

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing of the **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE** will be held in **MEETING ROOMS 0.1A AND 0.1B, GROUND FLOOR, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 14 APRIL 2022** at **10:00 AM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

APOLOGIES

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Item Led By: Democratic Services.

2. MEMBERS INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary and other interests in relation to any Agenda item. Please see Notes below.

Item Led By: Chairman.

3. INTRODUCTION

Item Led By: Chairman.

4. LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE PROCEDURE (Pages 5 - 10)

Item Led By: Chairman.

5. CORNER HOUSE, 54 MARKET SQUARE, ST NEOTS, PE19 2AA (Pages 11 - 52)

To consider an application for a review of a premises licence made under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003 made by the following:-

Applicant: Police Licensing Officer, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

**Premises: Corner House
54 Market Square
St Neots
PE19 2AA**

Item Led By: S Mardon - (01480) 388063

6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve:-

to exclude the press and public from the hearing during the determination of the application.

7. DETERMINATION

To determine the application referred to in Agenda Item 5.

Item Led By: Chairman.

30 day of March 2022



Head of Paid Service

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non-Statutory Disclosable Interests

Further information on [Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non - Statutory Disclosable Interests is available in the Council's Constitution](#)

Filming, Photography and Recording at Council Meetings

The District Council permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of social networking and micro-blogging websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) to communicate with people about what is happening at meetings.

Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with [guidelines](#) agreed by the Council.

Please contact Democratic Services, Tel: 01480 388169 / email: Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Sub-Committee.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the [District Council's website](#).

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The following proceedings apply to the licensing sub-committees established by the Licensing Committee of the Huntingdonshire District Council acting as the Licensing Authority.

2. Membership

- 2.1 Each licensing sub-committee shall comprise three Members appointed by the Licensing Committee from amongst its membership. A sub-committee shall elect a Chairman from amongst its members at each meeting, for the purpose of that hearing or meeting.
- 2.2 The quorum for hearings and meetings of a sub-committee shall be three members.
- 2.3 Members shall endeavour to be present throughout an individual hearing by a sub-committee. If a member of a sub-committee is required to leave a hearing temporarily, the Chairman shall adjourn the hearing for the duration of the period whilst that member is unavailable. Any member who is absent from a hearing for any reason whilst that hearing is taking place shall be precluded from commencing or continuing to take part in the matter under debate upon his arrival/return and from voting upon the matter at the conclusion of that item of business.
- 2.4 Where the Sub-Committee undertakes a site visit prior to a hearing, a member shall be precluded from taking part in the hearing if he has not attended that site visit.
- 2.5 A member will not take part in a hearing or meeting at which a matter is being discussed which relates to a premises licence, club premises certificate, temporary events notice or personal licence where either the premises or the person is resident in the ward which he represents.

3. Notice of Hearings

- 3.1 Upon the date of a hearing of a sub-committee being arranged, notice shall be given to the parties to the hearing in accordance with the requirements of the Hearings Regulations. For the purposes of this procedure, a party is defined as an applicant for a licence or certificate,

a person who has given a temporary events notice, a responsible authority or a person or business that has submitted relevant representations in respect of an application or applied for a review of a licence or certificate and, in certain additional instances, the Chief Officer of Police.

- 3.2 The notice of the hearing shall be accompanied by a copy of this procedure which sets out
- the right of attendance at a hearing by a party and the right to submit representations etc.
 - the consequences if a party does not attend or is not represented at a hearing
 - the procedure to be followed at the hearing
- 3.3 The notice of the hearing will also be accompanied by copies of the documents required by the Hearings Regulations and any particular points upon which the Sub-Committee considers that it will want clarification from a party at the hearing.
- 3.4 Where a hearing is to be held on more than one day, the hearing will be arranged so that it takes place on consecutive working days.

4. Action Following Receipt of Notice of Hearing

- 4.1 Upon receipt of a notice of a hearing, a party is required to give notice to the licensing authority whether
- he intends to attend or be represented at the hearing,
 - he wishes to request permission for any other person to appear at the hearing, accompanied by the name of the person and a brief description of the point(s) to be made by the person, and
 - he considers the hearing to be necessary.
- 4.2 A party should notify the licensing authority within the following timescales-
- 1 working day of the hearing in the case of a cancellation of an interim authority notice following police objections or a counter notice following police objection to a temporary events notice;
 - 2 working days of the hearing in the case of a review of a premises licence following a closure order or the conversion of an existing licence or club premises certificate or an application by the holder of a justices' licence for a personal licence; or
 - 5 working days of the hearing in all other cases.

- 4.3 Notice may be given to licensing authority by electronic means to the address democratic.services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk but upon sending the notice by this means, a party must also give the notice to the licensing authority in writing.
- 4.4 A sub-committee may dispense with the holding of a hearing if all of the parties have given notice that they consider a hearing to be unnecessary. Where the parties have agreed that a hearing is unnecessary in such circumstances, the Council shall give notice to the parties that the hearing has been dispensed with.
- 4.5 Where a hearing has been dispensed with, the matter which was to have been the subject of the hearing shall be determined at a meeting of the Sub- Committee.

5. Withdrawal of Representations

- 5.1 A party may give notice to the licensing authority no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the hearing that he wishes to withdraw his representations or he may do so orally at the hearing.

6. Extension of Time

- 6.1 The Sub-Committee may extend any of the time limits specified in this procedure where it considers it necessary to do so in the public interest and shall give notice of the extension of time and the reason for it to the parties to the hearing.
- 6.2 The Sub-Committee may adjourn the hearing or arrange for it to be held on specified additional days, where it considers this to be necessary to consider any representations made by a party. The parties to the hearing will be notified of the adjournment or rearrangement.
- 6.3 In considering any extension of time or adjournment, the Sub-Committee will not exercise its powers so that an application is deemed as granted or rejected in accordance with the transitional arrangements specified in the Act.

7. The Hearing

- 7.1 The Sub-Committee may exclude the public from all or part of a hearing where it considers that the public interest in so doing outweighs the public interest in the hearing or that part of the hearing taking place in public. The Sub-Committee will normally resolve to exclude the public from that part of the hearing during which the Sub-Committee determines the matter which is the subject of the hearing.

- 7.2 Subject to the above, a party may attend the hearing and may be assisted or represented by any person whether or not that person is legally qualified
- 7.3 At the commencement of the hearing, the Chairman shall introduce the members of the Sub-Committee and any officers in attendance to support the Sub-Committee and shall ask the parties and any persons accompanying them to state their names and addresses or who they represent. The Chairman shall explain to the parties present that the hearing is subject to this procedure, copies of which will have been distributed to the parties with the notice of the hearing, and shall enquire of the persons present whether there are any questions of clarity or explanation about its contents.
- 7.4 The Sub-Committee shall consider any request from another person to appear at the hearing of which notice has been given but such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Procedure in all cases other than an application for a review of a premises licence or a club premises certificate or convictions coming to light after the grant or renewal of a personal licence

- 7.5 The Licensing Officer will present the application. The Chairman will then invite the applicant or his representative to address the Sub-Committee on his application, to respond to any point(s) upon which notice has been given that clarification is required by the licensing authority and to call any person(s) to whom permission has been granted to appear in support of his application. The applicant will be allowed a maximum period of time of twenty minutes in which to address the Sub-Committee and call persons on his behalf.
- 7.6 The applicant or his representative or any person called on his behalf may then be asked any questions upon their presentation by any member of the Sub-Committee or by any of the other parties present at the hearing or their representatives.
- 7.7 The Chairman will then invite each of the parties at the hearing or their representative sequentially to address the Sub-Committee and call any person(s) to whom permission has been granted to appear. Each party will be allowed a maximum period of time of twenty minutes in which to address the Sub-Committee and call persons on his behalf. The sequence in which each of the parties will be invited to address the Sub-Committee will be at the discretion of the Chairman but will normally be in the order of the Chief Officer of Police, the Fire Authority, the health and safety at work enforcing authority, the local planning authority, the local environmental health authority, the local weights and measures authority, the authority responsible for the protection of children from harm, a navigation or other authority responsible for waterways and any other party that has submitted

representations in respect of the application, certificate, notice or other matter appearing before the Sub- Committee.

