

Leeds District Licensing



Department

Leeds District Licensing Department

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8th June 2022

**Entertainment Licensing Section
Leeds City Council
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**OBJECTION NOTICE:
VARY PREMISES LICENCE - DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR:
SECTION 37(5) & 37(6) LICENSING ACT 2003**

**PREMISES: Old Halfway House 452 Leeds Road Lofthouse WF33AB
PROPOSED PREMISES SUPERVISOR: Tracy O'BOYLE**

I **PC 4198 CLIFFORD** as a **Leeds District Licensing Officer for West Yorkshire Police** serve notice of objection to this application.

If granted, West Yorkshire Police are satisfied that the exceptional circumstances of the case would undermine the crime prevention objective, for the following reasons:

As per my previous objection on 30th May 2022 to the application for Peter McKENNA'S appointment as DPS, Tracy O'BOYLE is the current partner of Peter McKENNA and jointly ran their previous venue.

For context I will include the main body of that objection.

"In 2020 Mr McKENNA was DPS at The Duncan, Leeds City Centre. On 18th April 2020 there was an allegation that during the first round of COVID lockdown restrictions, there had been a party at The Duncan.

Due to the allegation, my colleague PC ARKLE spoke with Mr McKENNA and requested a copy of the CCTV. Mr McKENNA stated that due to having decorators in, the CCTV had been switched off at the mains.

PC ARKLE was suspicious this was not the case, and requested local police attend to seize the CCTV hard drive for further investigation.

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The CCTV hard drive was forensically analysed by our imaging department who recovered a deleted file from the system. This showed that the CCTV had been deleted and the system was not switched off. The footage also showed there had been a breach of COVID restrictions.

West Yorkshire Police actively work with all licensees and are willing to assist them in instances where they may be struggling to meet licence conditions, falling below the standards of the licensing objectives or just to address any premises issues they may feel they are having. Mr McKENNA is one such person, who has had engagement with our department and offered more than his fair share of chances.

In this case, the level of dishonesty and corruption to cover up his wrongdoing is a major concern. Mr McKENNA has shown he is willing to delete CCTV which does not show him in a favourable light

Because of Mr McKENNA'S attempt at a cover up, West Yorkshire Police wasted an enormous amount of extra time to investigate something which could have been resolved much sooner had he just decided to be honest. To work against the police in such a way as a licensee is reprehensible.

Due to Mr McKENNA'S history, I have very deep concerns surrounding his appointment as DPS."

Tracy O'BOYLE was present during the illegal lockdown gathering at the Duncan and as an experienced bar manager with a personal licence would have known what she was doing.

After this incident PC ARKLE made it clear she was considering review. Mr McKENNA asked if he was removed as DPS could Miss O'BOYLE be added. PC ARKLE explained that this would not be an appropriate solution due to them being a husband and wife partnership and that Mr McKENNA would still have a degree of control over how the pub was being operated.

This would still be the case now. It stands to reason that Mr McKENNA will have a degree of control over the running of this venue and access to the CCTV system. I am extremely disappointed that Trust Inns appear not to be taking my original concerns seriously and are treating this as a paper exercise to get a name on a licence and a body in a pub. I have attempted to speak with a representative of Trust Inns to talk through my concerns, but at this point I have not had my calls returned, which is a further disappointment.

A further concern is that this application was to take immediate effect and on the 4th June 2022 we received a call stating that a male who had been drinking in the pub since midday, was struggling to walk and was in his car driving away. This male would have been drinking in the venue for roughly 12 hours. Already we are seeing issues around drunkenness which is having a negative effect on public safety while Miss O'BOYLE is DPS.

Therefore, West Yorkshire Police would ask any presiding sub-committee at a hearing, to refuse this application outright with a view to promoting the licensing objectives.


Leeds District Licensing Officer.
West Yorkshire Police.

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