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25th May 2017

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

RE: HIRSTS YARD, 11-13, HIRSTS YARD, LEEDS, LS1 6NJ
APPLICATION TO VARY 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 4th May 2017.

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 the current red zone in the cumulative impact area. The Council's policy states:

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7.24 *“It is the council’s policy, on receipt of relevant representations, to*

- *Refuse new and variation applications in the red area*
- *To seek additional measures for new and variation applications in the amber area*
- *To seek good quality applications for application in the green area*

7.25 *“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”.*

This application initially appears quite innocuous with the description of the variation as follows:

1. Vary the layout of the premises in accordance with the plans attached to this application;
2. Remove the current Annex 2 and Annex 3 conditions which are outdated, and replace these with the operating schedule attached to this application.

It is accepted that the vast majority of Annex 2 and Annex 3 conditions are outdated and West Yorkshire Police would welcome the majority of the replacement conditions offered with minor alterations to CCTV storage retention and door staff deployment.

However, on examining all the ‘outdated’ conditions to be removed the following food related conditions exist on the current licence:

18. Food in the form of meals and bar snacks will be available at all times when the premises are open to trade.

19. Sufficient staff will be employed to offer waiter/waitress service to customers requiring food throughout the whole of the premises.

The current application seeks to remove these food related conditions with nothing offered to replace them, effectively allowing the venue to be more alcohol led than before in this alcohol related crime sensitive area of the city.

The original plans show a restaurant and kitchen on the first floor – these have been replaced by a dancefloor, DJ booth and toilets on the revised plans submitted with the variation application. The whole style of operation therefore appears to be changing – if it hasn’t already – and allowing the application to go through unchallenged will allow another alcohol led premises to operate in this already problematic area where alcohol related violent crime is on the rise.

Therefore, in terms of location (RED ZONE) and in terms of applying to vary a premises licence to remove food related conditions and the kitchen, and replace the restaurant with a dancefloor, West Yorkshire Police consider that this application implicates the current policy of cumulative impact for Leeds City Centre in the red area, and would rely on the relevant paragraphs of the current Section 182 guidance in making this representation.

PC Cath Arkle
Leeds District Licensing Officer
West Yorkshire Police

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