the review of a club premises certificate.  
(Select as applicable)

Make a representation about a premises licence/club premises certificate

**Premises or Club Premises details**

Postal address of premises:	Afters 4-8 Guildhall Walk Portsmouth
Postcode (if known):	PO12DD

Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known) Afters Nightclub LTD
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Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known) 22/02550/LAPREM
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**Details of responsible authority applicant**

Mr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other title / Rank:
Surname: Lewington First Names: Ben
Current postal address : Police Licensing Portsmouth City Council Civic Offices Guildhall Square Portsmouths
Postcode: PO12AL
Daytime telephone number:
E-mail address: (optional) licensing@hampshire.police.uk

Hampshire Constabulary is a responsible authority and the applicant has the delegated authority of the Chief Officer of Police in respect of his responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003



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This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)

Select one or more boxes

- 1) The prevention of crime and disorder [X]
2) Public safety [X]
3) The prevention of public nuisance [X]
4) The protection of children from harm [ ]

Please state the grounds for review which must be based on one or more of the licensing objectives together with supporting information:

Hampshire & IOW Police are requesting a review of the Premises Licence for Afters Nightclub, Guildhall Walk Portsmouth.

The Police are requesting this review due to significant concerns relating to the operation of the venue by the current licence holder, Afters Nightclub Ltd and the impact that this is having on the promotion of the licensing objectives, namely the prevention of crime and disorder, and public safety.

The venue re opened in March 2024 with new operators, Afters Nightclub Ltd, the sole director of the company being Lydia Taylor. Mr Jonathan Robinson is also actively involved with the operation of these premises but he has no legal standing as an officer of the body corporate for Afters Ltd.

The premises reopened following a period of closure after Hampshire Fire and Rescue services had highlighted significant concerns with the previous operator and the fire prevention and protection equipment at the premises.

The venue is situated within the city centre and a busy night time economy area of Portsmouth, The venue is also situated within a cumulative impact area and if not managed properly this will have a detrimental effect on the local community, customers, businesses and the promotion of the licensing objectives.

On the 19/2/24 Pc 23635 Lewington and Pc 21451 Vincent attended the venue and spoke with Taylor and Robinson, this was an introduction from Police Licensing to the new owners, during this conversation we discussed the need to transfer the licence over to Taylor and expectations that they comply with the current licence conditions. They were also advised that prior to opening to make contact with police and council licensing to ensure they are ready to open, and also to discuss updating the licence.

No further contact was made by Taylor or Robison with Police Licensing or PCC Licensing prior to re-opening.

Since the venue opened in March 2024 they are now operating with their 3rd DPS, The venue initially opened with the previous DPS( LLOYD) named on the licence,although we do not believe he had any part in the business operation, this DPS removed himself on 10/4/24. The next DPS (WHEELER) remained in post until the 19/6/24,



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The current DPS (HURST) has not been seen at the venue during any police or local authority visits. She currently lives out of the area and is unable to attend the venue in a timely manner should an emergency arise. The owners have informed that she does attend the venue but these have been during the week and not when the venue is at its busiest.

The venue, has in the short time of being open, used 2 different SIA registered security companies and then employed door staff directly despite the owners not having the appropriate licence to do this. This has been highlighted to the SIA (The offence of engaging in conduct for which a licence is required when not in possession of an appropriate licence, Schedule 3 of the Private security Industry Authority 2001). The owners have now employed a new door company, this being the 3rd.

At the beginning of April the venue was inspected by Hampshire Fire, as a result of the inspection the venue was issued with a prohibition notice for both use as a nightclub and for the upstairs accommodation. The owners did rectify these issues to allow them to continue trading.

Within a week of the HFRS visit, on the 6/4/24 police had to deal with multiple issues at the venue. Police officers witnessed customers leaving the venue with suspected class A drugs, numerous customers were seen entering and re entering the venue whilst heavily under the influence of drink/drugs and were allowed to enter unchallenged. Customers seen to enter with a fake IDs, again unchallenged. The owner was challenged about customers being found in possession of drugs to which he responded, "at least they wasn't in the club". This was detailed on the weekly debrief document completed by A/Sgt 27510 Rowsell who was on duty within the night time economy that night. ( Full report Appendix A )

Due to the concerns raised a police licensing officer (PC Dennett) attended the venue the following evening and witnessed much of the same, including customers collapsed outside and being taken to hospital due to a reaction to suspect drug misuse.

This is not common practice but due to the issues the duty Police Inspector requested a licensing officer attend the venue for the evening.

Below is the licensing officers summary- ( Full report including summary below Appendix B )

**SUMMARY- Taken from Appendix B**

This report is as a fresh set of eyes for your consideration. I have never been to this venue and I don't know what is already in place so please excuse points made that may have been addressed.

