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Nick Bailey

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Mr N. Chapple,  
Legal Regulatory Services Manager,  
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Civic Centre,  
Port Talbot.

13<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Police Observations to application for a review of a premises licence  
under the Licensing Act 2003.**

In relation to the application for a review of a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003 at the below-referred licensed premises:

Name: Live Lounge

Address: 9 Ynysderw Road Pontardawe SA8 4EG

An application for Review of the above premises has been submitted by the Environmental Health Section.

The application sets out the grounds for the Review and has proposed a number of conditions that they believe should be attached to the licence to assist in the promotion of the licensing objectives.

In respect of the above application to review the premises licence of Live Lounge I wish to make the following representations;

Live Lounge has been a licensed premises for many years and, until recently, was known as The Other Place. As with any licensed premises there have been calls from, and about the



premises over the years and I have reviewed these calls to assess the impact this premises has had within the local community.

The current premises licence holder, HD Pub Investments Ltd, took control of the management of the premises on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and as such any searches for incidents at, and reports about the premises that I have conducted start from that date.

There have been 6 reported incidents linked to the premises, 2 of which I do not believe to be relevant to this representation.

I believe it worthwhile, at this point, to give a breakdown of the incidents reported and visits to the premises, in chronological order, which are as follows;

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 a meeting was held involving the DPS, officers from local authority Licensing team and myself as part of the wider Covid re-opening visits in the Pontardawe area at which the Covid restrictions and responsibilities were discussed.

On 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 a meeting was held with the premises management team, officers from local authority Licensing & Environmental Health (EVHD) departments and myself to discuss a licence variation application. As part of this meeting noise complaints about the premises, received by EVHD, and the ongoing Covid control measures were also discussed.

On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 22:00hrs a report was received that a customer had been assaulted by door staff at the premises. Officers attended, spoke with all parties and established that this had been a lawful ejection of 2 customers causing problems in the premises.

On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 11:03hrs a report of behaviour the previous night was received from a resident relating to possible Covid breaches and ASB with customers from the premises littering in the streets. The report stated that this had occurred the previous evening so officers were not dispatched and the matter was referred to the Joint Enforcement Team (JET) for further enquiries.

On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 12:56hrs a further complaint was received from a resident about potential Covid breaches the previous night and this matter was also referred to the JET for further contact.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022, after 21:00hrs, an enforcement visit at the premises was conducted by myself and Mr. Malough from the local authority Licensing team, at which time it was established that there were no door staff working at the premises, which constituted a breach of the premises licence condition contained in Annex 3, condition 5 which states;



*Every Friday and Saturday night, the Sunday night preceding any public holiday, Christmas Eve, Boxing Day and Good Friday, a minimum of two (2) SIA registered door supervisors will be on duty from 09:00pm until closing time*

This breach was pointed out to staff and was dealt with by way of a verbal warning to them on the night and it was decided that Local Authority Licensing would inform the PLH in writing of the breach.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 at 23:00 a report of a customer being assaulted by door staff was received. Officers attended and spoke with all parties involved. On speaking with the complainant they did not wish to pursue the matter further. As a result officers decided that no checks of the CCTV were necessary as there was no complaint.

On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 a meeting was arranged, at the request of Mr. Erive & Mr. Davies to discuss ongoing issues with sourcing door staff for the premises to achieve compliance with their premises licence conditions and how this could be managed going forward. A complaint about customers entering the premises after 11pm was also raised with them and management of customers entering and re-entering was discussed as it was felt that this was an area that would be the responsibility of door staff when working.

At the conclusion of the meeting, while there was sympathy for the management team in sourcing door staff, it was pointed out to them that employing door staff was a requirement of their premises licence, during the times specified in the relevant condition, while licensable activities were taking place.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 a joint enforcement visit involving officers from the Security Industry Authority, local authority & police licensing was conducted and, once again, it was found that no door staff were employed in contravention of condition 5, Annex 3. On this occasion this was pointed out to Mr. Davies and it was decided that I should send a letter to both the Managing Director of HD Pub Investments Ltd and to the DPS Mr. Erive informing them of what we had found, which I have done.

As you can see from the incidents listed above Live Lounge, during the tenureship of HD Pub Investments Ltd, is not a premises that appears to attract a high volume of calls relating to Crime & Disorder.

The above information is submitted for your information and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

*Nick Bailey*

Police Licensing Officer  
(On behalf of the Chief Officer of Police)

Mae Heddlu De Cymru yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