- 7.8 The party or his representative or any of his witnesses may be asked any questions upon their presentation by any member of the Sub-Committee or by the applicant or his representative or any of the other parties present at the hearing or their representatives.
- 7.9 Where relevant written representations have been received and the party submitting those representations has given notice of his intention not to attend the hearing, the parties present will be invited by the Chairman to indicate whether they wish to comment on the representations submitted. The Sub-Committee may take into account documentary or other evidence submitted by a party either in support of their application, notice or representations either before the hearing or, with the consent of all of the other parties present, at the hearing.
- 7.10 Where appropriate, the Chairman shall remind the parties that their representations should be relevant to the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. The Sub-Committee shall disregard any information given by a party or person permitted to appear which is not relevant to their application, notice or representations or to the licensing objectives. If, in his opinion, the Chairman feels that the representations being made are not relevant, he may, after first reminding the party of the need for relevance, advise the party that he will no longer be heard. Where in the opinion of the chairman, a party is being repetitious, vexatious or slanderous in his remarks, the Chairman may first warn the party and may then advise the party that he will no longer be heard. The ruling of the Chairman shall be final in such circumstances.
- 7.11 The Chairman may require any person who in his opinion is behaving in a disruptive manner at a hearing to leave the hearing and may refuse to permit that person to return or to return only upon complying with such conditions as the Chairman may specify. However any such person may submit any evidence in writing that they proposed to give orally, provided that they do so before the end of the hearing.
- 7.12 After each party has addressed the Sub-Committee and after comments have been invited on written representations, the applicant or his representative will be invited by the Chairman to sum up his application for a time not exceeding two minutes but without introducing any new evidence to the proceedings.

Procedure in cases relating to an application for a review of a premises licence or a club premises certificate or convictions coming to light after the grant or renewal of a personal licence

- 7.13 In the case of such hearings, the above procedure shall be followed with the exception that the applicant for a review of a premises licence or a club premises certificate or the chief officer of police in the case of an objection notice where convictions have come light after the grant or renewal of a personal licence will be invited to address the Sub-Committee first and to call any person(s) to whom permission has been granted to appear.
- 7.14 After any questions have been dealt with the holder of the licence or certificate will be invited to address the Sub-Committee and to call any person(s) to whom permission has been granted to appear.
- 7.15 There shall be no right of reply for the applicant for a review of the licence or certificate or for the Chief Officer of Police.

8. Determination of Applications

- 8.1 At the conclusion of the hearing, the Sub-Committee will determine the application in accordance with the timescales specified in the Hearings Regulations but, in any event, will endeavour to do so as soon as practicable after the hearing has concluded.
- 8.2 Where a hearing has been dispensed with in accordance with paragraph 4.2 above, the application will be determined by the Sub-Committee within 10 working days of notice having been given to the parties that the hearing has been dispensed with.
- 8.3 The Licensing Authority will notify the applicant and parties of its decision forthwith upon the making of the decision.
- 8.4 A record shall be taken of the hearing by the licensing authority which shall be retained for six years after the date of the determination of the hearing or the disposal of an appeal against the determination.

9. Meetings of the Sub-Committee

- 9.1 Any meetings of the Sub-Committee, other than hearings described above, shall be subject to the proceedings adopted by the Licensing Committee for the conduct of its own business except where otherwise stated above.

**LICENSING ACT 2003
APPLICATION TO REVIEW PREMISES LICENCE
Corner House, 54 Market Square, St Neots, PE19 2AA**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Huntingdonshire District Council as the Licensing Authority has received an application to review a premises Licence, from Cambridgeshire Constabulary in their capacity as a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 ('the Act'), for Premises Licence HDC/PRE00192; Corner House, 54 Market Square, St Neots, PE19 2AA.
- 1.2 The Application was received on 01 March 2022. As required under the Licensing Act 2003, notice of the application was advertised on the Council's website, and blue notices were displayed at or near the premises from 2 March 2022. The 28 day consultation period ended on 29 March 2022.
- 1.3 A copy of the application for review, along with supporting documentation is attached as **Appendix A**, and the current premises licence, including the plan of the licenced area is at **Appendix B**.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The current Premises Licence Holder is Corner House Bar Limited. Mr Omar Hassani is named as the company director. Mr Hassani as an individual has held this licence since before 2005 when the Licensing Act came into force. Mr Hassani is also the Designated Premises Supervisor of the Premises.

3. REPRESENTATIONS

- 3.1 During the period for representations 2 valid representations have been received from 'other persons' in support of the premises. These representations have been attached in their entirety as **Appendix C**.
- 3.2 In addition, 2 further representations have been received in support of the application. These representations are attached in their entirety as **Appendix D**.
- 3.3 Not all matters raised within the representation may be relevant matters for consideration under the Licensing Act 2003.
- 3.4 A person who has submitted a relevant representation is entitled to address the Licensing Sub-Committee at the hearing and ask questions of any other party appearing at the hearing.

4. GENERAL DUTY/ POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The licensing authority must carry out its functions under the Act with a view to promoting the licensing objectives, each objective has equal importance, the objectives are:
 - a. the prevention of crime and disorder,
 - b. public safety,
 - c. the prevention of public nuisance, and
 - d. the protection of children from harm.

- 4.2 The sub-committee must also have regard to –
- a. its statement of licensing policy, and
 - b. any statutory guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.
 - c. the Human Rights Act 1988
- 4.3 The Council must also fulfil its obligations under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its district.

5. DETERMINATION

- 5.1. In making a decision, this application must be determined on its individual merits having regard to the representations and supporting documents included as part of the report along with additional information considered relevant at the hearing. As part of the decision process the sub-committee is required to give its reasons for any decision arrived at.
- 5.2. Where the licensing authority considers that action under its statutory powers is appropriate, it may take any of the following steps:
- a. modify the conditions of the premises licence (which includes adding new conditions or any alteration or omission of an existing condition), for example, by reducing the hours of opening or by requiring door supervisors at particular times;
 - b. exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence, for example, to exclude the performance of live music or playing of recorded music (where it is not within the incidental live and recorded music exemption);
 - c. remove the designated premises supervisor, for example, because they consider that the problems are the result of poor management;
 - d. suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months; or
 - e. revoke the licence.
- 5.3. Any decision made by the sub-committee must be reasonable and proportionate and promote the Licensing objectives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Licensing Act 2003.
Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.
The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

Sarah Mardon, Licensing Officer
30th March 2022

Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

Please read the following instructions first:

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form.

If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary.

You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

Name of applicant:

Apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 / apply for the review of a club premises certificate under section 87 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described below.

Premises or club premises details

Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description: The Corner House, 54 Market Square,
Post town: St. Neots
Postcode (if known): PE19 2AA
Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known): HDC/PRE00192

Applicant details (tick which applies)

- a) An individual, body or business which is not a responsible authority (please read guidance note 1, and complete (A) or (B) below)
- b) A responsible authority (please complete (C) below)
- c) A member of the club to which this application relates (please complete (A) below)

(A) Details of individual applicant (fill in as applicable)

Details of individual applicant
Title: Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
First name:
Surname:
I am 18 years or over <input type="checkbox"/>
Current postal address if different from premises address:
Post town:
Postcode:
Daytime contact telephone number:
Email address:

(B) Details of other applicant

Details of other applicant
Name:
Address:
Telephone number:

Email address:

(C) Details of responsible authority applicant

Details of responsible authority applicant
Name: PC 446 Clare METCALFE
Address: Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Hinchingsbrooke Park, Huntingdon, PE29 6NP
Telephone number: [REDACTED]
Email address: licensingsouth@cambs.police.uk

This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s) - please tick one or more boxes

1. The prevention of crime and disorder
2. Public safety
3. The prevention of public nuisance
4. The protection of children from harm

Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 2):

The following bullet points are the basis for this request to review the premises licence being made:

1. Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Police Licensing and Huntingdonshire District Council Licensing Department have been following a stepped approach to engage with the Premises Licence Holder/Designated Premises Supervisor. Ongoing attempts to provide advice, firstly to ensure full compliance with the premises licence conditions, and secondly to see a reduction in the number of violent incidents associated with the premises has proven unsuccessful.
2. Concerns that the Premises Licence Holder/Designated Premises Supervisor is not focused on the promotion of the licensing objectives.
3. Security Industry Authority (SIA) offence identified that an unlicensed door man was employed at the premises to conduct licensed activities.

4. A number of recent Premises Licence breaches have been identified. Resulting in an ongoing criminal investigation being hindered.
5. Closure Notice issued due to non-compliance of CCTV condition.
6. Concerns that the premises designated smoking area does not comply with Smokefree (Premises & Enforcement) Regulations 2006 have been forwarded to Huntingdonshire District Council, as local authorities are responsible for enforcing this legislation.

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 3):

The premises in question is The Corner House with the Premises Licence reference: HDC/PRE00192, issued by Huntingdonshire District Council. The premises is in a prominent position on St. Neots High Street, with the corner of the Market Square.

