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9th December 2007

The Principal Licensing Officer
Licensing Service
Rigby Road
Blackpool
FY1 5ES

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: LICENSING ACT 2003 - REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY

The British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA) represents brewing companies and their pub interests, and pub owning companies, accounting for 98% of beer production and around two thirds of the 60,000 pubs in the UK. Many of our members own and run pubs in the Blackpool area. The Association promotes the responsible sale of alcohol and management of licensed premises. It has a range of good practice information and guidance for member companies, which includes security in design, drugs, drinks promotions, noise control and health and safety.

The BBPA believes that the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 has been successful to date and is encouraged by reports of decreased levels of disorder associated with licensed premises. We welcome this opportunity to provide comments as part of this licensing policy review. This response is also supported by BII, the professional body for the licensed retail sector and the Federation of Licensed Victuallers Associations.

The BBPA welcomes the Council's positive approach to the licensing of the sale of alcohol and the provision of public entertainment although its recognition of the cultural and social contribution that the trade has to make, and also its importance as a local employer is somewhat understated. Nevertheless, the draft policy has recognised one of the key principles of the Licensing Act 2003, namely that each application must be treated on its own merits.

Para 3.9.3 Smoking

You rightly acknowledge that premises licence holders who do not comply with the prohibition on smoking in enclosed public places will be dealt with under the Health Act 2006. It is certainly not an offence under the Licensing Act and therefore action as currently stated in your draft policy would be an abuse of the Licensing Act's Review Procedure. You do not list other offences outwith the Licensing Act that would trigger the Review Procedure, so why is smoking singled out? We suggest that this is removed from your final policy.

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