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Dear Sir / Madam

**Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Application for the variation of a Premises Licence
Aberdeen Hero/Pumpkin, Aberdeen Railway Station, Guild Street, Aberdeen, AB11
6LX**

I refer to the above application and in terms of Section 22(1)(a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 and make the following objection.

The applicant seeks a change in license to permit children, who are accompanied by an adult, access to the premises at all times the premises are open.

The Aberdeen City Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy 2013 - 2016 at paragraphs 28.1 and 28.3 states that:

“The Board wishes to see child safe premises thriving in the city. It welcomes applications from those who wish to operate licensed premises which accommodate children and families.”

“Children may be adequately protected from harm by the action taken to protect adults but they may also need particular measures to be taken. When addressing the issue of Protecting Children from Harm the applicant must consider those factors which may particularly impact on children”

If children are to be present in licensed areas then particular attention and detail should be given to showing how they will be protected from harm. I suggest that Hero/Pumpkin consider and provide greater detail on how they will address the following control measures, which will have a particular impact on children and are listed under section 28.4 of the Aberdeen City Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy.

- (b) *Employment of members of staff who have convictions for serving alcohol to children, or convictions against children in premises where families are encouraged.*

- (d) *Measures to ensure children are not exposed to incidences of violence or disorder*
- (e) *Appropriate training and supervision of those employed to secure protection of children from harm.*
- (f) *Imposition of reasons for children to be present and/ or accompanied by a responsible person adult who shall have responsibility for, and supervise such **children and young persons will normally only be admitted to licensed premises for the purpose of consuming light refreshments or a meal**, partaking in a relevant sporting activity or attending a pre-arranged function or event.*
- (g) *Enforcement of the mandatory Challenge 25 Policy.*

Unless the controls identified above have been addressed NHS Grampian would argue that there is no validation for this Application for Variation of Premises License to be granted. I feel that the information currently provided is not sufficient in terms of safeguarding to meet the requirements of the Board's Policy. I would also suggest that children and young people should not be admitted to this establishment after 9pm as no meals are available for order or consumption after this time.

In addition it would be useful if the operating plan gave some indication of the maximum time children or young people were on the premises whilst alcohol was being consumed. There would appear to be nothing in the board's Licensing Policy or in this Operating Plan to technically prevent a child being on the premises from 8am to 11pm.

For these reasons, and in terms of Section 22(1)(a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, The Public Health Directorate of NHS Grampian objects to the application in that the granting of the application would be inconsistent with the Protecting Children from Harm licensing objective.

Yours faithfully



Christopher Littlejohn

Consultant in Public Health

pp Heather Wilson

Health Improvement Officer