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Leeds District Licensing Department

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Tel: [REDACTED]  
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ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING

11 JUN 2015

RECEIVED

11<sup>th</sup> June 2015

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

RE: WOK & GO, 44A, WOODHOUSE LANE, LEEDS, LS2 8LX  
 APPLICATION FOR NEW PREMISES LICENCE – LICENSING ACT 2003:  
POLICE – LETTER OF REPRESENTATION – CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY:

Thank you for submitting your application for the above premises, received at the address above on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

The application relates to premises which fall within one of the areas of Leeds currently subject to a policy of cumulative impact, as detailed in the present Statement of Licensing Policy 2014-2018, issued by Leeds City Council as the licensing authority.

The area concerned in this particular case is **Area 1 Leeds City Centre**.

Therefore, in line with the current statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State under Section 182 Licensing Act 2003, West Yorkshire Police make representations based on the cumulative impact policy of the area concerned and highlighted above, where the licensing objectives and particularly the prevention of crime and disorder and prevention of public nuisance objectives, are being adversely affected.

The proposed premises are located in a current red zone in the cumulative impact area. The Council's policy states:

*"The council will seek to refuse all applications in these red areas on the basis that the impact on the licensing objectives are at such a level that the area cannot support any more premises opening or extending their hours no matter how impressive the concept or application is. The council will only grant applications in the red zone in exceptional cases", and*

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*"This applies to alcohol led premises such as bars, pubs, and nightclubs, and for premises seeking late night refreshment such as takeaways and late opening restaurants".*

The location of this proposed restaurant/take-away is Woodhouse Lane.

This area of the city – Albion Street/Woodhouse Lane – has recently been included in the red area of the Council's Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) 2014 – 2018, from January 2015 following a police statistical update to the Licensing Authority. Even though it has only just been included in the red zone of the CIP this is an area which has demanded increased police resources and attention for many years. June 2010 saw the introduction of a street marshal scheme in that area which operators fund themselves to try and assist in the reduction of on-street crime. It is an acknowledgement that they all bear a collective responsibility for what occurs on the street in that area.

This is the second challenge to the Cumulative Impact Policy in this area of the city since it was designated 'red'. The first is yet to be heard before the Licensing Sub-Committee.

The area includes premises such as Tiger Tiger, McDonald's, Subway, Colazione, Maluko, Pryzm, Yates, Hedley Verity (Wetherspoons), and the Merchant. It is an alcohol related violent crime hotspot with peaks of offences of assault/affray, robbery and theft from midnight onwards. Albion Street has been in the top 3 streets for offences from 2010 to 2012 and has shown an increase in calls for service in more recent years.

Extra police resources are deployed to this area on Friday and Saturday evenings, and over Bank Holiday weekends, in an attempt to help reduce the crime and disorder associated with people frequenting the large amount of licensed premises in the immediate area. These crimes/incidents range from thefts and robberies to public order offences, assaults, serious disorder and also sexual offences.

The saturation of the area is such that determining which venues may bear some responsibility for the issues is practically impossible, and means that they cannot be dealt with by way of review or enforcement meetings. A strong Cumulative Impact Policy is therefore imperative to prevent already existing venues extending their licensable hours, and to prevent further premises licences being granted in that area which would add to the considerable impact already being felt.

The current application is for a restaurant/takeaway for operating hours up until 02:00hrs Sunday (into Monday) through to Thursday (into Friday), and 03:30hrs Friday (into Saturday) through to Saturday (into Sunday), and therefore falls within all peak crime times.

Conditions in relation to CCTV, door staff, an incident report register, and a BACIL radio have been offered in the application but their implementation would do little to persuade us that operating during peak crime times would not impact adversely on the area. The majority of other premises in the area all have these measures in place and the area remains problematic.

In order to convince the Licensing Authority of an exceptional case you may like to consider reducing the hours applied for so that the application does not fall within the scope of the CIP.

I do not feel that this application demonstrates an exceptional case. We already have a number of late night refreshment venues in the area and elsewhere in the city and they act as a beacon to inebriated people who then clash inside and directly outside the premises.

Therefore, in terms of location (RED ZONE), and in terms of applying to operate as a late night restaurant/take-away until 02:00hrs Sunday to Thursday, and 03:30hrs Friday through to Saturday, West Yorkshire Police consider that this application implicates the current policy of cumulative impact for

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Leeds City Centre in the red area, and would rely on the relevant paragraphs of the current Section 182 guidance in making this representation.