The licence authorises the carrying out the following licensable activities:

Opening Hours	Mon-Weds 11:00-23:20	Thurs-Fri 11:00-01:20	Sat 11:00-02:20	Sun 12:00-22:50
Regulated Entertainment & Supply of Alcohol	11:00-23:00	11:00-01:00	11:00-02:00	12:00-22:30
Late Night Refreshment		23:00-01:00	23:00-02:00	

On 24/11/2005, Mr Omar Hassani became the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) of the premises. The Corner Bar Ltd, became the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) on 30/09/2014, with Mr Hassani being the sole company Director.

In addition to the mandatory conditions there are only limited number of conditions attached to the licence. (Listed in Appendix 1.)

There have been a handful of intelligence items submitted over recent months and years detailing both open illegal drug use and drug dealing on the premises, stating staff are turning a blind eye to these activities. No further details about these reports are permitted to be disseminated.

A list of incidents and crimes associated with the premises since January 2020 is shown in Appendix 2.

From my various meetings and discussions with Mr Hassani I have concerns as to he takes his responsibilities as PLH and DPS seriously. Any actions and measures that have been implemented following previous police/HDC licensing advice has been very short lived, reverting back to bad practices and inadequate keeping of documentation.

Documentation such as comprehensive recording of staff details, incident log, staff training records, all documentation that would be expected of a competent operator.

A number of licence conditions have been identified as being breached on 27/11/21 and 01/01/22, which have been highlighted due to ongoing criminal investigations. I will expand on these breaches later.

On 03/08/2020 I had a telephone meeting with Mr Hassani following violent incidents associated with the premises. Issues regarding the outside seating area were identified by attending officers, and I raised them with Mr Hassani. He identified himself that he needed to reduce capacity in that outside area, introduce table service only, and the area required a dedicated member of staff to manage the area.

On 11/09/2020 following further violent incidents in early September 2020, Sarah Mardon (licensing officer with Huntingdonshire District Council) and I attended the premises for a meeting with Mr Hassani. During that meeting we viewed internal CCTV footage from the previous week and identified breaches of the then Covid Regulations, namely:

- customers not being seated whilst drinking.
- karaoke event taking place that breached the requirement for background-music only to be played, as not to encourage raised voices.
- Inadequate Test and Trace register being kept.
- No checks that customers are either signing in using the Test and Trace QR code or signing in using the paper register.

All of the identified areas for improvement are included in Appendix 3 – Email from Sarah Mardon to Mr Hassani following this meeting.

I am aware that Mr Hassani was also emailed by [REDACTED] – Manager of Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime (HBAC) scheme. Providing advice on the benefits of the pubwatch radio scheme, SIA companies, and progress on the imminent restarting of the St. Neots pubwatch meetings. All helpful advice on assisting him in operating a safe licensed premises, particularly during night-time economy hours.

I understand that after initially taking our advice in employing a reputable SIA company to carry out a risk assessment and to conduct the door staff duties, by 21/10/2020 this company was no longer being used. Additionally, after Mr Hassani had a trial with a HBAC/pubwatch radio he decided not to proceed in taking out a radio contract.

On 21/02/022 I highlighted my concerns to Huntingdon District Council (HDC) as to the legality of the premises designated smoking area, and whether it complies with the Smokefree (Premises & Enforcement) Regulations 2006. HDC are responsible for the enforcement of this legislation. (Appendix 4 – Photograph of designated smoking area).

When I spoke with Mr Hassani about these concerns, he expressed his surprise as he stated the brewery had authorised the use of this area for smoking in.

Upon my request HDC confirmed only the building itself was within the licensable area, and none of the adjacent outside space was licensed. During warmer weather it was identified that in 2020 and 2021 an area on the Market Square had been used by Mr Hassani to place tables and chairs, for the sole use by his customers. HDC notified me that The Corner House had applied for a Pavement Licence in August 2020, but it was an incomplete application. Despite requests for Mr Hassani to make contact with them, no contact had been made. Meaning the use of this outside area has been done for a number of years without having the correct Pavement Licence in place. Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department have also confirmed that The Corner House doesn't hold a licence with them either to authorise the use of this land for that purpose.

Due to various Covid regulations being in place over the last two years, it has affected the type and number of incidents and crimes recorded over that period. The regulations have had a huge impact on licensed premises' ability to trade normally, restricting the activities that have been permitted at various points in time. Having said that, since January 2020 there have been a total of 17 crimes recorded that have been connected to the premises.

A breakdown of these crime reports:

- 4 x GBH
- 5 x ABH
- 2 x common assault
- 2 x criminal damage
- 1 x aggravated burglary
- 1 x Public Order offence
- 1 x theft
- 1 x Security Industry Authority offence

Of the above crimes, since May 2021 there have been:

- 3 x GBH
- 1 x ABH

- 2 x common assault
- 1 x criminal damage
- 1 x Security Industry Authority offence

Earlier on in my report I referred to two criminal investigations which highlighted a number of licence breaches. I wish to focus on these two crimes that occurred on 27/11/2021 and 01/01/2022. I have liaised at length with the investigation officer, who is the same both these incidents. The table below show the conditions breached, and reason for breach:

Date	Crime type	Reasons condition breached:
27/11/2021	GBH	<p><u>Original Conditions:</u> Condition 1 – unlicensed doorman being employed. Questionable as to whether there were two doormen on duty, as from viewing internal/external CCTV only can be seen.</p> <p><u>Conditions volunteered Oct 2013:</u> Condition 1 – CCTV not up to standard expected, shown incorrect timings (~15 minutes out). Condition 2 – customers can be viewed to exit and enter unchallenged after 00:30hrs.</p>
01/01/2022	GBH Criminal damage S3 Private Security Industry Act Offence	<p><u>Original Conditions:</u> Condition 1 – unlicensed doorman being employed.</p> <p><u>Conditions volunteered Oct 2013:</u> Condition 1 – CCTV not working between 28/12/21-18/01/22. Condition 2 – customers can be viewed to exit and enter unchallenged after 00:30hrs.</p>

As a result of the ongoing police investigation from 01/01/22, a suspect was identified, and has been charged with Criminal Damage, assault by beating and engaging in conduct not licensed by the Private Security Industry Act 2001.

After protracted enquiries were made by the investigating officer the suspect was identified as a male working as a doorman at the premises. Mr Hassani had naturally been approached by the investigating officer to provide details of his employee. Unfortunately, Mr Hassani could only provide a nickname and telephone number for the male, as he had failed to record details of this employee (who had been working for him for a significant number of months). He had also not conducted due diligence checks to ensure the male was registered to conduct this type of work. During the investigation it transpired this male was not licensed to carry out this type of work.

The investigating officer has disclosed all relevant information to the Security Industry Authority investigation team who are the primary authority for prosecuting offences

under the Private Security Industry Act 2001, including Section 5(1) individuals for employing unlicensed persons in licensable conduct.

On 28/02/22, an update was received from [REDACTED], from the Security Industry Authority, regarding his investigation. (Appendix 6 - Copy of email from [REDACTED] Investigations Officer, Security Industry Authority). Within the email he expressed his frustration that on a previous visit in 2017 to Mr. Hassani, he had provided advice to him about the requirement for him to obtain a 'Non Front Line' License if he was going to employ his own 'in-house' door security. It is evident from the latest police incident on 01/01/22, that Mr. Hassani has not actioned this advice, and as a result will be receiving a Warning letter for committing an offence under Private Security Industry Act 2001.

On 21/01/2022 at 11:00hrs I served a Closure Notice (made by under Section 19 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001) on Mr Hassani. (Appendix 5 – copy of Closure Notice). This was as a result of Mr Hassani disclosing to me that his CCTV was still not working correctly, and that the system needed examining by a security company, who were unable to attend for a number for days. Therefore, this was in breach of his CCTV condition. The Closure Notice would have meant there would have been no authority in place for the alcohol to be served at the premises until the problem had been rectified. Following this Closure Notice being served, Mr Hassani was able to get an engineer out that afternoon to fix the CCTV system. Once I had been provided with evidence of the engineer's attendance at 14:30hrs, I provided Mr Hassani with a cancellation of the Closure Notice.

Summary

As evidenced above there are significant concerns over the poor management style of Mr Hassani, and his inability to perform his role as DPS and as Premises Licence Holder. The issues have been ongoing for a number of years and despite receiving ongoing professional advice from myself, the HDC licensing officer, and also historical advice from the SIA investigations officer, such advice is not actioned, or any promised changes to operating practices are short lived, and they soon revert back to being inadequate. This results in a disregard for the licensing objectives, breaches of the premises licence, and the reoccurrence of violent incidents, both inside and outside of the premises. For such a relatively small licensed premises it has over the years, had a disproportionately high amount of violent incidents attributed to it, putting increased pressures of policing resources and that of ambulance and hospital personnel.

Recommendations

I do not believe that this issue can be solved by simply requesting the removal and replacement of Mr Hassani as DPS. There are clearly entrenched issues with the way Mr Hassani chooses to operate the business. Whilst he is making decisions over the day to day running of the business as the Premises Licence Holder, I believe that there will be repeated undermining of the licensing objectives, resulting in continued incidents of violence.

Therefore, I respectfully ask the Sub-Licensing Committee to revoke the premises licence.

This concludes the representation for Cambridgeshire Constabulary.
(Appendix 7 - Delegation of Responsibilities by the Chief Officer of Police).

Have you made an application for review relating to the premises before?

Yes No

If yes, please state the date of that application:

If you have made representations before relating to the premises please state what they were and when you made them:

1. I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate
2. I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in, or in connection with, this application.


Privacy Notice

All personal information that you provide us is managed in accordance with our Privacy Policy. Please visit the [Privacy Notice for Community- Regulation and Enforcement](#) on our website where you can find out information about how we handle your information and your rights of access.

Signatures (please read guidance note 4)

Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent (please read guidance note 5). If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.

Signature:



Date: 01/03/2022

Capacity: Cambridgeshire Constabulary Police Licensing Officer.

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 6):

Post town:

Postcode:
Telephone number:
If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an email address: Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

Notes for Guidance

1. A responsible authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.
2. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
3. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
4. The application form must be signed.
5. An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.

This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.

APPENDIX

1. Premises Licence Conditions.

CONDITIONS CONSISTENT WITH THE OPERATING SCHEDULE

Conditions agreed with the Police at variation July 2013

1. The entrances and exits to the premises used by the public will be constantly manned whilst open for licensable activities on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 21:00 hours by a minimum of two (2) door supervisors who are licensed by the Security Industry Authority.
2. Entry/exit supervision is to be maintained unit 30 minutes after the Licensing activities cease. Any variation to the level specified is to be approved by the Chief of Police of the Licensing Area.

CONDITIONS VOLUNTEERED AT VARIATION OCTOBER 2013

1. CCTV at the premises to be maintained in a efficient working order. The CCTV system shall operate at all times when the premises are open to the public and the quality and standard or recorded image must meet the requirement of the Police and local authority to enable positive identification of individuals with recorded images being retained for 31 days.
2. No member of the public shall be admitted or readmitted to the premises after 00:30 hours.
3. Children and minors are not permitted on the premises without adult supervision.
4. Provision of sufficient first aid boxes and accident reporting procedures.

Appendix

2. List of incidents and crimes associated with premises since January 2020 – to date...

Date	Time	Location	Inc Ref:	Athens crime Ref:	Crime/Inc. type	Comments	Concerns identified from investigation notes	Condition breach identified
28/01/2022	22:33hrs	Outside The Corner House	CC-28012022-0480	35/6818/22	Common Assault	Intoxicated male outside being aggressive toward door staff. Pushing and shoving, male calmed down, apologised and left the premises.		
01/01/2022	01:40hrs	Inside/Outside The Corner House		35/281/22 x 3	GBH/Criminal Damage/S3 SIA offence	Unlicensed door man suspected of assaulting a customer, pushed him outside the doors, causing criminal damage to parker vehicle. Suspect arrested, under investigation.	Internal CCTV not working (between 28th December – 18th January). Unlicensed door man being used. Door man suspected of GBH and criminal damage. Customers seen to be entering and exiting premises unchallenged after 00:30hrs.	<u>Original Conditions</u> Breach of condition 1. Conditions volunteered Oct. 2013 Breach of condition 1. Breach of condition 2.
27/11/2022	00:46hrs	Inside/Outside The Corner House		35/81901/22	GBH	Initial issues inside premises, whereby victim was pushed over. Just after that the victim left premises, immediately followed by suspect who has then assaulted victim. Following the assault the suspect and accompanying group return back inside the pub.	Upon viewing internal and external footage it appears only one doorman on duty. Doorman doesn't appear to provide any first aid to victim who is unresponsive on pavement. Description matches that of unlicensed door man. Customers seen to be entering and exiting premises unchallenged after 00:30hrs. CCTV system identified not to be displaying.	<u>Original Conditions</u> Breach of condition 1. Conditions volunteered Oct. 2013 Breach of condition 1. Breach of condition 2.
16/10/2021	00:15hrs	Outside The Corner House	CC-16102021-0011	35/70709/21	Common Assault	Initial assault took place inside the premises.		
16/10/2021	00:15hrs	Inside The Corner House	CC-16102021-0011	35/70706/21	ABH	Initial incident took place inside premises, parties continued argument upon	Recording officer stated victims and involved parties were extremely intoxicated.	
19/05/2021	20:35hrs	Inside The Corner House	CC-19052021-0505	35/70796/21	GBH	Male received GBH injuries following being assaulted inside the premises. Suspect identified, investigation with CPS.		
05/09/2020	23:55hrs	Outside The Corner House	CC-05092020-0579	35/61331/20	Section 4 Public Order Act	Initial fight occurs inside premises, and multiple people become involved and it spills out into the Market Square, male arrested, charged Public Order Offence.		
05/09/2020	23:55hrs	Outside The Corner House	CC-05092020-0579	35/60327/20	ABH	Part of violent disorder which emanates from the premises, victim assaulted by unknown male.		

Appendix

2. Continuation of list of incidents and crimes associated with premises since January 2020 – to date...

Date	Time	Location	Inc. Ref.	Athena crime Ref.	Crime/Inc. type	Comments	Concerns identified from investigation notes	Condition breach Identified
05/09/2020	23:55hrs	Inside The Corner House	CC-05092020-0579	35/60326/20	ABH	CCTV control informed police of an large scale fight in the Market Square. On police	Violent disorder in Market Square emanated from premises.	
02/09/2020	18:00hrs	Inside The Corner House		35/59548/20	Aggravated business burglary	Suspect arrested for offence, no further action, due to evidential difficulties.	Victim statement not provided.	
12/08/2020	23:05hrs	Inside The Corner House		35/54338/20	Criminal Damage	Drunk male entered premises, upon being refused service and being asked to leave has caused damage to two chairs.		
02/08/2020	00:05hrs	Inside The Corner House	CC-02082020-0007 CC-02082020-0014	35/51204/20 35/51313/20	ABH x2 Assault emergency worker Racially aggravated Public order offence	Subject is barred from premises but apparently forced entry, prior to assaulting the first victim inside, suspect left moments later and then went onto assault a further two	Police had concerns over apparent lack of control over customers in the outside seating area in the Market Square.	
01/08/2020	19:02hrs	Inside The Corner House	CC-01082020-0432		Rowdy/Nuisance	Male had been drinking in pub most of the afternoon and upon being refused service is refusing to leave and is obstructing the doors. Male left of own accord.	Intoxication level.	
17/07/2020	23:33hrs	Outside The Corner House	CC-17072020-0631		Rowdy/inconsiderate/assault	CCTV control have identified a disturbance happening outside		
12/07/2020	01:00hrs	Inside The Corner House		35/45873/20	Theft	Reported theft of handbag from table		
14/02/2020	22:55hrs	Inside The Corner House	CC-14022020-0555	35/11573/20	GBH	Assault took place inside premises, victim received GBH injuries to face. Offender identified, charged with GBH.	During investigation it came to light that only one door man was on duty.	Original Conditions Breach of condition 1.

APPENDIX

3. Email from Sarah Mardon following meeting with Mr Hassani on 11/09/2020.

Dear Omar

Thank you for meeting with us on Friday, I realise there was a lot to take in.

Below are the points for action we discussed, and I have given them a time scale, these points also include steps to ensure you are covid secure.

Implement a last entry policy of 23:00 Friday & Saturday – **immediate**

1. Investigate new door staff company, HBAC may be able to assist – I know [REDACTED] has already been in touch with you, and provided contacts for reputable companies. Therefore, I will include action 3 below.
2. Make contact with reputable companies, and arrange a risk assessment for the premises – **7 days**
3. Temporarily reduce trading time to 00:00 on Fridays and Saturdays - volunteered
4. CCTV control room contact – PC [REDACTED] provided you the contact number for the CCTV control room. [REDACTED] has also provided you with information regarding the HBAC radios', and re-starting the Pubwatch group.
5. Carry out full review of your Covid Risk assessment and implement findings – **7 days**
6. Source more signage re Covid and distancing as per RA – **7 days**
7. Implement a meet and greet person (not door staff), to welcome customer, and provide information regarding your expectation of them, provide a script if necessary. – **7 days**
8. No vertical drinking inside, all customers must be seated - **Immediate**
9. Consider re instating using booking system for tables, particularly on Friday and Saturday evening.
10. Test & Trace, written records need to be kept in a secure manner and with sufficient detail such as the date on each page – **By Friday 18th**
11. Get ordering App up and running, this will help with 11 above. Only use App during Fri & Saturday - **ASAP**
12. Brief door staff and the beginning of each shift and keep a records of who is working, and provide and easily access or door staff.
13. Entertainment should be kept to background music only, no Karaoke or disco lighting.
14. Implement thorough cleaning regime, including all touch points, doors and handles, chair backs, toilets including taps and door locks

There is lots of guidance and advice available to help with implementing the Covid secure items. Below I have included some helpful links.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/risk-assessment.htm>

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5eb96e8e86650c278b077616/working-safely-during-covid-19-restaurants-pubs-takeaway-services-200910.pdf>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

https://huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/4782/pub-guidance-leaflet-sept.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1GKtyCyRpulxheC_tmLYlrL1ZM_6wkeGU6bmOwesiuAMi6q0n7BKjqc6c

I know with a Police presence on Market Square this weekend things were better. But you still need to make these improvements to your operation, particularly with regards to Covid.

Please keep me updated on you progress this week, and I will come in again on Friday to see how things are going.

Kind regards

Sarah Mardon

Licensing Officer

Huntingdonshire District Council

Pathfinder House

St. Mary's Street

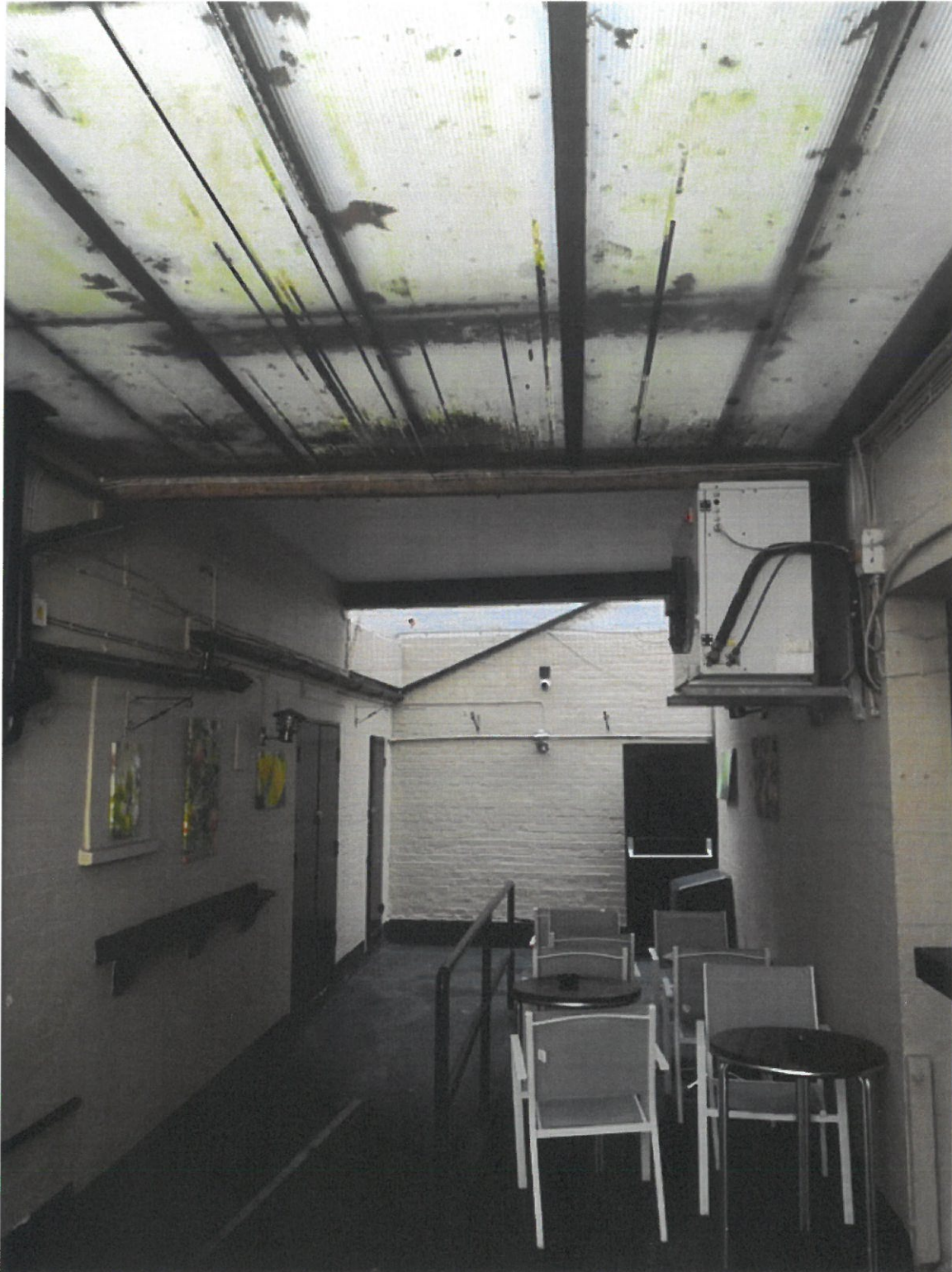
Huntingdon

PE29 3TN

www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/licensing

APPENDIX

4. Photograph of designated smoking area



APPENDIX

5. Copy of Closure Notice

**CLOSURE NOTICE MADE UNDER SECTION 19 OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AND POLICE ACT 2001**

Date & Time of the closure notice: 11:00hrs 21/01/2022

Authorised Officer making the Notice: PC 446 Clare Metcalfe

Signature of Officer: 

of Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Name and Address of affected premises: The Corner House, 54 Market Square.
St. Neots, Cambridgeshire. PE19 2AA.

Alleged unlicensed use of Premises: Mr Hassani has stated that his CCTV is not working. He has said the system needs examining by a security company, who are not able to attend for a number of days. Therefore, is not in accordance with the conditions of an authorisation for the sale of alcohol, namely breaching condition 1:

- *CCTV at the premises to be maintained in an efficient working order. The CCTV system shall operate at all times when the premises are open to the public and the quality and standard of recorded image must meet the requirement of the Police and local authority to enable positive identification of individuals with recorded images being retained for 31 days.*

Steps that may be taken to end the alleged unlicensed use of the premises, or to prevent it from re-occurring:

Ensure CCTV is fixed to ensure above condition is being adhered too.

The person to whom the closure notice has been served: Omar Hassani

Signature: Emailed to person, read receipt requested.

Name: Omar Hassani

Date: 21/01/2022

Notes:

1. A police officer or an authorised officer from the local authority, has decided to issue this closure notice under the terms of section 19 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ("the 2001 Act"). The notice alleges that the said premise has been operating illegally without a license to sell alcohol in contravention of sections 136 of the Licensing Act 2003 as an unauthorised sale of alcohol. It also mentions the actions which may be taken by the owner or manager of the premises to end the unauthorised sale of alcohol, or to prevent it from re-occurring.
2. **Section 20 of the 2001 Act - Closure Order**
Your attention is drawn to section 20 of the 2001 Act. This provides that the police, or as the case may be the local authority, can take action against the said premises by applying to a justice of the peace at the local magistrates' court for a closure order if the unauthorised sale of alcohol (as alleged in this closure notice) is continuing, or there is a reasonable likelihood that the premises will be so used in the future. The application for a closure order must be made not less than 7 days, and not more than 6 months, after the date on which this closure notice was served.
3. After an application for a closure order is made, the justice of the peace may issue a summons requiring the applicant, and also the person or persons on whom the closure notice was served, to attend a hearing at the court on a specified date and time. At the hearing the court will consider the applicant's complaint against the said premises and decide whether a closure order should or should not be made.
4. In accordance with the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, and under the law on human rights, you are entitled to be legally represented at the hearing and to make representations to the court before any decision is taken.

Appeals - Section 24 of the 2001 Act

5. An appeal against a decision by the magistrates' court to grant a closure order, or a decision to refuse an application for a closure order, can be made by an affected person to the Crown Court within 21 days.

Enforcement Powers and Offences - Section 25 of the 2001 Act.

6. It is an offence for a person, without reasonable excuse, to permit a premise to be open in contravention of a closure order made by the magistrate's court. Any person found guilty of such an offence will be liable to a fine not exceeding £20,000, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both.
7. It is also an offence for a person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with any other terms of a closure order made by the court, or does an act which contravenes those other terms. Any person convicted of this offence is liable to a fine not exceeding £5,000, or to three months imprisonment, or to both.
8. Police officers and authorised officers from the local authority have the power to enter the said premises at "any reasonable time", and do anything reasonably necessary to secure compliance with the closure order (for example, to board up the premises). However, when exercising this power, the constable or the officer must produce evidence of his authority to enter and also his identity before entering the premises, if asked to do so by the owner (or the occupier or the person in charge of the premises).
9. It is an offence for a person to intentionally obstruct police officers or authorised local authority officers from exercising these powers. Any person convicted of obstructing a police officer is liable to a fine not exceeding £5,000, or to one month's imprisonment, or to both. Any person convicted of obstructing an authorised local authority officer is liable to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

APPENDIX

6. Copy of email from [REDACTED], Investigations Officer, Security Industry Authority.

Good morning Clare,

As discussed, I visited Mr Omar Tahiri HASSINI, stated Owner of CORNER HOUSE in St Neots in Cambridgeshire, on the back of the enquiries we have also made in relation to Mr [REDACTED] on Thursday 17th February 2022 at around 1330hrs.

