

Responses to questionnaire

Premises	On which days do you normally sell alcohol after 03:00?	Do your trading hours vary throughout the year?	What would be the effect on your business if you could not sell alcohol after 03:00?
Knobby's Bar	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	Trading hours decrease in winter months	Sometimes at the weekend our venue does not get busy until between 12-02 am therefore if we were forced to close at 3am our business would suffer greatly.
Shenanigans	We are licensed to sell alcohol until 4 but do not sell alcohol after 3am.	Trading hours vary throughout the year. In the winter season we do not open at night. In the summer season we open until 2am on Friday and Saturday nights. On very rare occasions we have opened until 3 on a Saturday when its been a busy bank holiday but our policy is we do not open later than 3am	It would not affect our business if we couldn't sell alcohol after 3am.
Rumours & Hush	Friday and Saturday	Also sell to that time on Thursday during the summer season	Please see attached email

[REDACTED]

Sent: 30 April 2013 18:06

To: Sharon Davies

Subject: Early Morning Alcohol Restriction Order

Dear Sharon Davies,

I am writing to you as a Director of Betawell Limited, the freehold owners and operators of Rumours and Hush Nightclubs, Talbot Square Blackpool. I do so in response to your e-mail dated 22nd April and will keep my comments as brief as possible.

Both venues are licensed until 4.00 am on all days of the week but in practice we sell alcohol until that time on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year and on Thursdays during the Summer season.

You have asked about the effect on our business if we could not sell alcohol after 3.00 am. This is not a simple question to answer and I believe such a change has to be looked at in the context of other changes over recent years.

In my view there can be no doubts that the changes in licensing laws introduced in 2005 have had a detrimental effect on businesses such as ours. We have been faced with substantially increased operating costs, without any increase in turnover, resulting in ever tighter profit margins. I would venture to suggest that, however well intentioned, the changes have not had the improved social impact that was hoped for.

Whilst I entirely support the smoking ban, introduced in 2007, this has led to a further decline in trade.

In our own case the Yates's fire in 2009 has also had a negative impact. For four years we have faced a derelict building site surrounded by hoardings with no short term prospects of improvement.

Perhaps a more insidious effect on trade has been the very poor economic climate since 2008. I believe this has resulted in increased pre loading with cheap supermarket drinks so that, whilst takings are down, we require increased security to ensure that we are promoting a responsible attitude to drinking, coupled with a safe environment in our nightclubs.

In the light of the above I believe that the proposed EMRO will have two main effects.

I am convinced that the immediate effect would be to further reduce our takings causing ever tighter operating margins. We would have no option but to seek to balance this effect by reducing wages and hours at a time when many of our employees are already suffering financial hardship. I also question whether there is any real benefit in everywhere closing at 3.00 am instead of 4.00 am with the added prospect of people moving to out of town venues and stretching police resources even further.

The greater concern for me is the longer term effect on Blackpool. By imposing an EMRO in a single location it will give an advantage to other towns and cities in attracting the visitors who now choose Blackpool. That will not only result in a reduction in the nighttime economy but will also affect hotels and other visitor attractions going forward.

Despite my comments I understand and appreciate the need to reduce the early morning problems that have led to an EMRO being considered. We will welcome any initiatives to ensure

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that nightclub operators enforce a responsible attitude to drinking coupled with a level of security that ensures a safe environment.

Would you kindly acknowledge receipt of this e-mail so that I can be sure that it has reached you. If any meetings are planned to discuss the matter further I would like to attend.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]
Registered office: [Redacted] UK
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

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