- Congested main entrance
- Over intoxication – leading to violence outside the venue
- No BWV immediately and had to be reminded
- Owner not confident in what he is doing
- I would suggest there is an issue in regards to drug use within the venue or a poor search policy
- I reckon a subsequent check of SCANNER use may show some discrepancies
- Poor queuing system



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- Over crowded and poorly monitored smoking area
- Lack of care in regards to vulnerability – drunk customers left to their own devices.

On the 8/4/24 follow up communication was sent to the owners highlighting the findings from visit completed by Pc Dennett. Advice and material was supplied to them to assist in them in rectifying the issues. A visit was arranged to complete a compliance visit with the owners. Following this comprehensive report police licensing completed a compliance visit on the 9/4/24 and it was found that the venue wasn't compliant with a number of its premises licence conditions and as a result section 136 offences under the licensing act were being committed.

The owners acknowledged these findings and agreed to implement the advice and ensure the material was to be used.

(Full email chain Appendix C)

After these findings regular police visits by Police licensing officers were conducted at the venue on these dates, this included licensing officers from other areas within the force. These visits were recorded on the secure police recorded management system (RMS) and are highlighted as (Appendix D)-

13/4/24 0100hrs, No DPS present. Visit completed by Pc 23635 Lewington  
Drug identification swabs were used in the male and female toilets, and both showed evidence of cocaine and spice (synthetic marijuana) when checked through our Rapiscan drugs identification device. Cocaine is a class A controlled substance under the misuse of drugs act whilst spice is defined as a class B substance.

(Appendix E- details of drug swabs and results).

14/4/24 0120hrs- No DPS present, visit completed by Pc 2591 Hawley

28/4/24 0030hrs- DPS present, visit completed by Pc 23635 Lewington

10/5/24 2220hrs- DPS present, visit completed by Pc 3715 Dennett and 25597 Scott

18/5/24- 0030hrs DPS present visit completed by Pc 23635 Lewington

25/5/24- 0045hrs DPS present, visit completed by Licensing officer 16866 Pollard

8/6/24 – 0015hrs No DPS Present, visit completed by Pc 23635 Lewington and Licensing officer 16866 Pollard

29/6/24- 0045hrs No DPS present, visit completed by Licensing Officer 16866 Pollard

6/7/24 – 0050hrs No DPS present, visit completed by Pc 23635 Lewington

The following information has been supplied to police from concerned persons-

15/5/24- Information received from \_\_\_\_\_, reported they had to take a heavily intoxicated female to safe space, the female disclosed to them she had brought drugs in the



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toilets at Afters.

Further information from \_\_\_\_\_ supplied on the 22/7/24, they observed what they believe were customers entering the venue post 0200hrs, they observed a queue at the venue and ID checks being carried out on people entering the venue.

22/7/24- Information received from Portsmouth CCTV

At 0338hrs, on the 20/07/24, 4 males were seen leaving "Afters" nightclub on Guildhall Walk. They went to the side alleyway one of the males could be seen counting out money. He also had what looked like quite a large bag of white powder. There was also another male with a bike, he looked like he also had a possible bag of it in his hands. The males walked off together after a short time, one of the males appears to be wearing a door badge around his arm.

(Appendix F CCTV footage, awaiting footage)

Over the past few months of the venue operating there has been numerous contacts to police detailing concerns that have been raised, by members of the public, these concerns include staff being racist and homophobic, lack of door supervision at the venue, drug misuse at the venue, and underage persons attending venues within the guildhall walk area.

The following incidents have been recorded by police and are directly linked to the venue. These incidents have been recorded on the secure police record management system(RMS)- (Full redacted reports Appendix G)-

E1- 5/4/24 - RMS No. 44240143808 Male was seen to exit the venue and place items in his sock, this male was stopped and searched by police. The male was found in possession of several small bags of white powder.

E2- 7/4/24- RMS No. 44240145401 a small bag of white powder found in the street outside the venue

E3- 7/4/24- RMS No. 44240145419 male from venue searched by police and found in possession of drugs

7/4/24- RMS No. 44240145419 male ejected from venue and required medical attention due to drug misuse. (Photos within Appendix B)

E4- 28/4/24- RMS No. 44240177707 male has tried to gain entry to Afters, he was refused and punched door staff

E5- 20/5/24- RMS No. 44240212019 report of male being aggressive in venue and refusing to leave

E6- 11/7/23 - RMS No. 44240292709- report of male assaulted in the venue, ABH level injuries

E7-13/7/24- RMS No. 44240296478/44240296365- allegation of sexual assault and



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possession of class A drugs, male seen in venue with drugs by Council Licensing, male detained by police and searched, female disclosed a sexual assault male has been arrested.