Mr HASSINI confirmed to me that he was the sole employer of all of his Door Supervisors including [REDACTED] and that he inducted them as PAYE. I concluded and explained to HASSINI that as this was the case he was committing an offence under s.3(2)(f) of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (PSIA 2001) in that 'He is the employer of an individual who in the course of any employment of his with that employer carries out any designated activities subject to additional controls.' He requires at least a Non Front Line License (NFL) to continue to employ his own 'In-House' Door Supervisors. I needed to confirm his status with the Company who owned the lease.

The frustrating thing is that although it was on 24/05/2017 I had previously visited Mr HASSINI an explained then that he would need to have a NFL to fulfil his wish of eventually not utilising the then Deploying Company KMB Security and Cleaning Ltd, whom he stated he was having issues with. We became involved in this set of enquiries due to an alleged unlicensed Door Supervisor then, running away from me and police during some joint work.

This will be a minor offence and will be dealt with by way of a warning letter and a discussion will be had today with HASSINI to establish how he will deploy Door Supervisors to his venue.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Investigations Officer – East Team

Inspections and Enforcement

Security Industry Authority

APPENDIX

7. Delegation of Responsibilities by the Chief Officer of Police.



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

Licensing Act 2003

Delegation of responsibilities by the Chief Officer of Police

In accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 I hereby delegate authority to Cambridgeshire Constabulary Licensing Officers to develop policies and procedures and to exercise all powers vested in the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Such delegation to include the power to delegate specific tasks to licensing Constables and support staff.

This delegation shall remain in force unless otherwise notified.

Signed

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Chief Constable.

Nick Dean
Chief Constable
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
1 October 2018

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Schedule 12

Part A



Premises Licence

Premises Licence Number

HDC/PRE00192

Part 1 – Premises Details

Postal address of premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description, including Post Town, Post Code

**The Corner House
54 Market Square
St Neots
Cambridgeshire
PE19 2AA**

Telephone number **01480 509366**

Where the licence is time limited the dates: **Not Applicable**

This licence comes into effect on: **30.09.2014**
The annual fee is due with effect from: **14.08.2015** and each year thereafter.

Licensable activities authorised by the licence
**Regulated Entertainment (Indoors) - Live Music & Recorded Music
Late Night Refreshment
The Supply of Alcohol**

Times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities

Regulated Entertainment & Supply of Alcohol - Mondays to Wednesdays 11:00 - 23:00, Thursdays and Fridays 11:00 - 01:00, Saturdays 11:00 - 02:00, Sundays 12:00 - 22:30

Late Night Refreshment - Thursdays and Fridays 23:00 - 01:00, Saturdays 23:00 - 02:00

The opening hours of the premises

Monday to Wednesday	11:00 - 23:20
Thursday & Friday	11:00 - 01:20
Saturday	11:00 - 02:20
Sunday	12:00 - 22:50

Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and / or off supplies

Alcohol is supplied for consumption ON & OFF the premises

Part 2

Schedule 12

Part A



Premises Licence

Premises Licence Number

HDC/PRE00192

Name, (registered) address, telephone number and email (where relevant) of holder of premises licence

**The Corner Bar Ltd
The Corner House
54 Market Square
St Neots
PE19 2AA**

Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable)
06993443

Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises for the supply of alcohol

**Mr Omar Hassani
The Corner House
54 Market Square
St Neots
PE19 2AA**

Personal licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises for the supply of alcohol

Licence Number: PER00313

Issuing Authority: Huntingdonshire District Council

ANNEX 1 – MANDATORY CONDITIONS

1. No supply of alcohol may be made at a time when
 - a. there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, or
 - b. the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended.
2. Every supply of alcohol under this licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.
3. The responsible person must ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.
4. In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises —
 - a. games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage,

Schedule 12

Part A

Premises Licence

Premises Licence Number

HDC/PRE00192

individuals to —

- i. drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or
 - ii. drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise);
 - b. provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;
 - c. provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;
 - d. selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner;
 - e. dispensing alcohol directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of disability).
5. The responsible person must ensure that free potable water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.
6. The premises licence holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.
7. The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.
8. The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either —
 - a. a holographic mark, or
 - b. an ultraviolet feature.
9. The responsible person must ensure that —
 - a. where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures —
 - i. beer or cider: ½ pint;
 - ii. gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25 ml or 35 ml; and
 - iii. still wine in a glass: 125 ml;
 - b. these measures are displayed in a menu, price list or other printed material which is available to customers on the premises; and
 - c. where a customer does not in relation to a sale of alcohol specify the quantity of alcohol to be sold, the customer is made aware that these measures are available."

Schedule 12

Part A

Premises Licence

Premises Licence Number

HDC/PRE00192

10. A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.
11. For the purposes of the condition set out in paragraph 10 -
- a. "duty" is to be construed in accordance with the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979(6);
 - b. "permitted price" is the price found by applying the formula - $P = D + (D \times V)$ where -
 - i. P is the permitted price,
 - ii. D is the amount of duty chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the duty were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol, and
 - iii. V is the rate of value added tax chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the value added tax were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol;
 - c. "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a premises licence -
 - i. the holder of the premises licence,
 - ii. the designated premises supervisor (if any) in respect of such a licence, or
 - iii. the personal licence holder who makes or authorises a supply of alcohol under such a licence;
 - d. "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a club premises certificate, any member or officer of the club present on the premises in a capacity which enables the member or officer to prevent the supply in question; and
 - e. "value added tax" means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994(7).
12. Where the permitted price given by paragraph b. of paragraph 11 would (apart from this paragraph) not be a whole number of pennies, the price given by that sub-paragraph shall be taken to be the price actually given by that sub-paragraph rounded up to the nearest penny.
13. Paragraph 14 applies where the permitted price given by paragraph b. of paragraph 11 on a day ("the first day") would be different from the permitted price on the next day ("the second day") as a result of a change to the rate of duty or value added tax.
14. The permitted price which would apply on the first day applies to sales or supplies of alcohol which take place before the expiry of the period of 14 days beginning on the second day.
15. Where one or more individuals must be at the premises to carry out a security activity, each such individual must:
- a. be authorised to carry out that activity by a licence granted under the Private Security Industry Act 2001; or
 - b. be entitled to carry out that activity by virtue of section 4 of that Act.

Schedule 12

Part A



Premises Licence

Premises Licence Number

HDC/PRE00192

ANNEX 2 – CONDITIONS CONSISTENT WITH THE OPERATING SCHEDULE

Conditions agreed with the Police at variation July 2013

1. The entrances and exits to the premises used by the public will be constantly manned whilst open for licensable activities on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 21:00 hours by a minimum of two (2) door supervisors who are licensed by the Security Industry Authority.
2. Entry/exit supervision is to be maintained unit 30 minutes after the Licensing activities cease. Any variation to the level specified is to be approved by the Chief of Police of the Licensing Area.

Condition volunteered at variation October 2013

1. CCTV at the premises to be maintained in a efficient working order. The CCTV system shall operate at all times when the premises are open to the public and the quality and standard or recorded image must meet the requirement of the Police and local authority to enable positive identification of individuals with recorded images being retained for 31 days.
2. No member of the public shall be admitted or readmitted to the premises after 00:30 hours.
3. Children and minors are not permitted on the premises without adult supervision.
4. Provision of sufficient first aid boxes and accident reporting procedures.

