

Licensing Sub-Committee

Tuesday, 21st May, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor A Ali in the Chair

Councillors L Martin

1 Election of the Chair

RESOLVED – To elect Cllr Asghar Ali to the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

3 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

4 Late Items

There were no late items.

5 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interests were made at the meeting.

6 Certification of a Film – Marie, the Doll, Marie-Poupée

The report of the Chief Officer Elections and Regulatory advised the Licensing Sub-Committee of an application for the certification of a film titled 'Marie, the Doll, Marie-Poupée', which is to be screened on 21st July 2024, at Outlaws Yacht Club, 38 New York Street, Leeds, LS2 7DY.

The promoter had not provided an advance screener for Members or officers to view.

It was noted that there is no requirement for the Sub-Committee to view the film as the request was to award an 18 rating subject to a written declaration by the promoter confirming that the film does not contain any content which would more likely than, not render them liable to be classified as R18 if considered in accordance with the BBFC Classification Guidelines. Members had been provided with a link to the BBFC Classification Guidelines at Paragraph 2.4 of the submitted report.

Members noted that the promoter had provided a report which included the synopsis, details of the screening and the required declaration. The was appended to the submitted report at Appendix A.

Members raised no concerns in relation to the requested certification of an 18 rating.

RESOLVED – To grant certification 18 to the film titled 'Marie, the Doll, Marie-Poupée', as requested.

7 Application for the Transfer of a Sex Establishment Licence for Purple Door, 5 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2DR

The report of the Chief Officer Elections and Regulatory requested Members consideration on an application to transfer a Sex Establishment Licence. The application was made by Purple Door Holdings Limited as the proposed operator of the premises known as Purple Door, 5 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2DR.

In attendance for the meeting were:

- Nicholas Quadrini, Purple Door Holdings Limited – Applicant

- Carl Copeland – General Manager, Purple Door
- Cllr Tyler Callum Wilson – Parish Councillor at Aberford Parish Council – Observing
- Don Mort – Democracy Reporter

The Legal Officer outlined the procedure for the hearing and the guidelines for the transfer of a Sex Establishment Licence. The Sub-Committee had only two Members as one Member had submitted apologies at short notice. The Legal Officer asked the applicant if they were agreeable to continue with only two Members. The applicant said that he was agreeable to continue with the meeting.

The Licensing Officer provided the following information:

- Purple Door have held a licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for the provision of regulated entertainment and the sale of alcohol since 24th November 2005. A copy of the current sex establishment licence was appended to the submitted report at Appendix A.
- The application was made by Purple Door Holdings Limited, Unit 40 Friar House, Low Friar Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 5UF. The application was attached at Appendix B. It was acknowledged that the current Statement of Licensing Policy for Sex Entertainment Venues, including the transfer of a licence had to be determined by the Licensing Sub-Committee.
- It was noted that the application had not attracted any representations either in objection or support.

Mr Quadrini explained the reason for the application to transfer the licence providing the Sub-Committee with the following information:

- Purple Door had been licensed under Mr Quadrini's father's company Ruby May 2 Limited. Mr Quadrini's father had recently died, and he wished to transfer the licence to his new company Purple Door Holdings Limited which was in the name of Nicholas Quadrini. Purple Door Holdings Limited was still the same address in Newcastle, but he had wanted to change the name as Ruby May 2 Limited was his father's company and he wanted to resign the old company.
- The premises would still be run by Nicholas Quadrini and the current General Manager, Carl Copeland.
- The premises licence would remain the same using the same conditions. However, it was noted that the premises were currently undergoing a refurbishment, but Mr Quadrini confirmed that the outside of the premises would remain unchanged.

During deliberations Members raised no concerns to the application to transfer the licence.

RESOLVED - To grant the transfer of the Sex Establishment Licence as requested to Purple Door Holdings Limited.