E8 – 13/7/24 RMS No. 44240296377

The suspect has been detained by officers following reports from multiple MoP and door staff that have stated that the suspect had been taking drugs within various premises, ejected from The Afters, Guildhall walk

The suspect has been S23 searched and two bags of white powder have been located in his sock, believed to be Class A.

The suspect was too intoxicated to be dealt with and he was dispersed from the area.

Due to these incidents and significant concerns that the premises was not promoting the licensing objectives and not compliant with their licence a joint visit was conducted by Police Licencing Coiln Pollard, Pc 2903 Swallow, Council Licensing Les Matthewson, and Ross Lee.

During this visit a full compliance check was completed with the owners Lydia and Johnny being present, the DPS again wasn't present for this.

Below is a summary of the findings- (Full report Appendix H)

Annexe 1, 01 Breach of mandatory condition, the venue has an SIA requirement on the licence, it requires each individual conducting activity under the Private security Act 2001 to be licenced. The venue has employed an individual with a suspended licence.

Annexe 2, 02 Breach of Lavatory condition, the owners have failed to keep the toilets clean and in good state of repair, with wall tiles missing, and exposed jagged edges.

Annexe 3 ,01-Breach of the ID scanner condition, Condition states that if there is a fault then this has to be reported and repaired within 72 hrs and police must be informed every 72hrs as to the status of the scanner and repairs, a fault was identified on the 17/6/24, police were informed of this but no further updates were recorded.

Annexe 3, 02- Breach of CCTV condition, The CCTV system clock will be checked regularly for accuracy. The timings on the CCTV system were showing over an hour different to the



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correct time

Annexe 3,05- Breach of SIA door staff condition, the venue is required to have 4 SIA door staff after midnight on Friday and Saturday. During this visit only 3 door staff were seen on duty after midnight, Out of the 3 SIA on duty one door staff had a suspended licence. On the 5/7/24 police visited the venue and only 3 SIA door staff were on at 0045hrs.

Annexe 3, 06-Breach of staff training condition, 2 out of the 3 staff members hadn't completed the training.

Annexe 3, 09- Breach of BWV condition, the equipment will be maintained and available for viewing on request, and any faults must be reported to police. The BWV was worn by the suspended door staff there was no footage available on request due to the device being new as previous devices had broken.

Annexe 3, 10- Breach of written door supervisors policy condition, The venue is required to have a written policy in place that is agreed with police, and part of this policy is to maintain a register of all SIA working at the venue. There was no policy in place and the venue was unable to produce a register for inspection

Further findings during this visit highlighted,

Customers were heavily intoxicated, one customer found unconscious in the photo booth. At this time, there was only 23 customers in the venue.

Council licensing officer Les Matthewson witnessed drug taking within the venue, this was identified to police, RMS 44240296478 from Appendix F refers .

There was no refusal book kept, and no refusals had been recorded at the venue.

The owners have been employing SIA in house without the appropriate licence.

No drugs policy in place, even though this was provided by police.

During the visit, police conducted Rapiscan drug swabs throughout the venue. These are used to detect presence of drugs on surfaces. These swabs are used within the Night time economy area on a regular basis as a proactive tool to assist venues and identify issues.

These swabs were taken in numerous places including toilets, front of house seating areas, bar area, tablets used as point of sale by staff and areas back of house where patrons don't have access.

The results from these swabs were very high and would indicate that drugs are being used throughout the venue, including behind the bar and in the kitchen area.

These drugs swabs were completed by Pc Swallow who is the currentforce lead on the Rapiscan machine ( Full report from Pc Swallow appendix I)

Looking at the evidence detailed above, this shows that in the opinion of police, the venue is being poorly managed. The owners are not committed to running a safe venue or promoting the licensing objectives.

Since the venue opened Police and Council licencing have been engaging with the owners and, when visible, the DPS. Back in April several breaches of the premises licence were highlighted to them and appropriate material and advice provided to ensure compliance with the licence. Despite a large amount of police and local authority led engagement the operators are still failing to comply with their premise licence conditions. Reference emails as appendix

Police are seeking a revocation of this premises licence. The evidence supplied highlights







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Signature of Officer Completing

Name	<u>Lewington</u>	Collar Number:	<u>23635</u>
Signature:	<u>Pc 23635 Lewington</u>	Date:	<u>23/7/24</u>

Signature of Authorising Officer (Inspector or above)

Name	<u>Ps Cohen</u>	Collar Number:	<u>2849</u>
Signature:	<u>Ps 2849 Cohen</u>	Date:	<u>23/7/24</u>