

Date 7th January 2016
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Our Ref 20151179
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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 Premises Licence
Scotch Bonnet Bistro, Unit 2, Jesmond Drive, Aberdeen, AB22 8UR**

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

**Protecting and Improving Public Health
Protecting Children & Young People from harm**

The applicant is requesting

“Children will be entitled to remain on the premises until 5pm unaccompanied or 11pm if accompanied unless attending a private pre-booked function, in which case they will be entitled to remain until the end.

Young Persons will be entitled to remain on the premises until 1am”

The premises operate as a Bistro with the provision of restaurant style meals. It is situated in a residential area within close proximity to the local secondary school.

I have tried to obtain clarity on the opening times of the premises as the information provided in the Operating Plan is contradictory. When stating that young people will be on the premises until 2300 or 0100 this does not match the terminal hour quoted on the Operating Plan of 2200? There is no mention of private functions or extended hours to cover this.

I am aware that there is a mezzanine floor to this premises and have a concern that unaccompanied children and young people could be in this area when alcohol is available to customers. What controls will be in place to supervise this area?

As you know NHS Grampian is in agreement with the provision of family friendly restaurants and establishments but requires assurance that safeguards are in place for the protection of children and young people. This is especially relevant to this establishment when it is in such close proximity to a school and wishes to allow children unaccompanied access until 1700.

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.

For these reasons, and in terms of Section 22(1) (a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, the Public Health Directorate of NHS Grampian feels the granting of the license under the proposed terms would be inconsistent with the Protecting and Improving Public Health and Protecting Children & Young People from harm licensing objectives.

Yours sincerely

Chris Littlejohn
Consultant in Public Health

pp Heather Wilson
Health Improvement Officer (Alcohol & Drugs)