



Leeds District Licensing Department
First Floor
Elland Road DHQ
Elland Road
Leeds
LS11 8BU

Your ref:
Our ref:

21st May 2015

cc. Entertainment Licensing Section. Leeds City Council, Civic Hall, Leeds. LS1 1UR

RE: 'SIGNORINA', 19, MERRION STREET, LEEDS, LS2 8JE
APPLICATION FOR NEW PREMISES LICENCE – LICENSING ACT 2003:
POLICE OBJECTION - OUTRIGHT:

Thank you for submitting your application for the above premises, received at the address above on 29th April 2015.

West Yorkshire Police object outright to your application for the following reasons:

- The applicant was arrested on 6th August 2013 for offences under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. He remains on police bail whilst this complex case is still being investigated.
- The applicant has given a daytime contact number on page 2 of his application which West Yorkshire Police systems link to a male called This male runs a shop two doors down on Merrion Street, called Clip News.
- Trading Standards officers visited Clip News recently and found large amounts of illegal tobacco. The operator at that time told officers that he was applying for a premises licence for the shop but no application has ever been received.
- Two suspected Turkish males present on the premises at the time of this visit confronted the Trading Standards Officers and a scuffle broke out.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

So, in terms of promoting the licensing objectives, this application falls very short of the mark. The applicant is currently being investigated for a serious criminal offence; he has given a contact number which is connected to a male who runs a shop with clear connections to illegal tobacco sales; and that shop has clear connections to violence offered towards officers from a Responsible Authority.

When one considers the application itself the hours for the sale/supply of alcohol applied for, Sun to Thursday from 17:00hrs until 02:00hrs, and Friday to Saturday from 17:00hrs until 04:00hrs, clearly outstrip any other similar operations in the city centre. Most similar operations cease at midnight or 01:00hrs at the latest.

The area around Merrion Street has seen a very marked increase in on-licensed premises recently and the area has become busy and vibrant, but is not yet experiencing associated levels of crime and disorder. The availability of alcohol from an off-licence until 04:00hrs in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday morning is likely to attract a large volume of people leaving these late night venues and attract all the associated issues that go with serving large volumes of inebriated people – public order offences, assaults, damage and anti-social behaviour. The applicant is clearly aware of this as he has offered a door man as a condition of his licence – I do not know of any other similar operation which requires door staff to control what we know will descend on these premises after midnight, and one door man would not be able to cope.

Indeed, the measures offered by the applicant are not far from those I would expect from a nightclub or late night bar, and give some indication of what problems are anticipated at what is effectively just an off-licence.

The city centre is covered by a Designated Public Place Order which is intended to help prevent people drinking from open containers of alcohol on the street and the anti-social behaviour associated with this. The hours applied for cannot be conducive to upholding this Order.

It is therefore in every respect that West Yorkshire Police object to this application;

- The applicant himself;
- His connections to Clip News and,
- The proposed business operating hours,

and take the view that the Licensing Objectives would be seriously undermined if a premises licence were to be granted.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED