

Appendix G

From: [REDACTED]
[Entertainment Licensing](#)
Date: 16 January 2021 19:32:27

To Whom it may concern,

Whilst passing a venue in Leeds City Centre recently I became aware of a notice on its wall stating that you are reviewing its premises licence. I was alarmed by some of the things that were written on the notice and thought I would send in my thoughts on the business.

On the occasions that I have visited Taag, I have never had any reason to doubt its safety or the measures that were in place. I work as a teacher in a secondary school so corona virus protocols are a subject with which I am very familiar. More notably how hard they are to enforce.

Whilst it wasn't perfect, it was as close to a safe environment that one could expect going out for food in these uncertain times. The service was good, everything was explained to us and we were given constant reminders of what is expected of us throughout our visit.

Taag is a very small venue and the staff appeared to be working hard to make sure that everyone was having a good time whilst making sure we were safe. We complained that another table were not always sat where they should be and they immediately took action and made sure they complied with the rules. It is a venue I have recommended to my friends and have been looking forward to visiting once hospitality re-opens again. As a key worker, these type of venues that provide a level of safe normality are much needed and an asset to Leeds and those of us who like to have a fun yet very safe experience.

I look forward to following the outcome of this review.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any more details.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Subject: Taag licence review
Date: 16 January 2021 11:36:56

To whom it may concern,

I have recently been made aware of a pending license review for Taag in Leeds. From personal experience, I was particularly impressed by the way the management and staff strictly maintained the Covid-19 related guidelines while still fostering a great atmosphere, so would like to provide a reference in support of the venue.

Having visited the premises in August of last year, I was impressed by the controlled atmosphere in the venue. While everyone was sitting down, it was particularly noted how well the staff managed to keep the atmosphere while also sticking within the rules. Rules including mask wearing, no dancing and staying sat at your own table, which were communicated at the time of booking and again clearly reiterated on arrival at the venue. As such, throughout my time at the venue I was encouraged that everything had been done to ensure I hadn't been put at risk of exposure to the virus.

I would also like to stress the need for venues of this kind for the sake of people's mental health. Having had first-hand experience of the effect mental health issues can have, it is clear that the past year has exacerbated this for a large number of people. A venue that adheres to the guidelines while giving people the social interaction they need is hugely valuable and Taag in Leeds is one of those venues that, in my experience, was managing to do a great job providing exactly that.

If you need any more information from me please do not hesitate to get in touch and I hope the above goes some way to providing some context for the type of venue Taag is and the way it is being managed.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Entertainment Licensing
Date: Licence Review of Taag Leeds
17 January 2021 20:34:07

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have recently been made aware that there is a pending licence review on Taag in Leeds.

I am both shocked and saddened by this news as I have frequented Taag on 3 occasions and have nothing but praise for the venue and the staff.

I first visited Taag on 22/08/2020 which was not long after the first lockdown ended and there wasn't a tier system in place. I attended with my family and close family friends in a group of 9 (this was permitted by government guidelines at the time) and this was our first group outing for a brunch since covid hit. We were all extremely impressed by the venue; it wasn't crammed to capacity, tables were spread as evenly as possible, staff could easily access all tables in order to serve drinks & the food, 2m rule, and there was hand sanitiser upon entry which was mandatory every time you left and re-entered the premises and also a bottle on each table which we thought was a nice touch given the circumstances.

The atmosphere was great and the other customers were all very pleasant and well behaved with regards to alcohol consumption.

The impact of not being able to go out and socialise in a restaurant/bar had not really been felt by myself until we were able to actually go out and experience it again. The impact on my mental health was so positive; knowing I could go to a place that I felt safe, looked after and could still enjoy myself.

Therefore I visited Taag for the second time, the week after on the 29/08/2020 for the brunch again. The experience was pretty much the same as I have described as above. Staff were very conscious of people sticking to the guidelines and safety measures put in place such as the 2 m rule when queueing for the toilet, no mixing tables or dancing around the venue. Again, this was a great atmosphere, felt completely at ease and safe whilst still being able to socialise and enjoy myself.

The third time I attend Taag was 09/10/2020 for the evening supper slot. The government guidelines had changed since I had previously visited and so had Taag. There were stricter safety measures in place which was great to see as it definitely put us at ease. The extra measures included masks having to be worn to enter and could only be removed once you were seated, they also had to be worn when you visited the toilet. Staff had masks on at all times, there were hand outs explaining the rules and the track and trace app information. Again, it was a great atmosphere and everyone complied with the rules. If anyone didn't, staff and security were quick to address the person/people and control the situation. This was mainly people standing up and dancing at their table once they'd consumed alcohol but staff had already explained upon entry that this wasn't permitted.

Each time I visited Taag and it came to the end of the session, either in the afternoon or at 10pm as per government guidelines the staff were great. They tried to discourage people from congregating outside and leaving Taag was very controlled despite staff having to deal with people that had consumed alcohol. I or anyone who I attended Taag with, never left worrying thinking they may have been exposed to the virus, we felt completely safe when there and I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent there.

Coronavirus has taken many things away from people over this past year and one of the things is to be able to socialise. I myself could see how hard the staff members at Taag had worked to implement the ever changing government guidelines but still allow their customers to have a great experience and I believe they managed to do this safely and more than adequately. Taag is a premises that appeals to all ages, the music is a niche for the bar/night life scene of Leeds and I believe it would be a great loss to the hospitality sector.

I currently work in the Home Office as a civil servant and am expected to go into my covid secure office which is no different to the safety measures that were put in place at Taag. The hospitality sector have taken a huge hit during these unprecedented times as it is and I strongly believe that this venue should be able to keep its licence. It's a well run establishment, and would be a massive loss to the Leeds social scene.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and I hope that you consider the detrimental impact this would have on many people should the licence be removed from Tagg.

If you would like any further information from myself please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below.

[REDACTED]

██████████
██████████
██████████
██████████

11th January 2021

Dear Sir or Madam

My name is ██████████, and I am the Designated Premises Supervisor for the ██████████ in Loughborough and have been since April 2014. I have known and worked with Tijani Yesufu (TJ) since I took up my post. When I took my post TJ had already been operating in Loughborough as a promoter for a number of years. TJ was well known and was highly regarded by both his customers, other venues, Loughborough University and all the authorities in the area. We immediately started to work together. I also sit on the committee of our local Pub Watch and have done so since 2014 and only ever good things have been said about his events.

TJ has hoisted and promoted a large number of events at my venue since my appointment, one of them being a weekly event. All of his events have been safe, structured and well run. TJ already has a good understanding of the licensing objectives and what is required of him and he always takes due care and attention when promoting and organising his events. We have had no issues with any of the local authorities regarding a single of the events he has ran at our venue.

TJ is professional, knowledgably (he always keeps himself up to date with the industry), organised and hard working and only surrounds himself with similar sorts of people.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Regards

██████████
██████████

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Edward Smith](#)
Subject: TJ Yesufu Character Reference
Date: 11 January 2021 11:46:53

To whom it may concern

As the owner of multiple venues in Loughborough from the year 2009 I employed TJ Yesufu as bar staff and used his services as a promoter of events.

I found TJ to be a pleasure to work with in both capacities.

He was punctual and reliable and showed a passion for events even from his early days.

His communication was excellent and I found him to go far in excess of the norm to ensure success and safety at his events ranging from measures such as employing extra security and first aid staff on site to liaising successfully with the authorities and the police to make sure everyone knew when his events were, what the likely turnout would be and providing valid risk assessments for any such said events.

As I write this TJ is vastly more experienced in running events and I would not hesitate to use TJ's services again.

Kindest regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Subject: Taag license Review
Date: 16 January 2021 19:41:05

To whom this may concern

I am emailing regarding the upcoming licence Review for Taag in Leeds City Centre.

I have been to Taag on many occasions and always had a great time, When the lockdown rules allowed it, I felt comfortable inviting my friends, who I had not seen for months for a catch up. As I live on my own, places like taag are important, as people don't fully understand how hard it is getting through these difficult times being isolated.

As I currently work as a dentist for the NHS. I am familiar with what needs to be in place to ensure people's safety and didn't see this as a point of concern on my many visits there. I have always seen the staff and other members of the public trying their best to follow these rules. Emails and information on the procedures are sent to you before hand and explained again on the day.

With my job, I would not go somewhere where I felt this was not the case. As then I would be increasing the risk to my patients.

The staff that work there have done an amazing job in making this a safe place, and deserve to carry on doing what they are doing. I am fortunate enough to have been working through the recent lockdowns. When the situation of pandemic improves the staff at taag deserve the chance to be able to work again too.

Many Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Subject: Taag Review
Date: 16 January 2021 14:08:00
Attachments: [Outlook-Leeds Beck.png](#)
[Outlook-Leeds Beck.png](#)

To whom this may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a lecturer and performance nutrition consultant at Leeds Beckett University and Huddersfield Town football club, respectively. I have become aware of the pending license review at Taag. I feel strongly that this is not a fair evaluation of the service I have received on my numerous visits to the premise.

Every time I have visited Taag with my family or my friends they have strictly enforced Covid-19 safety protocols. Upon booking our table reservation we were informed of the new rules and regulations, which would help keep us safe during our visit. This included hand sanitisation upon arrival and wearing masks at all times, apart from when we were enjoying the food and drinks menu. We have always been placed on socially distanced tables, which we were required to sit at throughout the entire booking. This included friendly waiter and waitress service, who took our drinks and food orders as required and helped prevent the typical queuing at bars I have observed at other venues. The tables had several small hand sanitizers that we could use throughout our stay. Music was played at an enjoyable level, allowing us to appreciate our meal and drinks, although without encouraging people to stand up, dance or mingle inappropriately.

Due to nature of my work, I would not have attended Taag or returned if I felt this would place my family or friends, my work colleagues or myself at undue risk. At the University and club, we also enforce the latest Covid-19 guidance. Both organisations have been commended on the standard of safety they can offer to their employees and clientele. Moreover, as a performance nutritionist I am acutely aware of the standards required to ensure safe dining in line with Covid-19 regulations. Based on this understanding, I can confirm that Taag has been able to offer the service I expect from a public venue with regards to individual's safety.

To finish, I would like to highlight the important impact safe dining can have on people's mental health and wellbeing during repeated lockdowns. Taag is such a venue, offering individuals a chance to safely leave their home, enjoy good food and drink and see friends. I highly appreciated the procedures in place for venues to follow. However, the last 10 months has placed an unprecedented burden on everyone. Compassion is required to ensure we all survive and beat Covid-19 together. Therefore, I would be very disappointed to see Taag delivered an unfair review based on the service I have received.

Many thanks for your time and consideration,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Entertainment Licensing
Date: Taag Review
16 January 2021 13:44:38

To whom it may concern. I have visited Taag several times in the past year and I was very impressed by how strictly they adhered to covid 19 safety standards.

This made me and the company I was with feel very safe and well looked after amidst a pandemic. The booking system was very strict and social distancing was in place at all times.

Hand sanitisers were available on every table and a queue system was in effect if you had to leave your table for any reason eg. going to the toilet all in the name of maintaining social distancing

The whole place ran on a one way system which meant that even when going to the toilet or outside the venue you were socially distanced from other customers. Everything was brought to your table in a no contact manner which made me feel extremely safe in this environment.

Face masks were worn at all times except when sat on your table eating and you were not allowed to leave your table under any circumstances without a face mask unless you were exempt of course.

I was pleasantly surprised by how they managed to adhere to safety measures and still created a social atmosphere that my company and I felt safe in. This was a very important factor for me as I am a front line worker and it is paramount that there is a venue that maintains safe practice which in turn enables me to protect my patients and not put them at risk.

I look forward to visiting taag again and I hope they can continue to practice the exceptional safety standards I witnessed

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Date: TAAG Leeds licence review
17 January 2021 16:36:06

To whom it may concern,

It has been brought to my attention that the venue 'TAAG' on Great George Street in Leeds, is having its license reviewed due to a potential breach in COVID restrictions, therefore; I am writing this email to hopefully provide some clarity regarding TAAG's COVID procedures.

I visited TAAG around the middle of July 2020, when restaurants were allowed to re-open and we were allowed to travel once more. Upon my visit to TAAG, what was evident was the seriousness in which the staff were taking the re-opening of the premises, including the enforcement of the COVID rules. The expectations of the visiting customers were made clear by management and employees, with sanitizing stations, and reminders of the expectations set around the restaurant, including social distancing with other parties.

As a professional within education, I understand the difficult task of enforcing COVID rules all too well. I could not fault the staff at TAAG for their handling of business during times in which businesses have had to continuously adapt and overcome.

Even with these new restrictions in place and evidently higher workloads for all of the staff at TAAG, the atmosphere was made to feel very welcoming and I thoroughly enjoyed my afternoon at the venue.

I hope this email provides some transparency.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Date: Fwd: Taag review
16 January 2021 15:26:16

To whom this may concern,

I have seen that the notice that TAAG is up for a license review and would really like the opportunity to just say how great of a place it is. A place where people go to enjoy their time, have fun and love life again - all whilst being in a safe, controlled environment. If you have never been, let me tell you. The atmosphere is electric and there isn't one gloomy face on any table.

I have never once been in taag since the whole pandemic started and felt uneasy or like rules weren't being stuck to.

The first time I had a table since it all started I thought how cleverly they had prepped it. Balloons attached to hand sanitisers on the table - super cute touch, you never lost the hand sani all night! A one up one down system for the toilet. Controlled serving of tables and never once did any of my group feel that they needed to leave the table for anything because Taag mastered covid rules to ensure safety, but with out making you feel awkward or uncomfortable.

Still having Taag to go to when we we're allowed out for that small time in 2020, became mine and my friends happy place. The affect these lock downs are having on our favourite bars / restaurants and businesses having to close is scary and impactful on so many more than just the bar owners and staff. It affects the public too.

Being a a key worker in this pandemic and changing our factory lines to supply hand sanitisers globally to help fight this virus. I know first hand the affect this is having on everyone and never would I or my friends be in an environment where we felt at risk.

Taag is a place where people go to feel good, to diminish the affects they might be feeling mentally. And for these places who have taken a hit having to close their doors, to now possibly never re opening again doesn't bare to think about what back lash the public might feel when this is over, not having their well loved, trusted places to go back to.

I so wish to see Taag open its doors again for not just me and my friends. But for the rest of the faces they put so many smiles on.

Many thanks and warm wishes in this gruesome world we live in right now.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Subject: Taag Licence Review
Date: 17 January 2021 17:01:27

To whom it may concern,

I hope this e-mail reaches you well in these challenging and uncertain times. I am emailing with regards to the pending licence review on Taag in Leeds that I have been made aware of over this last week.

Taag is a venue I have frequently attended and there are several reasons as to why this is somewhere that I continue to attend as a young professional. During my most recent visit to Taag, when venues were permitted to be open, it was evident that all staff were aware of the most recent guidelines with regards to public safety and enforced these rigorously. On entry I was informed of the rules and told; I must wear a mask when walking through the venue, I had to remain seated at all times and dancing was not permitted, it was purely table service and I could only leave my seat to go to the toilet or when leaving the premises. The emphasis put on safety made me feel comfortable and at ease for the duration of my visit, I have never felt that my safety has been comprised, or that I have been exposed to the virus. Public safety and following all coronavirus rules felt paramount to all the staff at Taag.

As both a [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED] at a primary school in Leeds it is imperative I uphold professional ethics in accordance with the teacher standards, a legal document. As stated in the teacher standards, part 2 professional and personal conduct: 'teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school by not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy and the rule of law'. Therefore, attending a venue where I knew the law was not implemented or adhered to by all in management would unquestionably be detrimental to my career.

Taag is an entertaining and enjoyable venue with an energetic atmosphere where the public can go to socialise in a safe and respectable manner. It is clear that a night socialising at Taag will have copious amounts of positive benefits to those attending, however I would like to draw attention to one in particular, mental health. It is of no doubt that mental health has been significantly impacted on in the last year with The Mental Health Foundation reporting that 'the proportion of young people age 18-24 reporting suicidal thoughts or feelings, at 22%, was more than double that of the population as a whole, at 10%.'. (The rest of this report can be found by following this link: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/divergence-mental-health-experiences-during-pandemic>) Being able to socialise in a safe, controlled but still lively atmosphere will help ease a lot of young people's mental health, something that undoubtedly Taag was able to offer. Speaking from personal experience for all the times I have attended I left Taag feeling happier and less anxious than when I arrived, purely due to being able to

socialise and engage in stimulating conversations in a well-managed environment.

Thank you for taking the time to read this e-mail, should you have any questions or require any additional information please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Subject: Taag license review
Date: 16 January 2021 11:07:44

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to Taag's licence review.

I have taken over [REDACTED] in September 2019. I was introduced to the owners of Taag, our next door neighbours on my first day of handover from the previous owner Margret Spencer who highly recommend Taag to me.

Taag as a company have always gone above and beyond for myself and my company taking in parcels and looking out for me as a neighbour. Every time I have been into Taag as a customer, or a neighbour collecting my post it's always a nice good crowd and atmosphere whilst being very controlled. Which is nice to see a business doing well during such an awful time for all business owners. The staff have always been very professional and polite.

As a customer who has been to Taag for multiple lunches and bottomless brunch the Covid-19 rules were evident and explained to myself before entering the premises by a polite staff member. I am personally classed as high risk and the rules Taag had in place made me feel safe and comfortable and allowed me to still have a social life with my family. For example, we were asked to wear a mask, multiple signs are outside and around the building over Covid-19 measures. We were also asked for no dancing and they had a professional toilet system which was staffed to make sure this was also Covid-19 safe which I've noticed most places don't have!

I personally struggled during lockdown and it was nice to see the positive affect safe hospitality businesses have on people. Going to Taag has a lovely atmosphere whilst obeying to the rules which can be of benefit to people mentally as I know it certainly did for myself.

As Taag are brunch based. They bring a lot of female customers to the area where there usually wouldn't be many people walking by which has helped us a company.

I have never had any issues or worries about Taag being next door I have had numerous VIP clients who I have booked into Taag as recommendation after their appointment with myself.

Below are my contact details. Please don't hesitate to contact me if needed.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Tagg License Review
Date: 16 January 2021 12:26:40

It has recently come to my attention that tagg license is under review, I wanted to write this email I support of the establishment.

As a pharmacist I have had a part to play in the pandemic and having implemented covid-19 safety operating procedures with in a healthcare setting I strongly believe that it is important everyone plays their part and keeps everyone safe.

In my experience when I have attended the venue tagg, I have found that public safety was at the heart of the venues operating procedures. They ensured that tables were socially distanced and the rules and guidelines were clearly explained on a arrival which felt reassuring given the rate of spread. Rules such as face masks were explained, one way systems and social distance was very well implemented. We had it explained to us to remain seated at our tables and that dancing was not permitted as this increase the risk of transmission.

I feel like the institution should not be punished for things that may happen out of the control of a venue, even within a healthcare setting we try our best to deliver these messages but there are still some individual who minimise the seriousness for the need to follow the rules, however even in these isolated situations where others in the venue chose to not follow the rules I feel as though the safety of the majority was still a priority for the tagg management team and staff. Any individuals who didn't follow the rules were dealt with in a safe efficient manner as to not put anyone else at risk.

Given that I attended the venue on a few occasions I felt the way I had seen the measures put in place, made me feel safe. This was important as due to the lack of sociability in the previous lockdowns, tagg become a covid secure outlet where I felt the public could enjoy a safe level of normality in a controlled covid safe environment which I think is an important thing for the mental health of the young people of Leeds to have given the the sudden drastic change we have experienced in our social lifestyles.

Given the circumstances I feel the business had done well to follow the government guidelines and become a covid safe establishment. That is why I felt safe to return to the venue on multiple occasions.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Subject: TAAG Leeds
Date: 17 January 2021 23:17:23

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that TAAG Leeds has a pending Licence Review and that is the reason in which I am writing to you. I am not only a member of the public but also a nurse who works in Leeds general infirmary. My colleagues and I have attended this venue on numerous occasions in the past, for examples birthday celebrations, after work drinks and evenings out. Below you will find many of the positive aspects and reasons as to why I have always felt comfortable in attending Taag Leeds.

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, I always felt comfortable in attending this venue, as I felt that the safety of myself and my colleagues was very important to the staff working in Taag. The staff would kindly ensure that they booked a taxi for us if we requested by a reputable company which I believe they also used for their own staff. This is something which I felt put this venue above many in Leeds.
- During COVID-19 I was amazed at how tight the staff were on around hand hygiene and safety of wearing masks. There was one occasion where I noted a member of the public wishing to enter the venue however, there were not only not wearing a mask, but they did not have one with them. The staff politely informed the individual of their policy and kindly gave the person a mask so that they could enter rather than turn them away.
- During the times which I had attended the bar I observed the staff politely informing their customers of the social distancing rule. They were quick to integrate waitress service to tables to reduce the risk of this being abused, once again ensuring the safety not only their customers but also their staff.
- Plastic disposable cups were seen to be used and tables and seats were seen to be cleaned upon new customers being seated once others had left.
- I noted that there was a staff member allocated into going into the male and female toilets to clean them following the attendance of each individual.
- I feel that the venue went above and beyond the health and safety of their customers and staff.
- I am a mental health nurse and feel that being able to attend Taag after a very

stressful day at work helped me unwind. This is most definitely not a venue which either my colleagues would have attended if we felt that our safety was being jeopardised. Because of the job which we do we were always mindful about health and hygiene when attending places like Taag as we had to ensure not only our safety but that of our loved ones and the patients whom we come into contact with.

- Even though the venue had put numerous safety measures in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of each individual who entered I observed a place where people of all ages felt safe in getting together and creating good memories, a place where to some extent they could put the pandemic to the back of their minds and create good memories especially during a time which is filled with so much uncertainty and worry.

I hope in the future when my colleagues and I have worked tirelessly through this pandemic that we can return back to some form of normality and once again attend Taag Leeds where we can celebrate all the hard work which we and lots of other people have been challenged with during Covid 19. Pandemic.

yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: 12 January 2021 20:02:27

To whom it may concern,

I have been asked to provide a Character Reference regarding Mr. Tijani Yesufu as a Promoter during my tenure as General Manager of Norman Bar during July 2018 - Mar 2019.

At the time I had been given the task of improving the public image of Norman Bar after previous [REDACTED] had left the business. The appeal of Mr. Yesufu was his positive track record of running well organised Student orientated nights out of University premises; he understood adhering to strict venue expectations and guidelines, as well as health & safety responsibilities.

The times I recall Mr. Yesufu worked alongside Norman Bar were predominantly one Friday evening of each month. He was respectful of the working practices we set in place to reduce incidents occurring within the venue. His character was always punctual, friendly to all my bar staff, the security team and customers.

Mr. Yesufu worked sensibly alongside Norman Bar head doorman [REDACTED] to ensure the bookings of Males and Females the event, known as "Back When", was attracting to Norman Bar were an element who happily provided ID and adhered to drug and weapon search criteria before being allowed to enter the venue. Individuals were very much a student demographic, with a much softer & friendly attitude to their evenings than the crowd Norman Bar was historically known to attract.

Notably "Back When" the event Mr. Yesufu helped organise, very rarely raised any cause for concern from my General Management perspective compared to any other night available for the public to attend on Call Lane at that point in time.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Subject: Taag licence review
Date: 16 January 2021 15:25:08

To whom it may concern,

I have been made aware of a pending licence review on Taag Leeds and I am writing to whom it may concern as a member of the public who attended the establishment in July with my personal statement.

With rules constantly changing and working with colleagues who project managed the Eat Out to Help Out scheme in order to support local businesses I was keen to try and obtain some sort of normality, ensuring my own safety along with others was not put at risk. Therefore when the government announced that bars and restaurants could open if serving food, I booked Taag. This was booked in advance rather than turning up after reading that they were taking all precautions seriously and had put hygiene regulations in place.

Prior to the pandemic worsening as a civil servant working in the city, I had been advised to work from home since February to reduce travelling and contact with others in the office. As you can imagine sharing an apartment with my friend who was also working from home and sharing living space meant I was confined to my bedroom 5 days a week, with only a daily walk allowing me out. Therefore when restrictions were lifted slightly I wanted to be in an environment which positively affected my mental well-being, even if it was only for a couple of hours.

When arriving at the venue rules were evident as we were greeted and advised to sanitise prior to entering after temperature checks were taken. We were also familiarised with the rules, such as no dancing. It was visible that all safety markings were in place following guidelines and people were safely spaced out within their parties.

This being my first time out I was impressed with how responsible and efficient all staff were whilst I was there. If I didn't feel safe when I arriving I wouldn't of put myself in a situation where I felt uncomfortable or at risk.

I actually believe if establishments are following government guidelines, as Taag was prior to full lockdown and no-ones safety is compromised then it is beneficial for people's mental wellbeing.

I would appreciate if my account was taken into consideration when making your review and also keep in mind that people's livelihoods and mental health is being massively impacted as each month passes. Especially those who are not as fortunate as ourselves to still be able to work on a day to day basis with a secure income.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Edward Smith](#)
Subject: Character Reference Tijani Yesufu
Date: 12 January 2021 00:10:20

To whom it may concern,

I write to you today with a personal reference for Tijani Yesufu. I have known Tijani since 2007 when he first came to Loughborough to attend University and was working behind the bar of a local nightclub whilst studying.

During his final year of study and following his graduation from Loughborough, Tijani worked as a promotor in a variety of different Loughborough venues including Loughborough Students Union where I worked as the Head of Venue Operations until December 2018.

As a rule Loughborough Students Union at the time did not work with many external promoters following bad experiences with unreliable and untrustworthy ones that we had worked with previously. As an organisation that was run by students for students as well as being a venue that was on the University Campus at Loughborough there was an expectation and responsibility to hold licensable activities in the safest ways possible and were held under much more scrutiny than in any other venue that I have worked at over the last 20 years. As a Student Union we only sought to operate best practice and were advocates both locally and nationally for safe student events.

In addition to my role at Loughborough I worked with DC [REDACTED] and the National Events Intelligence Unit (formerly OpGothic) hosting a national forum at Loughborough Students Union in 2016.

Having seen Tijani operate over a number of years we were happy to work with him when he approached us to work on some collaborative events. We found him to be very open to working with the Student body, the University and other key stakeholders such as Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire Police. Tijani would often meet with licensing representatives as part of pre event planning and post event debriefings and proactively promoted in line with licensable objectives. One such example that comes to mind was where Tijani paid for a bus service to transport students through an area that had been disrupted by transient noise on an event run by a less reputable promoter. The residents of the area were thrilled that this was offered as an option as well as the Charnwood BC and Leicestershire Police.

During my tenure at Loughborough Students Union I worked with Tijani on over 50 events over a 7 year period as well as being witness to the two events he promoted in Loughborough town centre on a weekly basis for over 5 years.

I believe him to be one of the most responsible promoters that I have ever worked with and think that he would make a fantastic DPS of any venue.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Mook Reference
Date: 11 January 2021 12:48:53

Good afternoon,

To whom this may concern,

I am writing this email today to the appropriate party's confirming that TJ Yesufu has no contractual ties with Mook nor has he ever organised and run an event in our premises.

As I have taken my position as General Manager of Mook since early August, I have been making sure that our premises were up to date and followed by the rules of the pandemic, making sure our customers and staff are safe while visiting the venue.

It would be completely illegible for us to run any external events during the pandemic. TJ Yesufu has no involvement with the work we concur at Mook apart from being a returning customer.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Subject: Taag Leeds License Review
Date: 17 January 2021 22:37:03

To whom this may concern,

My name is [REDACTED].

It has been brought to my attention that the license application for Taag is still under review due to numerous reasons and I feel strongly that this is not a fair evaluation of the service provided.

I have visited Taag with my family and friends a handful of times and believe they have strictly enforced Covid-19 safety protocols.

Upon booking our table reservation we were informed of the new rules and regulations, which would help keep us safe during our visit. This included hand sanitisation upon arrival and wearing masks at all times, apart from when we were sat enjoying the food and drinks.

All tables were socially distanced, which we were required to sit at throughout our stay.

Waiting staff would take our drinks and food orders as required which helped prevent queuing at the bar.

The tables had several small hand sanitizers that we could use throughout our stay. Music was played at an enjoyable level, allowing us to appreciate our meal and drinks, although without encouraging people to stand up, dance or intermix inappropriately.

I work for the NHS and understand the importance of following Covid-19 guidance and keeping safe during these difficult times.


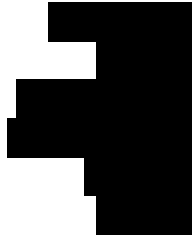
I certainly would not have attended Taag or returned if I felt this would place my family, friends or myself at undue risk.

Taag offers individuals a chance to safely leave their home, enjoy great food/drink and see friends and I truly believe this is crucial for people's mental health and wellbeing during repeated lockdowns.

On the grounds of the above I would be extremely disappointed to see Taag delivered an unfair review based on the service I have received, which has been nothing but great.

Many thanks for your time and consideration,

[REDACTED]



Dear Edward Smith,

Please take this letter as reference to the character of TJ Yesufu. I am the [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] and have known TJ in a professional capacity since March 2015, when I began my [REDACTED]. For approximately 2 years I worked closely with TJ as the manager on duty during the student event which he would host each week. This involved interacting directly with him and also being witness to his interactions with others over multiple late night events. In June 2017, when I became the license holder and GM, our relationship expanded to include the meetings and planning required to deliver ongoing student events throughout the year. It would be reasonable to assume that we have worked together to safely deliver over 300 separate events in a 5 year period up until March 2020.

As a promoter, TJ is and has been 'the face' of Revolution Loughborough for students for many years, including those previous to my employment. He has worked with 3 managers previously to myself that I know personally and who have all spoken highly of him. As a promoter, it is common to only be in a venue for a year or two and I believe TJ's extended career is a reflection of his work ethic and impeccable reputation within Loughborough. The expectation of him, as it would be with anyone representing Revolution, has always been to uphold the values of the company and had there been any incident that put this into question, I would have actioned this without question to ensure the businesses' continued success in a small student town. I have certainly never known him to be aggressive or violent or have any associations with crime or persons related to crime. Indeed, the opposite is true – he is warm natured and earns the respect of those around him.

In conclusion, I have come to know TJ as a shrewd individual who is extremely considered in both his thoughts and actions. He has earned an excellent reputation for being professional in any and all situations, always acting with integrity. It is my belief that he has the qualities necessary to responsibly run a venue in accordance with licensing objectives.

If you require any more information or would like to discuss this with me further then please do not hesitate to contact me. Please note that I am currently furloughed in my role but am happy to assist in whatever way that I can.

