

SOUL

A: Soul, 333 Union Street, Aberdeen, AB11 6BS.

T: 01224 211150. W www.pbdevco.com/soul E: soul@pbdevco.com

3a) Soul is seeking a variation to the local condition:

Door Supervisors

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 from breaching the licensing objectives.

The lack of footfall within Aberdeen's city centre, in particular on weekdays, has been highlighted by several partners and culminated in Aberdeen Inspired organising their Emergency Summit of Union Street in November 2022. As the cost-of-living crisis grows into the beginning of 2023, the disparity between those that can afford to go out and those that cannot become more prevalent and will further decrease the city's footfall.

Due to the local licensing condition of SIA staff from 11 pm, Soul is simply closing their doors at 11 pm rather than paying the extra money for Security. This then leads to the dispersal of customers from licensed premises varying from venue to venue which will not be communicated to partners. Furthermore, this stipulation leads to Aberdeen essentially 'closing early' and becoming less attractive for people to use our city centre. However, Soul is keen to promote our Purple Flag city of Aberdeen to all and ultimately portray what makes Aberdeen an attractive place to live, work and visit and would stay open if this condition was lifted.

We would only be looking for an amendment of our licence on weekdays. Nevertheless, if Soul or Aberdeen is expecting an increase in normal trade then we would not hesitate to have door staff on duty.

The national shortage of SIA badged door staff has led to having less door staff on during the week than was previously the norm, with our Manager's that hold Personal Licences making up the shortfall to ensure our venue is still compliant as a safe and welcoming premises.

People socializing within licensed premises strengthen community spirit and, unlike the off-sales trade, on sales provide a safe place for people to get together. At least one of the Personal Licence Holders that are employed by Soul will be on duty Sunday until Thursday to provide duty of care to vulnerable patrons and abide by the five licensing objectives: preventing crime and disorder, securing public safety, protecting children and young persons from harm, promoting public health and preventing public nuisance.

Lastly, Soul operates a business strategy that encourages high-class clientele to dine and drink within the premises. It seeks to promote a safe and comfortable environment that it is a safe, family-friendly, locally sourced Restaurant combined with a contemporary and relaxed bar atmosphere.