

26 July 2017

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 247245

Legal and Democratic Services
Corporate Governance
Aberdeen City Council
Business Hub 6 L1S
Marischal College, Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1AB



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

Philip Gormley QPM
Chief Constable

North East Division
Queen Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1ZA

Dear Sir/Madam,

**LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005
APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE
SING CITY, 74-78 CHAPEL STREET, ABERDEEN, AB10 1SN**

I refer to the above application for the variation of a premises licence under terms of Section 29(5) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

The variation requested consists of amending the on-sales core hours on Friday and Saturday night from 1200 - 0100 hours to 1200 - to 0300 hours.

In terms of Section 29(5) of the Act this request can be considered a variation.

In terms of Section 22(1)(a) of the same Act, and in support of the Preventing Crime and Disorder licensing objective I make the following objection in relation to the application.

The applicant premises principally provides karaoke facilities. Karaoke is considered within the Aberdeen City Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy 2013-2016, at Appendix 4, to be 'not significant entertainment', the guideline terminal hour of which is 0000 Sunday to Thursday and 0100 on Friday and Saturday. Additionally, if granted, the premises would trade for fifteen continuous hours on Friday and Saturday which is also outwith the guidelines contained at 20.3 of said Policy.

Since mid- 2016, Aberdeen City Licensing Board has considered several applications made for an increase to the terminal hour of premises that have, for many years, operated 'not significant entertainment' hours.

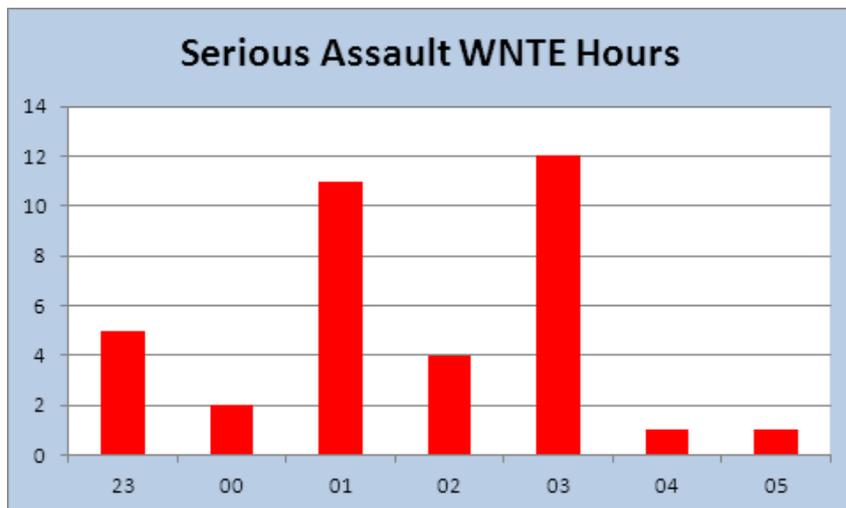
Police Scotland has objected to such applications on the basis that it would be inconsistent with the licensing objective of Preventing Crime and Disorder as crime statistics consistently demonstrate that, in terms of the Aberdeen city centre, the longer and later 'on sale' licensed premises are open, the higher the incidence of crime and disorder, particularly crimes of violence and this has been amply evidenced by Anti-Social Behaviour Reports, compiled the Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership, which have formed the basis of the objections to extensions of terminal hours.

I am aware that when considering such applications, the Board has taken into account what it considers constitutes 'significant entertainment' and has applied their policy in terms of operating hours accordingly.

In respect of this application, the activity to take place which forms the basis of the later terminal hour sought does not constitute 'significant entertainment' in the Board's current Policy.

Police Scotland maintains the position that longer and later licensed hours leads to an increase in the commission of crime, particularly crimes of violence, and, with regard to Aberdeen city, while the overall figures in terms of crime appear to be decreasing, the figures pertaining to serious assaults are not reducing and this is illustrated by the following relevant data, which is exclusive to Aberdeen city centre during the weekend night time economy hours (i.e. 2200 to 0559 on Friday and Saturday nights).

Offence/Fiscal Year	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
ASB	456	409	318
Common Assault	391	312	275
Serious Assault	41	35	41



The most recent data capture possible, for the year 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, indicates there were 36 serious assaults recorded within Aberdeen city centre during the weekend night time economy hours. All with the exception of one are linked to the consumption of alcohol within the city centre.

Of these 36, eleven were committed on licensed premises and of these eleven; eight were committed within late opening venues (premises open beyond 0100). Of the 25 committed outwith licensed premises, all persons involved had consumed alcohol in the time period prior to the offence.

All offenders (with the exception of one) who were traced at the time of the offence had a recorded sobriety status of 'had been drinking' or 'drunk'.

However, 21 of the 36, just less than two thirds, can be directly linked to persons who had been drinking within late opening venues.

In April 2013, the Scottish Community Safety Network published a report entitled 'Measuring Preventative Spend - A Cost Toolkit for Community Safety'. Although dated April 2013, the Community Safety Partnership considers this document to still be accurate and relevant. The report provides that the estimated average cost of a serious assault was £24,719. These costs significantly impact on the public services involved, not just the police service; the health service and criminal justice system are similarly affected and it is my view that the 'public purse' continues to be faced with meeting the costs of alcohol fuelled violence.

In support of the Preventing Crime and Disorder licensing objective I recommend that the application be refused.

This letter is submitted for your attention when considering this application.

Yours faithfully
Philip Gormley QPM
Chief Constable

For enquiries please contact the Licensing Department on 01224 306468