

Date 16th November 2015
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Our Ref 20151134
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Eric Anderson
Solicitor
Legal and Democratic Services
Corporate Governance
Aberdeen City Council
Business Hub 6, Level 1 South,
Marischal College, Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1AB

Dear Mr Anderson

**Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Application for a Variation of Premises Licence
The Priory, 27 Belmont Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1JS**

I refer to the above application and in terms of Section 22(1)(a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, I make the following objection under the licensing objective:

Protecting and Improving Public Health.

The applicant seeks to extend the terminal hour of the premises to 03:00 Sunday to Thursday and 04:00 on Friday and Saturdays.

The Aberdeen City Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy 2013 – 2016, paragraph 20.4 states that:

“The board further considers that it would be extremely difficult for any applicant to justify the sale of alcohol prior to 10.00 hours and after 03:00 hours unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Board considers there is sufficient evidence from the Health Board and Police Scotland to suggest that such extensions of hours for the sale of alcohol could have detrimental effects on both the health of the City’s population and levels of criminal and violent offending, particularly in the City Centre.The board considers therefore that there should be a presumption against the supply of alcohol and the granting therefore of any extended hours after 03:00 and before 1000.”

The premises operate as a nightclub with no activities detailed with regard to restaurant facilities or bar meals. I can see no evidence of exceptional circumstances stated in the paperwork that would indicate this should be considered as a special case. The variation to the operating plan indicates that continuous trading will be well within the maximum limit

of 14 hours which the board accepts as reasonable as the premises opening time will be restricted to 21:00 on each day. However the board has already accepted that **extensions** of hours for the sale of alcohol could have detrimental effects to health.

Aberdeen City already has a higher incidence of wholly attributable alcohol related hospital admissions when compared to Aberdeenshire, Moray and the rest of Scotland. Alcohol related deaths are slightly lower than the Scottish average but are still higher than, Moray, Aberdeenshire or England & Wales. Even small reductions in the availability of alcohol can contribute to health gain and reduce violence and harm to the population generally, as well as to the drinker themselves. I would request that the granting of an extension to the terminal hour of this premises is not granted and that the terminal hours of 03:00 and 02:00 as stated in the Statement of Licensing Policy are adhered to.

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 as the granting of it would be inconsistent with one or more of the licensing objectives, namely Protecting and Improving Public Health.

Yours sincerely

Chris Littlejohn
Consultant in Public Health

pp Heather Wilson
Health Improvement Officer (Alcohol & Drugs)