

<b>Blackpool Council Licensing Service</b>				
Representation made by a Responsible Authority to an application for the grant / variation of a Premises Licence / Club Premises Certificate				
<b>Responsible Authority</b>				
Name of Responsible Authority	<b>LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY</b>			
Name of Officer <i>(please print)</i>	PS1747 Helen Parkinson			
Signature of Officer				
Contact telephone number	<b>01253 604074</b>			
Date representation made	<b>28</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>18</b>	
Do you consider mediation to be appropriate			NO	
<b>Premises Details</b>				
Premises Name	<b>Home and Headquarters and Urban Lounge</b>			
Address	11 Talbot Square			
	Blackpool			
	Lancashire			
Post Code	FY1 1LB			
<b>Reasons for making representations</b>				
<p>I am in receipt of an application for a Major Variation to the Premises Licence for the above address.</p> <p>The variation includes increasing the hours for recorded music and the supply of alcohol on Friday and Saturday nights from 04:00 to 06:00 with a closing time of 06:30.</p> <p>On behalf of the Chief Officer of Police, having reviewed the application the Police make formal objections on the following grounds:</p> <p>The police base this objection on the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The premise falls within the current Town Centre Saturation area as part of the Council's Cumulative Impact Policy.</li> <li>2) The number of current issues around crime and disorder the area is experiencing.</li> <li>3) Issues already experienced at the premises themselves.</li> </ol> <p>When the current Saturation area was reviewed in 2013 a large part was removed leaving only those areas which currently require significant resourcing from police and other responsible authorities and the area where Home and Headquarters and Urban Lounge is located remains within this area. The issues in this area of the Town Centre are mainly caused due to the behaviour of customers of all the premises together and not just one individual venue due to high concentration of late night licences</p>				

already in place, both on-licences and take-aways. The Cumulative Impact Policy applies to applications to vary existing licences, as well as new licences, where modifications are directly relevant to this issue. Police believe that in this case, an extension to current trading hours will have a detrimental impact.

Between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 police have identified 147 recorded incidents within the close vicinity to Home and HQ and Urban Lounge as shown in the map below (FIG. 1) between the hours of 02:00 – 07:00. (Home and HQ and Urban Lounge is indicated with a Pink Dot)

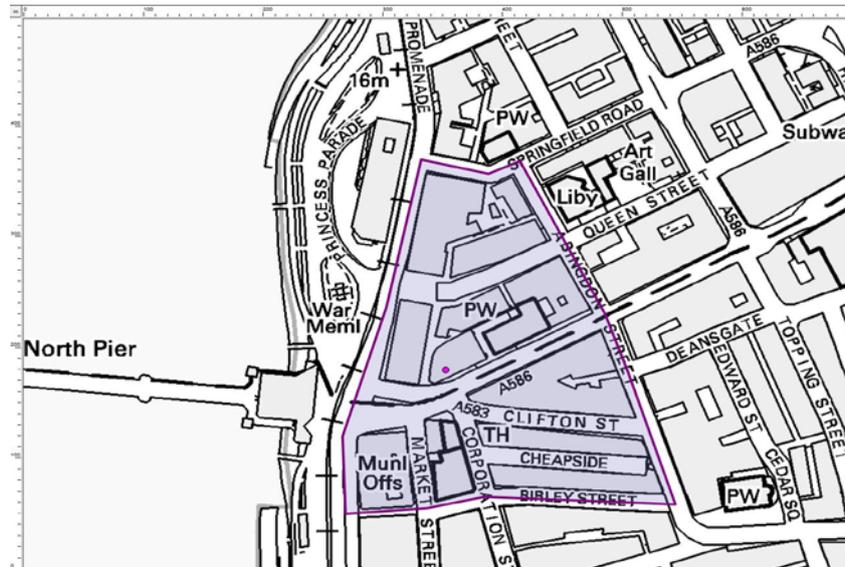


FIG.1

These incidents range from public order, nuisance, concerns for safety, assault and suspicious circumstances. Of those incidents, 38 have been recorded at the premises themselves. 71% of these 147 incidents have been recorded between 2-4am, 16% between 4-5am and 13% between 5-7am. As can be seen from the map this is a very small concentrated area to have this number of incidents.

Examples of incidents within the highlighted area are as follows:

LC-20170808-0155 Talbot Rd 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 03:31  
Ambulance requesting Police assistance. Male has been punched and kicked in the head, offender detained by doorstaff at Home and HQ.

LC-20170919-0140 Queens Square 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 at 03:42  
Lots of people fighting in the Street, around 15. They have broken a wing mirror. One male arrested after smashing a car window and being very aggressive.

LC-20171021-0253 Talbot Rd 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 at 03:45  
Male detained, he has assaulted a female and doorman. 3 doorman now restraining him, he is being extremely aggressive. Crime No. WA1719359 refers

LC-20171126-0156 The Strand 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 at 02:28  
Report from CCTV of a male trying to assault doorstaff after getting upset about ejected from the premises.

LC-20171212-0100, 0101, 0102, 0104, 0105 Talbot Rd 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 at 03:45  
Five calls in quick succession reporting a large street disturbance spilling into the Road outside Royal Bank of Scotland and running up Talbot Rd.