Yours Sincerely,





Subject:
Date:

[Entertainment Licensing](#)
Taag licence review
18 January 2021 11:05:29

Dear sir/madam,

I have been made aware of a pending licence review in regards to Taag (2B, St George House, Leeds, LS1 3DL) and would like to bring attention to my own experience at the venue during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, I was impressed with the adherence to safety standards and felt safe in the venue. The rules for visiting the venue were made aware to me before attending including masks, the queuing system, one-way markings, no dancing etc. Staff were then excellent at ensuring customers maintained these rules in a polite manner, assuring myself and company could enjoy a safe evening.

As a member of hospital healthcare staff during this pandemic I have been cautious in my responsibility to ensure that I neither raise the risk of spreading COVID-19 to members of the public, nor act irresponsibly in public to raise the risk of spreading within the hospital. With this being said, I left Taag reassured that I had maintained this standards and looked forward to visiting again as a safe venue that I could trust.

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

[Redacted footer information]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Entertainment Licensing](#)
Subject: TAAG Licensing Review
Date: 18 January 2021 17:47:13

To whom it may concern,

I have been recently made aware of a pending license review on the venue "Taag" in Leeds. I would like to give my personal thoughts on the venue and the positives that the site brings to the city of Leeds and its people.

I have attended Taag on numerous occasions over the past year or so, whether it be for a quick coffee, client lunches during the week or socialising with friends at the weekend. At all times, the venue has provided professionalism regarding service as well as the standard of food and beverage. However, the main focal point which Taag provides, is a great atmosphere.

I understand the license review has been put in place recently because of the past 6 months, so I will not focus too much on the venue pre-summer 2020. Nonetheless, I still think it is important to highlight the positives before, to show the council what Taag brings to Leeds as a whole.

For me, I find it very hard to find a venue that caters in so many ways, to such a high standard. As stated earlier, I attend Taag for a morning coffee, to take clients out for meetings there and socialise at the weekend with friends. A lot of what the public will see is Taag being a go-to place for food & drink at the weekend for their popular bottomless brunches, however I think for the professionals such as myself that religiously used this as a place to have meetings, lunches and a quick stop for a coffee, it offers me something that no other venue in the city centre does.

With the whole pandemic consuming the world, with new rules in place on a regular basis, I must commend Taag for implementing these rules in their venue from the get-go. They have removed a certain number of tables in addition to taping off some booths to adhere to social distancing. Hand sanitiser is available on every table, as well as a large sanitiser dispenser to the fore of the bar which is immediately in front of you as soon as you walk through the door.

While attending on the weekends, with every weekend being close to full, showing how popular the venue is, it still brings a great atmosphere even with a large number of seats removed. With constant reminders by the staff and security to always wear your mask when not sat at your table, to not sit on any other attendee's tables, and as hard as it is, to not stand up to dance. These are not just told before entering the venue by security or by Front of House, these are relayed to everyone inside the venue by all members of staff. It is clear that the manager on shift has drummed this into staff in a meeting before opening the doors to the public, with a deadly virus engrossing the country, it is a great thing to see.

I attended Taag for my birthday in August. A big birthday, a quarter century. So of course, I wanted every friend and family there, however Taag were strict with the head count and once again stuck to the law allowing myself & 5 others on my booking. We were instructed to sanitise our hands before we were seated. Once sat down, the waitress explained all the rules regarding social distancing, no mixing of tables, no dancing standing up & not to go to the bar for any drinks. We were only allowed to leave the table to go to the toilet or outside for a smoke. It was a fantastic day and enjoyed by all, not just my friends and I, but by looking around it was clear everyone was having a great day.

On a later visit to Taag, it was no mask – no entry. One of my friends had forgotten his mask, but thankfully Taag had a box of the disposable 3 ply masks and handed one to him. There was not a moment where I felt that rules were not being adhered to or that there was a lack of enforcement of rules by the staff or security. I genuinely felt safer in Taag than when I do my weekly food shop in the supermarkets where people are walking in any direction, mask-less or not maintaining social distancing. However, I see no rules being enforced in any supermarket nor a license review.

It would be a great shame for Taag to have its doors closed indefinitely, and I can assure you that I am not the only one who will feel the affects of this venue closing. Not just for the midweek attendances and ease of it, but mainly the weekend goes looking forward to going to one of Leeds' most popular venues, which is key for

many people's mental health. Having something to look forward to when the lockdown is eased and the hospitality industry can open their doors once again, is vital for the people in and around Leeds to be able to see light at the end of the tunnel over the gruelling past 12 months.

I hope you take into consideration all the benefits that Taag has to offer for the city and allow them to open their doors when the government give bars and restaurants the green light.

Kind Regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.