

5 November 2015

Your Ref:

Our Ref: AD/DCU/46169/9211/15

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Sir Stephen House QPM  
Chief Constable

Aberdeen City Division  
Queen Street  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1ZA

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FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR ERIC ANDERSON

Dear Sir

**LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 - APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF OCCASIONAL LICENCES**

**APPLICANT: JOHN CODONA, C/O LEDINGHAM CHALMERS LLP**

**PREMISES TO BE LICENSED: ICE RINK VIEWING MARQUEE, ABERDEEN FESTIVE VILLAGE, UNION TERRACE, ABERDEEN**

I refer to the above applications and in terms of Section 58(1)(b)(ii) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, make the following representation on behalf of the Chief Constable.

The applications relate to a festive event due to be held between 26 November 2015 and 5 January 2016.

The event, which involves the closure of Union Terrace, Aberdeen will create a 'festive village' within a defined area, and will include stalls selling festive goods, festive food and drinks, family entertainment, funfair rides, a skating rink with viewing marquee and an entertainment marquee where food and drinks can be purchased and consumed.

It is intended that there will four areas within the footprint of the event site from which alcohol will be sold in accordance with Occasional Licences issued under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

This letter relates to the three applications made in respect of the area of the event site referred to as the Ice Rink Viewing Marquee for the periods 26 November to 8 December 2015, 9 December to 21 December 2015 and 22 December 2015 to 3 January 2016, all dates inclusive.

The applications describe the premises as a covered marquee which can be used by the whole family, from which persons skating on the ice rink can be viewed.

The applications, in respect of this location, are for 'on sales' only and for the hours of 1200 - 2200 for every day covered by the applications, with the exception of 31 December 2015, when the hours applied for are 1200 - 0200.

The application form indicates that children of all ages are to be permitted entry to the Ice Rink Viewing Marquee at all times the premises (in this case the Ice Rink Viewing Marquee) is open, as it is essentially catering for the whole family event, as indicated on the application forms.

The Police Service of Scotland are supportive of the concept of the event as a whole and are a supportive partner alongside the local authority and local businesses in enhancing the festive experience in the city centre, especially one that firmly focusses on appealing to the whole family by providing a safe, child appropriate environment.

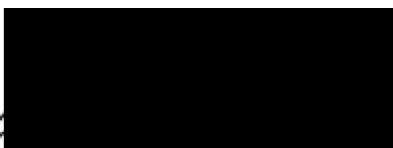
It is my view that such an event could be both appealing and successful without the sale of alcohol being included, or appearing as a major attraction to the event, and I would have welcomed an alcohol free event.

However, on the basis on supporting the concept of the event being a winter market, in which the sale and consumption of alcohol focusses upon seasonal products, on behalf of the Chief Constable, I make the following representation in relation to the applications, and recommends that they be granted subject to condition that all sales of alcohol be restricted to mulled alcoholic products, i.e. mulled wine and mulled cider.

I understand that this position will undoubtedly disappoint the applicant however, it is a position I take primarily to support the Protecting and Improving Public Health and Protecting Children from Harm licensing objectives, and ask that you consider 'harm' in its broadest term, recognising that children learn behaviours from example and exposure; the normalising and acceptance of consumption of alcohol in everyday environments and the wide availability of alcohol at family oriented events being one such type of exposure. The imposition of this condition would also support Aberdeen Alcohol and Drug Partnership's strategy of engendering a healthier, safer and more responsible attitude to alcohol.

This letter is submitted for your attention when considering these applications and request it be considered in conjunction with my other letters relating to similar applications made in terms of Section 56 of the Act in relation to this proposed event.

Yours faithfully



Jackie Craig  
T/Chief Inspector