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Leeds District Licensing Department

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23rd November 2018

Paddy Whur
Woods Whur 2014 Ltd
Devonshire House
38, York Place
Leeds
LS1 2ED

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

RE: JUICY GOSSIP, 5, BRIGGATE, LEEDS, LS1 4AF
APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE – LICENSING ACT 2003:
POLICE – LETTER OF REPRESENTATION – CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY:

Thank you for submitting your application for the above premises.
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 (CIP) 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:

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

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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 applications 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 proposed premises is in very close proximity to a multitude of other licensed premises in this area. It is an alcohol related violent crime hotspot for robbery, assault and theft. The peak time for crime in this area of the city is between 23:00hrs and 04:00hrs, with the peak days being Saturday and Sunday, followed by Thursday and Friday. The hours and days 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 15% rise in reported crime since the last review of crime statistics just over a year ago. That’s on top of the previous 12 month period which showed a 17% rise. The highest concentration of offences in the city remains in this area and the statistics illustrate an area which is deteriorating not improving.

The saturation of licensed premises in this 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.

This is the third application for a premises licence at this address. The first application, objected to by this department and other parties, was withdrawn prior to being heard at a scheduled licensing hearing. The second application went to a hearing in front of the Licensing Sub-Committee and was refused.

For some time now the premises have been operating illegally, selling hot food after 23:00 without any authorisation, basically as often as they think they can get away with it. They therefore already have crime directly connected to their venue which is very much of their own making, never mind what may have occurred in the area which is linked to them operating. So they have already proven that they undermine the prevention of crime and disorder licensing objective by committing offences under the Licensing Act 2003. They also have public order offences directly linked to the venue as a result of operating illegally.

The premises have been visited by West Yorkshire Police and Leeds City Council Licensing Enforcement. On one such visit at 01:30hrs on Saturday 13th October 2018 officers will state there were approximately seven members of staff working behind the counter, and that orders were still being taken for hot food from members of the public who were present. The applicant, Adeel Ahmed, was present. When officers identified themselves he spoke to members of staff who then left through a back door. He told officers he wasn’t the manager but that he just worked there. He is described as being aggressive, confrontational and dismissive towards the police and the Council enforcement officers.

West Yorkshire Police therefore have absolutely no confidence that the applicant will promote the licensing objectives given that they are already positively undermining them.

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Therefore, in terms of location (RED ZONE), and in terms of applying for a new premises licence to provide late night refreshment from 23:00 until 05:00, West Yorkshire Police consider that this application implicates the current policy of cumulative impact for Leeds City Centre in the red area, and advise that it be refused, unless the presiding Sub-Committee are convinced that the grant of this licence will not negatively impact on the cumulative impact of existing licensed premises in the area.

PC Cath Arkle
Leeds District Licensing Officer
West Yorkshire Police

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