


Blackpool Council Licensing Service				
Representation made by a Responsible Authority In support of an application for the Review of an existing Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate				
Responsible Authority making representation				
Name of Responsible Authority	Lancashire Constabulary			
Name of Officer <i>(please print)</i>	PS1747 Helen Parkinson			
Signature of Officer	 PS1747.			
Contact telephone number	01253 604074			
Date representation made	28	12	16	
Do you consider mediation to be appropriate				NO
Name of Responsible Authority / Applicant who requested a review of this Licence				
Mr Mark Marshall – Health and Safety, Blackpool Council				
Premises Details				
Premises Name	Al Amir			
Address	37-39 Talbot Road			
	Blackpool			
Post Code	FY1 1LL			
Details of your representation in support of the review application (Please reference & attach supporting any documentation)				
<p>The Review is brought by Mark Marshall from Blackpool Council following concern raised at these premises during a recent visit. This application is made in support of this Review and the Police will present evidence that the Licensing Objectives of prevention of crime and disorder and public safety have been undermined.</p> <p>On 24th November 2016 I was working in company with Mr Marshall and Paul Cook and Karl Swayne from the Home Office Immigration Service. Our task was to conduct joint agency visits to certain takeaways and restaurants in Blackpool Town Centre.</p> <p>At approximately 16:40hours we attended Al Amir Restaurant on Talbot Road. On our arrival there were two customers sat at the bar drinking alcohol and one male stood wearing black trousers and shirt at the end of the bar who greeted us. There were no other customers in at that time. The male who greeted us, who is later identified as UMER, asked if we would like a table.</p> <p>We all identified ourselves and Mr Marshall informed him that we were there to conduct a visit</p>				

and check conditions are being complied with. UMER stated there were three people working in the restaurant that night and the others were in the kitchen. As we went to look in the kitchen UMER headed quickly towards the front door and subsequently ran straight out of it and across Talbot Road, narrowly missing being hit by a bus pulling away from the busy bus stop located outside the premises. UMER was not seen again that night.

The disappearance of UMER meant that the only staff member left in the premises was the chef, as when we went into the kitchen he was the only person present. Nobody was out front, effectively leaving us in sole control of the open bar and restaurant area. The chef was busy preparing food for the customers waiting at the bar. Two further customers walked in and sat down at a table but left after a couple of minutes when they realised there were no staff available to serve them.

Mr Marshall and I then went to look around the premises, which meant the Immigration officers looked after the restaurant. We went into the kitchen where we saw a CCTV monitor on a shelf. I asked the chef if he knew how the system worked but he didn't. During the Inspection Mr Marshall also pointed out defects with some of the fire alarms and also all fire extinguishers were overdue a service, some by two years.

As we were finishing the Inspection Mr Muhammad RASHID, the DPS for the premises arrived. The officer from the Immigration Service spoke to him whilst I was present to confirm the identity of his staff. Mr RASHID denied that UMER worked at the premises, stating he just likes to help out and be useful now and again but he isn't employed by him; this despite greeting us and asking if we wanted a table and being dressed in suitable work attire. He provided two mobile numbers for UMER but could not give any further details.

I then questioned Mr RASHID about the CCTV system at the premises. He confirmed that the monitor is connected to just the one camera covering the restaurant area from the back of the premises and that it doesn't record. He then confirmed that it has been this way since he had the licence back in 2011 and was aware that it should be recording.

Our visit lasted approximately an hour and for a significant proportion of it the restaurant/bar area was left unsupervised. The bar is open at the side for any person to just walk behind and is fully stocked with beers, bottles and spirits. The till, containing the takings, is also located behind the bar. If UMER was not a staff member, as claimed by Mr RASHID, then this area had been left open for anyone to help themselves even prior to our arrival.

The actions of UMER have led us to the conclusion that UMER is likely to be an illegal immigrant and further strengthened by the fact that Mr RASHID has no details for him.

The Police therefore have similar concerns to those raised by Mr Mark Marshall with regards to the lack of compliance with important Licensing Conditions. The minimum CCTV requirement is to have CCTV which records, which has been ignored for a number of years. CCTV is a key tool in the prevention of crime and disorder. Also the fact that a fully stocked bar was left unattended as well as a till containing money is irresponsible as it was left vulnerable to being stolen, which can in turn lead to further issues. Furthermore, the fact the fire extinguishers were overdue a service and some fire alarms are defective is of great concern for protecting the public from harm.

The employment of illegal workers is also of great concern to the police and can lead to further issues in terms of human trafficking and in some cases organised crime.

From the evidence presented during the visit the Police are of the opinion that the crime and disorder and public safety objectives are being undermined and fully support Mr Marshall in his Representation.