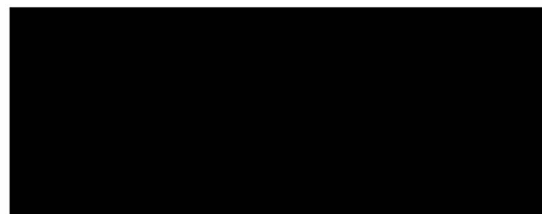


*Leeds District Licensing*



*Department*

Leeds District Licensing Department  
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Leeds  
LS11 8BU



7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Entertainment Licensing Section  
Leeds City Council  
Civic Hall  
Leeds  
LS1 1UR

cc. Fenton Hotel, [REDACTED]

RE: Fenton Hotel 161-163 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 3ED

**APPLICATION TO VARY PREMISES LICENCE – LICENSING ACT 2003:**  
**POLICE – LETTER OF REPRESENTATION – outright objection**

West Yorkshire Police are in receipt of an application to vary the premises licence for the above venue. The application seeks to extend opening hours to 2 am everyday with the sale of alcohol, live music and recorded music until 2 am also.

West Yorkshire Police make an outright objection to the variation on the grounds of public nuisance and public safety.

West Yorkshire Police officers and staff work on the same terrace as The Fenton. The terrace of properties in which The Fenton is situated in the middle of, consists of two empty premises, UNIPOL student housing office and Woodhouse Lane Police station. Therefore, within this parade it is only the Police station that has people working within outside the hours of 9am-6pm. However, directly opposite is Broadcasting Tower which is a Leeds Beckett University building containing 241 student residence. It is fair to presume that those who live within the city centre come to expect some night life noise on a

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weekend, however the noise pollution coming from the pub itself and the customers while queuing to enter and when leaving up until 2am every night will surely have an impact on these residents.

The amended guidance issued under section 182 of the Licencing Act 2003 states "It is important to remember that the prevention of public nuisance could therefore include low-level nuisance, perhaps affecting a few people living locally, as well as major disturbance affecting the whole community. It may also include in appropriate circumstances the reduction of the living and working amenity and environment of other persons living and working in the area of the licensed premises".

In terms of those working in the area of the licensed premises- as stated above, Woodhouse Lane Police Station is the only open working environment during all the hours that The Fenton are applying to be open for. Officers have previously contacted Leeds City Council Environmental Protection Team due to the volume of the music playing from the premises and in their back yard that would shake the police station windows and make it an impossible place to work. An issue was also raised regarding the extension of the 'beer garden' directly up to the rear entry to the police station meaning officers are constantly coming across intoxicated customers urinating and leaving litter in the rear of the police station and blocking the rear exit. After raising the issues with the Environmental Protection Team, The Fenton did make efforts to reduce the noise which was appreciated. However, it is still an incredibly loud venue to attempt to work next to especially when officers are completing important court paperwork for cases, without high levels of concentration could result in mistakes being made. If The Fenton is open until 2am every night this will no doubt have a significant impact on the working environment of the police station. The issues have been going on for a number of years now.

The area is covered by the PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) which was introduced due to the levels of disorder and alcohol related ASB which areas of Inner North West Leeds encountered, and this licensing extension does not help the aims of the PSPO to be fulfilled, in fact it would be a hindrance. The 'beer garden' still remains up to the rear of the police premises, this rarely appears to have any security staff managing and customers are often found intoxicated leaving the premises with open containers of alcohol. It is highly unlikely that the Fenton will put Security staff on mid-week to manage this.

A great deal of police effort and time has been diverted into addressing these concerns; additional patrols have had to be moved from other areas of policing to enforce the PSPO and assist with night-time economy. Police officers regularly are committed and tied up for several hours with drunken individuals who are being abusive or passed out in the street.

The regular complaints encountered in the area include: -

Litter and untidiness around the area from drink related objects including beer bottles and cans. Broken glass littering pavements and around bus stops.

Public safety concerns around people urinating and vomiting in the street. Often pools of urine and vomit are found on the police station doorstep and around the bus stop.

Abuse and verbal threats to members of the public walking by and to police staff by drunken individuals.

The area has complaints regarding misogynistic comments from drunken males and this has now been specifically written into the PSPO to try and address. Allowing this premise to serve alcohol into the night on all days of the week only stands to make this worse, especially given this area is near the universities and student accommodation so there is high footfall of people at all times of the day and night. There is also a bus stop located very close to The Fenton, this can be intimidating for females, especially alone when waiting for public transport. Female police staff have also experienced misogynistic comments

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when they have been walking towards the police station past the large crowds queuing up to enter the pub or leaving, if these males are comfortable enough to speak in such a way to uniformed officers, then it puts into question how they would be with lone civilian females.

Therefore, West Yorkshire Police object to the extension of the hours proposed as it will put the licensing objectives of the prevention of public nuisance and public safety into further jeopardy.

Sarah Blenkhorn  
Leeds District Licensing Officer  
West Yorkshire Police

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