

Date 20th October 2016
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Our Ref 20161159
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FAO City Solicitor
Legal and Democratic Services
Corporate Governance
Aberdeen City Council
Business Hub 6, Level 1 South,
Marischal College, Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1AB

Dear Sir/Madam

**Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Variation for a Provisional Premises Licence
Tiger, Tiger, 1 Shiprow, Aberdeen, AB11 5BY**

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

**Protecting and improving public health
Protecting children & young people from harm**

When the Tiger Tiger licence was granted in 2009 this establishment was trading as a complex of five bars, one restaurant and a club. After considerable alteration and the closing of 2 floors the venue is now changing and seeks to remove from the licence the ground and first floor of the premises, leaving only the basement covered by the licence. This will create a “boutique” bowling alley, with pool tables, table tennis, gaming machines, ancillary restaurant and cocktail bar.

I note that children and young people between the ages of 5 to 17 years will be allowed access to the premises but will have to leave by 20:00 hours.

My areas of concern in relation to this application are as follows:

1. Children and young people have to walk past the bar to access the toilets, ten pin bowling lanes and other activities.
2. Children and young people will have to approach the bar for drinks and snacks.

3. Children and young people with a disability will have to access the disabled toilet via the area set aside for gaming machines.
4. The layout and operating procedures appear to be more in keeping with an adult 'sports' bar, unsuitable for free ranging access by unaccompanied children.
5. Ping pong tables are situated near to the bar area. There would be a significant risk that adults and children engaged in this fast pace, physical activity, could collide with people at or near the bar area.
6. The layout circulated does not show any tables and seating for the restaurant area.

As way of example, the following are scenarios which could potentially occur based upon the application as it stands.

Scenario 1 – Parent drops of children (aged 5, 10, 12 years) at the venue while they do shopping in the town centre. The children are unaccompanied in the venue when alcohol is being sold at the bar.

Scenario 2 – A parent arrives at venue to play ten pin bowling / pool / table tennis with their two children, aged 7 and 9 years. No food is consumed and the parent drinks throughout the visit, consuming a number of pints of beer.

I am therefore concerned that unaccompanied children and young people will be exposed to a drinking environment. As it does not appear that food will be a major feature in this establishment I do not feel that it would be appropriate to request that children and young people should only be admitted for the consumption of a meal. However, I do feel that parental supervision should be mandatory. I would therefore suggest that it would be appropriate to quantify the statement provided in paragraph 6(b) of the Operating Plan to give more clarity to staff and patrons. I therefore suggest that changes to the wording, along the following lines be considered:

- Children between the ages of 5 – 15 years will only be allowed access to the premises as long as they are accompanied by an adult.
- Young people between the ages of 16 & 17 years will only be allowed access to the premises on the production of suitable ID.

I would also suggest that consideration be given to restricting the number of drinks that an adult can consume when they are present with and supervising children at the venue.

NHS Grampian has added their support to the children and families outcome from Alcohol Focus Scotland's Strategy for 2016 - 2019 which states " *Our families are nurturing and thriving, free from the corrosive effect of alcohol on relationships. Our children are able to enjoy a happy childhood, free of alcohol and alcohol marketing*".¹ NHS Grampian are committed to limiting exposure to alcohol and drinking environments in order to protect children and young people from alcohol's pervasive reach.

¹ <http://www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/media/163059/AFS-Strategic-Plan-2016-19.pdf>

During 2016 Aberdeen City Council asked the Children's Parliament to work with children to imagine Aberdeen as a city where all children are healthy, happy, safe and doing their best. This was known as the Imagineers Project. Four primary schools were involved: Bramble Brae, Riverbank, Tullos and Manor Park². In school year 2015/16 300 children considered life in the community, at home and at school and explored the idea of **human dignity**. Results were published in the form of reports for each school. Then 20 children – **Imagineers** – took part in a Mural and Film Project which captured children's vision for the city, distilling the key messages that children need adults to understand and act on. **Alcohol featured as a negative and or threatening influence in all 4 primary school reports.**

The Director of Public Health for NHS Grampian, in her annual report for 2015/16, recognised the negative impact that exposure to alcohol can have on children and young people³. We clearly know that adult behaviour has a huge influence on children's future relationships with alcohol which means we need to be very careful about the messages and examples we are exposing them to.

Prevention of alcohol related health harm requires all of us to drink in a safer way. It is important that children and young people are supported to understand the risks of alcohol and develop a healthy relationship with alcohol as an adult. Doing so will have a powerful effect on their wellbeing, and consequently on the future prospects of the North East of Scotland.

In addition to the above, there are some other issues with this application that give me cause for concern. I have noted the proposed changes to the Operating plan and appreciate that the licence for the venue was granted prior to the implementation of the current Statement of Licensing Policy. I feel however that I must bring the following points to your attention:

- There is no requested change to the opening hours for this venue and trading is listed as 11:00 to 02:00 Sunday - Thursday and 11:00 to 03:00 Friday and Saturday. However, if this was a new application presented to the Licensing Board for approval the hours of trading would be 15 and 16 hours respectively and would exceed the 14 hours maximum trading as specified in section 20.3 of the Aberdeen City Statement of Licensing Policy.
- Section 20.7 of the Statement of Licensing Policy, states that premises providing significant entertainment (to the satisfaction of the board) may apply and be granted hours until 02:00 Sunday – Thursday and 03:00 Friday and Saturdays. Tiger Tiger must have provided evidence of "significant" entertainment in 2009 when applying for this license. The "significant" entertainment seems to have now gone with the removal of the dance facilities and inclusion of ten pin bowling, pool table, table tennis, gaming machines, restaurant and bar facilities.

² <http://www.childrensparliament.org.uk/our-work/imaginingaberdeen/>

³ <http://passthrough.fw-notify.net/download/173268/http://www.hi-netgrampian.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/DPH-Annual-Report-2015-16.pdf>

- Section 20.7 of the Statement of Licensing Policy, states that the Licensing Board *“No longer considers snooker as an entertainment that warrants a later terminal hour (02:00 or 03:00). This change to the Policy is not to apply retrospectively and will not therefore affect current licensed premises where the principal activity is snooker.”* This is a new activity for Tiger Tiger.

I would be obliged if the Licensing Board consider the ongoing implications of these latter points with a view to considering them when developing the next Statement of Licensing Policy.

For the above reasons, and in terms of Section 22(1) (a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, the Public Health Directorate of NHS Grampian requests that the Licensing Board take note of this letter of representation and give consideration to the points raised.

Yours sincerely

Dr Tara Shivaji
Consultant in Public Health

pp Heather Wilson
Health Improvement Officer (Alcohol & Drugs)