ANNEX 3 – CONDITIONS ATTACHED AFTER A HEARING BY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY

N/A

ANNEX 4 – PERMITTED HOURS – For the licensable activities authorised by this licence:

N/A

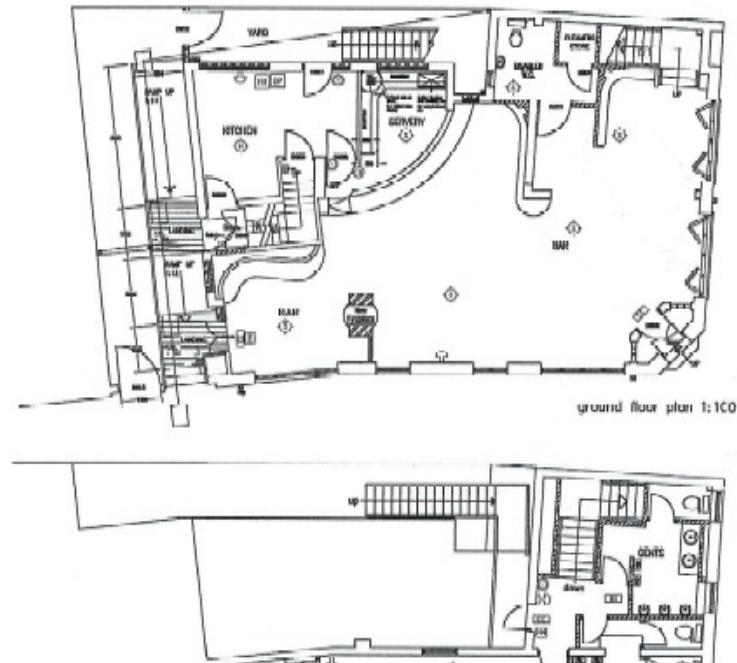
**Schedule 12
Part A**

Premises Licence

Premises Licence Number

HDC/PRE00192

ANNEX 5 – PLANS



Licence valid from: 30.09.2014

C Stopford

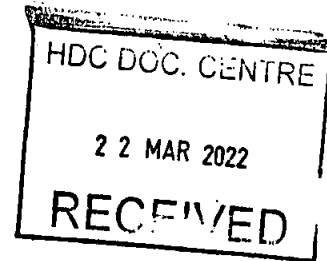
Date of Issue: 03.10.2014

Signed: Head of Community

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

21st March 2022

Huntingdon District Council,
Licensing Section,
Pathfinder House,
St Mary's Street,
Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire,
PE29 3TN



Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you regarding The Corner House, 54 Market Square, St Neots, PE19 2AA following your request for representation in connection with the continuation of their License.

I have been a regular customer of The Corner House, having lived in the Little Paxton/St. Neots area, for many years. Over this time, I have been able to observe those managing the establishment and would say that I have found the place well managed and the leadership of the team, by Mr Omar Tahiri Hassani, is excellent.

The pub provides a very sociable environment, running regular events such as Karaoke singers, special days for sports fans and discos. To lose this establishment, as a result of an uncommon and unusual event, namely a breakdown of public order, would deprive the town of a very well managed and very welcoming establishment,

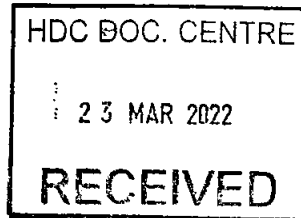
I would also point out that, following the incident on New Year's Eve, Mr Hassani took immediate action by upgrading his Digital Surveillance Equipment and employing new security personnel.

It is an unfortunate fact of current life that, from time to time, certain individuals behave badly following too much alcohol consumption. To take away the Corner House license would do nothing to reduce the occurrences but, management have reacted positively with the new equipment, improved security and heightened staff awareness. Please do not revoke the license.

Yours Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

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Huntingdon District Council,
Licensing Section,
Pathfinder House,
St Mary's Street,
Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire.
PE29 3TN.



[REDACTED]

20th March, 2022.

Dear Members of the Huntingdonshire Licensing Committee,

In response to your request for representations regarding The Corner House, 54 Market Square, St Neots, PE19 2AA, I would like to register my support for the management of this establishment and the unhindered continuation of its Premises License on the following grounds:

Over the last 15+ years I have regularly been frequenting this public house I have always found its landlord, Mr Omar Tahiri Hassani, a very hospital host who caters for a wide range of cliental of all ages. Customers of this venue include sports fans, karaoke singers and revellers who enjoy music and dance. No other pub in the town centre offers such a diverse range of attractions and entertainment and to lose them, in my opinion, as a result of an extremely uncommon breakdown in public order would be a disproportionate price to pay for the overwhelming majority of its well-behaved and orderly patrons.

Over the years I have witnessed virtually no trouble in this establishment in terms of public disorder or criminal activity and at no time have I ever felt that my personal safely was under threat. Regrettably from time to time town centre pubs – no matter where they are in the country – will suffer with the issues cited against The Corner House and in an attempt to minimize the possibility of anti-social behaviour Mr Hassani endeavours to take all the practical measures he can to ensure his premises offer a safe environmental for all to enjoy. This includes The Corner House being an active member of the St Neots Pubwatch Scheme which aims to prevent known trouble makers from entering any of the town's licensed premises.

In response to an isolated public order disturbance which happened in the Market Square outside The Corner House on New Year's Eve, 2022, Mr Hassani has upgraded his security provisions by employing new security personnel and digital surveillance equipment to combat the potential for any re-occurrence of this kind of regrettable incident.

Finally I would like to point out that revoking The Corner House's Premises License will do nothing to reduce the overall (low) levels of late night and weekend public disorder in our town centre because those predominantly young and/or drunk people intent on causing it will simply frequent other establishments prior to causing the trouble they wilfully set out to instigate and/or participate in.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

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Witness Statement

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN: [] [] [] []

Statement of: [REDACTED]

Age if under 18 (if over insert "over 18"): O/18

Occupation: Police officer

This statement (consisting of5..... Pages(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: _____ Date: 24/03/2022

I am PS 322 [REDACTED] and currently hold the position of the neighbourhood sergeant for the St Neots geographical area in Cambridgeshire which is a post I have held for just over 2 years.

I have been asked to provide this statement by one of the licensing officers for Cambridgeshire police in regards to a licensed premises within my neighbourhood geographical area situated specifically in the middle of St. Neots. The premise in question is the Corner House, 54 Market Square, St Neots PE19 2AA. The Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) I know to be a male by the name of Omar. and as far as I am aware he is the Premises Designated License Holder as well, but I have not confirmed this first hand to date.

St Neots is a large town in Cambridgeshire that is trying to establish a market square that has a continental feel to it and therefore has been adapted to be predominately a pedestrianised central area. It is a market town that is very well presented with numerous coffee shops, pubs and eating establishments based around the central square. The square itself is somewhat unique compared to some market towns with a number of residential properties above the shops that face down on to the market square itself making it a highly populated area both during daylight hours as well as during the hours of our night time economy.

I would describe the corner house as one of our more well established licensed premises that is small in size compared to some of the other locations in the town but one that has a disproportionately high amount of crime and disorder considering the amount of space it takes up.

Since I have been in post there have been 18 investigations raised for alleged offences ranging from thefts to high level violence type offences at the location of the corner house. There have been a number of GBH offences and what were believed to be violent disorders at the time of reporting along with lower level ABH assaults and common assaults taking place at the location but it has also been subject to offences such as aggravated burglaries.

The Corner House is centrally located as it is situated facing both on to the high street and the market square itself so easily accessible and is very well known around the town. Prior to my arrival as the sergeant for the area I did not know about the licensed premises but during my handover the corner house was highlighted to me as one of

Signature: _____ Signature Witnessed by: _____

Witness Statement

Continuation of Statement of PS 322 [REDACTED]

the pubs that I had to be aware of due to the clientele that frequented the location and associated problems as a result.

When I arrived in St Neots to take up my post in February 2020 it did not take long for me to become aware first hand of the problems associated with the corner house. The first time I had to deal with an incident there was when there was a GBH carried out at the location in the same month I started (CC-14022020-0555) involving one of our known nominals who had assaulted a member of the public during an altercation at the location. This involved the victim losing consciousness as well as receiving a broken jaw and as a result was a significant assault causing serious harm. It was described as a bar fight and at the time Omar only had one doorstaff on that did not appear to deal with the situation at all. I now know that that only having one doorman on duty at that time, and day was a breach of one of the licence conditions.

As a result of being made aware of the location from my initial handover and from my introduction to the location through the above GBH incident my initial impressions of the corner house was one of concern that firstly this location was not run particularly professionally, it appeared the manager did not have full control over the activities and level of intoxication occurring within the premises and that it was attracting the wrong type of clientele without the necessary levels of security to manage it. For a small pub in the middle of a heavily populated area there appeared to be a lack of accountability being placed upon people to behave themselves whilst in the location by the DPS.

Shortly after this incident occurred the pandemic of covid hit and the location was closed for a significant amount of time preventing any further problems. So although 18 offences have been recorded I think this masks the problems present at the location and I feel the incident numbers would be significantly higher if normal trading had been taking place.

