

Date 7th January 2016
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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 Bobbin, 500 King Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5ST**

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 seeks to allow children and young persons admission to the first floor and external areas of the premises until 8pm, so long as accompanied by an adult. Additionally, either the child/young person or the accompanying adult must be consuming a snack or a meal.

The premises operates as a pub with the provision of bar meals. I have no concern regarding the admission of children and young persons to the premises as I am aware that monitoring arrangements, including CTV cover of the external area is in place. However, I am concerned that children and young people could be exposed to a drinking environment where no food is consumed under the current wording of the variation. The term “snack” could relate to crisps or nuts and I suggest it would be more appropriate to quantify this statement to give more clarity to staff and patrons. As a result I suggest that the following statement be considered.

Proposed change of wording:

Additionally, the accompanying adult must be consuming a food item from the menu.

In making this statement I wish to convey the preferred option of eating food with drinking

alcohol and setting a good example to children and young people. If only the children require food I would suggest that there are unlicensed alternatives that could be accessed.

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)