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Leeds District Licensing Department

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24th May 2017

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

**RE: TURTLE BAY, UNIT A14, THE LIGHT, ALBION STREET, LEEDS, LS1 8TL
 APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF 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 2nd 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 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 restaurant/late night bar is Albion Street.

This area of the city – Albion Street/Woodhouse Lane – was 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 relatively recently 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 the area which operators funded 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 but has recently fallen by the wayside.

The application in April 2015 for a premises licence for Turtle Bay was the first challenge to the Cumulative Impact Policy in this area of the city after it was designated ‘red’. At a hearing in front of the Licensing Authority the hours they currently wish to acquire were refused.

The area includes premises such as Tiger Tiger, McDonald’s, Players Bar, Maluko, Subway, Stampede, 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. There is a secondary peak from 23:00 until midnight and in the past year (Sept 2015 to Aug 2016) violent crime has risen by 39% in this area compared with the previous year (Sept 2014 to Aug 2015). The only material change in this area between those 2 years has been the granting of the premises licence for Turtle Bay in June 2015.

This objection is made under the Cumulative Impact Policy but there is also crime specific to the premises which I will produce should this matter go to hearing. There has also been a Section 19 Closure Notice (CJ&P Act 2001) served on the venue in February this year after a visit found them not to be complying with the conditions of their premises licence. So it can be shown that they have contributed directly to the rise in crime in the area by the incidents directly associated with them. It is more difficult to assess what crime they may be connected to in the area which is why the cumulative impact policy exists.

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 on-street 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 application seeks extra hours for alcohol, recorded music and late night refreshment on the two busiest days of the week, Friday and Saturday, applying to extend the sale of alcohol until 01:00, closing at 01:30 instead of the current 01:00 finish. If anything, the area has deteriorated since the grant of their licence and yet they seek to sell more alcohol and to close later. No extra crime prevention measures are offered, but a point is made of the no new admissions after midnight. This merely means that the customers in the venue can stay there drinking more alcohol and exiting in a more inebriated state than previously, having taken advantage of the two for one cocktail offer which is advertised all day until 19:00, and then from 22:00 until the close of the venue.

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Therefore, in terms of location (RED ZONE), and in terms of applying to extend the sale of alcohol, recorded music and late night refreshment on a Friday and Saturday, with an extended closing time 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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