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Leeds District Licensing Department
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14th December 2017

Rick Wade/Dave Baguley
Northern Guitars Café Bar
41, Call Lane
Leeds
LS1 7BT

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

**RE: NORTHERN GUITARS CAFÉ BAR, 41, CALL LANE, LEEDS, LS1 7BT
APPLICATION TO VARY A 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 17th November 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.

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

7.20 "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

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".

The location of these premises is in very close proximity to a multitude of other licensed premises in this area such as Red Door, Mook, Space, Revolution, Cuckoo, Brooklyn Bar, Call Lane Social, Norman Bar, Rolands, Neon Cactus, Oporto and Jakes Bar. It is an alcohol related violent crime hotspot for robbery, assault and theft. The peak time for crime had been between midnight and 04:00hrs, but has now extended to between 23:00 and 04:00hrs. The extra hours of operation applied for therefore fall in to these peak times.

The analysis of crime data provided to Leeds City Council upon which the current Cumulative Impact Policy is based shows that the Briggate/Call Lane area has experienced a 17% rise in reported crime since the last review of crime statistics just over a year ago. The highest concentration of offences in the city remains in this area, and has slightly extended compared with the previous 12 months. A more up to date report regarding crime statistics in the city – Sept 2016 to Aug 2017 - which I submit with this objection (these statistics will be what the city centre zones will be based on from January 2018), unfortunately shows another rise, 15%, and the peak times in the area starting from 23:00 as opposed to midnight.

This application seeks to extend the hours of licensable activities by one hour and closing time to extend by one hour. I have spoken to the applicants on a number of occasions and I am aware that the conservative operating hours on their licence have had the effect of fettering the business somewhat. The café/bar has grown in popularity and regularly hosts small live music sessions, and I accept that the operating style is different from the majority of other venues on this part of Call Lane – most of which are late night bars. They have used TENs to help extend hours, and from a search of police systems I can say that there is no crime directly associated with the venue since it obtained its premises licence, apart from a burglary in July this year. However, cumulative impact is not about crime or incidents directly associated with venues, it is about the crime and incidents which occur in the area where we can't attribute it to one particular venue – and these issues occur because of the popularity of the area and the concentration of the number of licensed premises in that area.

The saturation of licensed premises in 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.

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The Council's policy is to only grant applications where they are seen to be exceptional, and it is for the applicant to demonstrate to the Licensing Sub-Committee that the application would not impact on the cumulative effect of such licensed premises in the area. You have offered no further measures in your application to promote the licensing objectives.

Therefore, in terms of location (RED ZONE) and in terms of applying for an extension of hours to operate up until midnight, with the sale of alcohol and late night refreshment terminating at 23:30hrs, 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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