8 Application for the Renewal of a Sex Establishment Licence for Whiskey Down, First & Second Floors, 25 Crown Street, Leeds, LS2 7DA

The report of the Chief Officer Elections and Regulatory requested Members to consider the renewal of a sex establishment licence for the provision of sexual entertainment in the form of lap dancing. The application was made by Tokyo

Industries (Ultimate) Limited for a premises to operate under the name of Whiskey Down, First and Second Floors, 25 Crown Street, Leeds LS2 7DA.

In attendance for the meeting were:

- Aaron Mellow, Director of Tokyo Industries (Ultimate) Limited – Applicant
- Marcus Bentley – General Manager, Whiskey Down.
- Sue Duckworth – Entertainment Licensing
- Cllr Tyler Callum Wilson, Parish Councillor at Aberford Parish Council – Observing
- Don Mort – Democracy Reporter

The Legal Officer set out the procedure for the hearing and as the Sub-Committee had received apologies from one Member asked if the applicant was agreeable to proceed with only two Members. The applicant was agreeable to the application being heard by two Members.

The Licensing Officer provided the following information for the Sub-Committee:

- A history of the premises was provided at Paragraph 3.0 of the submitted report which noted that an application for a sexual entertainment venue had been determined at a licensing sub-committee hearing held on the 14th March 2017. Members at that meeting had approved the application and subsequent applications to renew the licence made annually had been granted as requested. A copy of the current licence was attached to the report at Appendix A.
- A copy of the application for renewal was attached at Appendix B.
- Members were asked to note the additional documents supplied by the applicant which were appended to the report at Appendix C and included:
 - Dancers Welfare Policy
 - Dancers Code of Conduct
 - Customers Code of Conduct
 - Pricing Policy
 - Trade Union details
- At Appendix D Members were provided with images of the external appearance of the premises.
- No representations had been received from West Yorkshire Police.
- It was noted that Entertainment Licensing had made a representation not as an objection, but rather a suggestion for revised conditions to replace the existing conditions on the licence, which had been identified as out of date, redundant and in some cases, unworkable. The letter from Entertainment Licensing was attached to the report at Appendix E. Members had been advised that a review of the conditions had been undertaken in consultation with the existing Sexual Entertainment Venues.
- A map identifying properties of sensitive use in the surrounding area had been attached to the report at Appendix F.

Mr Mellow provided the following information for the Sub-Committee:

- Whiskey Down is what used to be the Townhouse and is located behind the Corn Exchange. He advised Member that the signage is only lit up and used at nighttime.

- £1m had been spent developing the site. He wanted to change the appearance and view of a gentleman's club, which in his view had become jaded over the years.
- Whiskey Down provides a number of alcoholic beverages including a range of rare and exquisite whiskey's, rum's, brandies and bourbon's, ranging in price.
- Mr Mellow said that he was agreeable to the revised conditions as suggested by Entertainment Licensing. However, he was unhappy that Entertainment Licensing had used a generic email address to consult on the revised conditions and requested that in future any consultation should be undertaken via a more personal email address.

The Sub-Committee welcomed the work of officers in reducing the number of sexual entertainment venues over the years and the work that had been undertaken to ensure and promote the welfare of the performers.

In response to a question in relation to the welfare packs for performers the Sub-Committee were informed that all information including telephone numbers were up to date. It was also noted that Entertainment Licensing were in the process of liaising with Women's Aid to hold relevant information for performers separate from the establishment should they require it. It was noted that once the work had been completed the information for Women's Aid would be sent to the sexual entertainment venues for inclusion within the welfare packs.

The Sub-Committee were advised that work had been undertaken to:

- Update the welfare packs and make it easier to comply with the conditions.
- DBS checks had been formalised.
- There was better security in the private booths.
- Clearer information and clarification on what to expect in relation to non-touching.
- The revised conditions would be an improvement for both the performers and the business.

The Sub-Committee suggested that Members be invited to visit the premises to ensure for themselves that the performers were respected and safe. This was noted by officers and with the agreement of the Chair of Licensing could be taken to a future meeting of the Licensing Committee.

During Members' deliberations the work of officers on the performer welfare packs was acknowledged.

RESOLVED – To grant the renewal of the Sex Establishment Licence as requested.

The meeting concluded at 11:35