When the corner house was reopened for business with covid restrictions placed upon it, it did not take long before problems started again with one of the most significant happening on the 2nd AUGUST 2020 (CC-02082020-0014) this was essentially a violent disorder but ended up being recorded as separate assaults. The incident was significant enough in size that the local news and radio channel was contacting Cambridgeshire police enquiring about details and how we would address it. Prior to this there had been other incidents involving our local traveller community at the location and although they were the instigators for the disorder on this occasion the corner house holds some responsibility around managing these people's entry. It was established that some present were banned from the location but were still gaining access and being served alcohol even with security on the door. This again shows a lack of management and control over the location from a DPS perspective as they should be enforcing the bans to prevent further disorder.

CC-02082020-0014 was essentially a large scale violent disorder which was instigated by alcohol fuelled persons from within the corner house. This incident ended up being recorded by a resident that lives on the market square as it spilled out into the street and was shared on social media where it received over 900 comments and several hundred interactions of a negative nature. The incident involved high levels of intoxication from persons that had

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Witness Statement

Continuation of Statement of PS 322 [REDACTED] -----

been frequenting the corner house which to me shows a severe lack of management again in addressing the excessive drinking levels taking place within the corner house putting profit from sales over the effective and professional management of the location. Following these assaults there was also a large amount of litter of drinking vessels from the location left and tables turned upside down in a violent manner again by persons that had been in the corner house just prior. These are not minor fights, and many of them are resulting in victims being knocked out and hospitalised. Additionally, it gives the impression of lawlessness in the town that is negatively impacting upon the image of the town itself but also negatively on police confidence by members of the local community when it should be something that is being addressed by sensible management of clients within the corner house and sensible management of alcohol consumption rather than just trying to maximise profits. On this occasion a section 34 dispersal area was put in place to address the alcohol fuelled violence which again is a serious step for the police to undertake as it restricts the movements of people which in a liberal society such as what we live in should not normally be required.

Following on from this we have had incidents where individuals have been reported intimidating staff whilst the DPS was not present. This included threats being made to staff of being bottled if they reported the situation or tried to get the individual out of the location and also documents the individual helping themselves to pints of larger from the beer taps.

On the 5th September 2020 which was only a month after the large scale disorder mentioned above at the corner house had occurred there was another large scale disorder reported to Cambridgeshire police which took up considerable resources trying to address it and involved a large amount of victims being assaulted outside of the corner house again. This was initially reported by the councils CCTV operators and was treated as a street fight as there was never a report given to police by the corner house. However following enquiries and having reviewed the CCTV it was clear that it had started within the corner house and again was deemed to be a violent disorder initially with lots of fights and banned persons present carrying out assaults. Omar had not phoned the police about this incident or sought help from the police in regards to banned persons being present. There has been no call to police about the fight even though it was significant in size and involved a large amount of people as it spilled in and out of the location. CCTV was clear at the time and again documented the security that were present doing very little to control the situation. Once again the DPS failed to recognise the hostilities from within the location increasing and failed to address the problem of excessive drinking to the point of violence taking place. This incident again involved people requiring medical treatment which again meant that on a busy Saturday night the police and ambulance crews were required to address a problem that could have been avoided and meant that significant resources were pulled away from other pressing matters to deal with drunken violent behaviour with very little accountability given to the fact the corner house had supplied this alcohol and not prevented tensions from rising at an early stage.

Within a very short space of time it was beginning to be recognised that the corner house was becoming the epicentre for violent alcohol fuelled crime and disorder for St Neots during the night time economy period with very little efforts from Omar, or the security at the location to address the situation through enforcement of upholding

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Witness Statement

Continuation of Statement of PS 322 [REDACTED]

bans and preventing sales to person who were known to them for causing issues or violent behaviour as it was clear these individuals were regular customers from the regularity of the problems occurring.

The issues surrounding the corner house started to be highlighted as a problem following this second large scale fight in quick succession and the licensing team were engaged with more closely from a neighbourhood perspective to see if engagement could be undertaken with Omar to address the issues. As a result a visit was undertaken from my understanding and the licensing officers asked Omar about the apparent lack of control over customers in the outside area on the Market Square, suggestions and an action plan regarding better management was suggested at this stage. This resulted in reducing the capacity in the outside area, and making it seated table service only, so that it was much easier to ensure social distancing and control numbers.

It was clear that from a management perspective there was a clear requirement for greater control to manage customers but at this stage Omar appeared willing to work with licensing to address these problems from the feedback provided to me.

Up until later on in that year it appeared to be working and although we had calls to the location violence did reduce. This may be due to the covid restrictions again or the police having some of the more problematic persons imprisoned for a while, or the fact the DPS recognised he was under the spotlight to show that he was capable of managing the location however there was a reduced period of need for police to attend the location at this point. We have since then and towards the end of 2021 seen an increase in violence related issues at the corner house again however. During the period where it was quieter checks had been completed at the location and there were a number of concerning issues surrounding Omar's compliance with the covid regulations at the time. It was established that his incident recording book was clearly not being used to document incidents properly or indeed at all at times, the CCTV was regularly out of action and the covid track and trace register was not being completed properly.

Although minor in nature they all point to a management style at the location that was lacking in focus, understanding of what was required, professionalism, capability and suitability for a location with so many problems being recorded against it.

Towards the end of the 2021 year more GBH high level violent offences were recorded with the offence location being the corner house once again. One of these consisted of a group fight of four males against 2 other males and the other more worrying one consisted of a male being assaulted by door staff at the location where they have thrown the male out of the front door and he has subsequently hit his head on a vehicle that was parked outside the front. One of the door staff has then proceeded to continue his assault on the male by punching him before the male has been taken away and subsequently collapsed resulting in medical treatment and hospitalisation being required. From the ensuing investigation it is believed that the doorman in question was not a licensed SIA holder. Though Omar was employing him, he only knew him as [REDACTED] (Omar did not know the male's surname). This was something that was addressed earlier in the year to ensure more professionalism of the staff Omar employed. In the previous meeting with police licensing officers Omar had agreed to use accredited firms for his SIA door staff but shortly after agreeing this he had reverted back to using his own hired staff it appears.

The doorman that assaulted the member of the public on this occasion was eventually charged with the following offences:

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Signature Witnessed by:

Witness Statement

Continuation of Statement of PS 322  -----

- 1. Criminal Damage to Motor vehicle (Less than £500)
- 2. Assault by beating
- 3. Engaged in licensable conduct without a licence (Section 3(1) Private Security & Industries Act 2001

All of which recognises and highlights the questionable actions of Omar as the license holder as to the staff he is employing and what checks he is carrying out to ensure they are suitable given the volatility of the location itself and the lack of professionalism already on show.

There is no doubt in my mind that alcohol fuelled crime and disorder will continue to occur if the location is not addressed and the licensing is not addressed. An extra strain will be put on services to deal with this from both a public perception perspective and that of the requirements of the emergency services in general. Unfortunately, I can only envisage the corner house remaining a problem for us until the DPS and license holder is removed from post and replaced with someone of a more forceful nature that can control and address the problems currently present at the location.

Signature: **Signature Witnessed by:**

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Sarah Mardon

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 March 2022 11:59
To: Licensing (HDC)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: The Corner House, 54 Market Square, St Neots, Cambridgeshire

Dear Sir/Madam

We act on behalf of Wells and Co., Limited, the trading name for Charles Wells Limited, the freehold owner of the above premises and the landlord under a Lease both with the Corner Bar Limited (the premises licence holder and tenant) and Mr Omar Hassani (the Designated Premises Supervisor and guarantor).

Wells and Co., are aware of the review proceedings issued by Cambridgeshire Police and express their serious concerns about the matters raised in those review papers.

This representation is based upon the licensing objectives:

1. The prevention of crime and disorder;
2. Public safety;
3. The prevention of public nuisance

Wells and Co., is the landlord of the premises and is not responsible for the operation of the premises in any way, this being the sole responsibility of the premises licence holder/Designated Premises Supervisor.

Since Wells and Co., became aware of the Police concerns about the operation of the premises they have liaised both with the Police and Mr Hassani, however this has sadly been to no avail and Wells and Co has therefore commenced forfeiture of the Lease by serving a notice pursuant to Section 146 of the Law of Property Act 1925 on the tenant as a pre-cursor to issuing forfeiture proceedings next week.

Wells and Co., reserve the right to amplify this representation if and when further evidence becomes available from any of the other parties.

(For the sake of clarity Wells and Co., the trading name of Charles Wells Limited are making this representation, not Poppleston Allen Solicitors. Please however direct all communication to us in the first instance.)

Thank you for your assistance.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Partner

Poppleston Allen

E:a [REDACTED] | W:www.popall.co.uk

Nottingham Office: 37 Stoney Street, The Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1LS

Coronavirus - Important Information

Business continues as usual. A number of our team continue to work securely from home and remain available via email or phone. Where possible, all correspondence will be dealt with electronically and there may be a delay in sending out hard copy documents by post.

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[REDACTED] | Partner

Poppleston Allen

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