

Date 21st April 2016
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Ms Ruth O'Hare
Solicitor
Legal and Democratic Services
Corporate Governance
Aberdeen City Council
Business Hub 6, Level 1 South,
Marischal College, Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1AB

Dear Ms O'Hare

**Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Application for a Variation of Premises Licence
The Justice Mill, 425 Union Street, Aberdeen, AB11 6DA**

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 amend the Door Supervisor condition to read as follows:

“It is a condition that the licence holder will ensure that from 23:00 onwards on Friday and Saturday nights, they shall employ or use suitably licensed door supervisors at or near the entrance to, or within the premises, to maintain order and/or security and prevent patrons breaching the licensing objectives.”

The Aberdeen City Alcohol Licensing Board published their Statement of Licensing Policy in November 2013. Under Section 6.5, the Board has identified a number of local conditions which may be attached to premises licences. Point 3 relates to Door Supervisors and the condition states

“It is a condition that the licence holder will ensure that from 23:00 onwards they shall employ or use suitably licensed door supervisors at or near the entrance to, or within the premises, to maintain order and/or security and prevent patrons breaching the licensing objectives.”

Section 27.7 of the Aberdeen Statement of Licensing Policy states that:

“Licence holders and their staff must remain vigilant at all times to the risks of excessive consumption of alcohol. There should be established practice within the premises to ensure that a standard approach is taken where patrons’ demeanour demonstrates an excessive consumption of alcohol. There should also be a clear understanding of the offences committed in connection with the service of alcohol to children or drunk persons.”

And Section 27.3 of the Aberdeen Statement of Licensing Policy states that

“The Board will expect door supervisors to be particularly vigilant about numbers entering the premises, denying entry to those who are drunk or disorderly on arrival, and ensuring an adequate supervision of the premises at all times.”

The removal of Door Supervisors between Sunday to Thursday would expose drunk or disorderly patrons to a degree of risk that we find unacceptable. Door Supervisors provide an important filtering mechanism that can identify drunk or disorderly patrons and summon support from appropriate services. Door Supervisors also help mitigate risk to licensed premises of serving alcohol to drunk persons.

I would request that The Justice Mill retain its current Door Supervisor condition. I feel the proposed change is not appropriate as it is not in keeping with the terms of the Statement of Licensing Policy and request that approval to amend is not granted.

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

Dr Tara Shivaji
Consultant in Public Health

Heather Wilson
Health Improvement Officer (Alcohol & Drugs)