LC-20180120-0164 The Strand 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018 at 02:45

Report of approx. 15 males and females fighting, Throwing bottles and unconfirmed report of one with a knife. Group were heading towards Queen Street.

It is not only the number of on-licences that impact on the amount of crime and disorder and Public nuisance that is received but also the number of take-aways with late night licences in the vicinity. These increase the number of people that gather in this area into the early hours, once they have left the drinking establishment. It provides a haven for people to hang around and once outside licensed venues they are no longer supervised as closely and then disorder breaks out. There are currently 6 take-aways within the immediate vicinity of Home and HQ and Urban Lounge. 5 have a licence until 5am and 1 until 4am. As Licensing Regulations cease at 5am these premises are then free to open until whatever time they seem fit, with no restrictions on them.

This is clearly demonstrated by the issues Blackpool is currently suffering from in the immediate vicinity of its current latest licensed premises – these being Kaos and Flamingo at top end of Queen St at the junction with Dickson Road. Kaos currently serves alcohol until 5am and closes at 5:30am. Flamingos serve alcohol until 5am and closes at 6am. The cumulation of these two premises, along with the 4 take-aways who stay open to provide food for those leaving are causing massive crime and disorder problems. The key area is highlighted in the diagram below (FIG. 2) (Flamingo's is indicated with a Pink Dot)



FIG. 2

In June and July last year Licensing were receiving regular reports regarding issues around the area of the top end of Queen Street and Dickson Road (see FIG. 2). As a consequence joint visits took place and subsequently two take-aways have been placed under review, which is due at Court in March 2018. In December 2018 Police ran a further evidence gathering Operation in the area to ascertain whether it was certain premises in particular causing the issues or the cumulative effect of all of them together. The Operation came at a cost to Police, as resources are lower between 3-7am it had to be run on overtime. The Operation did result in some breaches being highlighted, however, through spending time in the area during these peak times, it was evident that the main issue stems from the 'perfect storm' these premises jointly create: two very late night venues and four take-aways resulting in many drunken people, hovering around an area, getting food and mixing together.

It is accepted that the lack of police resources at the later time will contribute to the issues with Crime and disorder but at the same time it must be noted that it is a premise's choice to open at the more high-risk times and it isn't the Police's responsibility to 'Police their Licence', Police shouldn't be expected to put provide more resources because a venue wishes to open later.

Utilising figures that were obtained over a 12 months period last year for the area of Dickson Road near to Talbot Road and Queen Street between midnight to 07:00hours (13/08/2016 – 13/08/2017)

62.1% of all incidents occur between 03:01 – 06:00 as highlighted below:

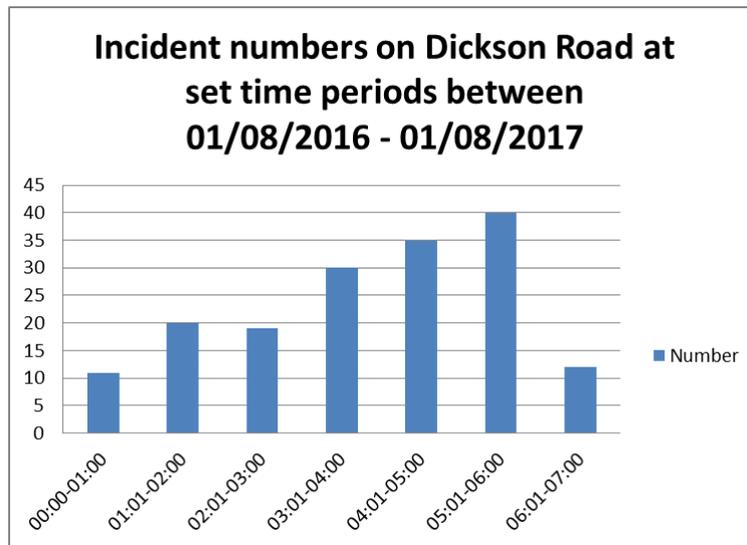


FIG. 3

And to bring it right up to date – Between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 police have identified 205 recorded incidents within the close vicinity to Flamingos as shown in the map above between the hours of 02:00 – 07:00.

Again these incidents range from public order, nuisance, concerns for safety, assault and suspicious circumstances. 37% of these 205 incidents have been recorded between 2-4am, 25% between 4-5am and 38% between 5-7am. As can be seen from the map (FIG. 2) this is a very small concentrated area to have this number of incidents.

Examples of the incidents Police deal with around Dickson Road are as follows:

LC-20171001-0356 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2017 at 04:55 Dickson Road  
Ambulance has had a call from a female who saw a male lying on the floor outside Wilko's. They have been told that he had been kicked in the head but had also taken Spice.

LC-20171001-0414 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2017 at 06:32 Dickson Road  
Fight outside Wilkos, 12 people involved, all male. No injuries but getting out of control. Crime No WA1718091 refers

LC-20171027-0186 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 at 05:59 Dickson Road  
Ambulance attending a report of a 25 year old male having been punched to the head. Offender has left the area, Crime No WA1719732 refers

LC-20171029-0426 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 at 06:44 Dickson Road  
2 males fighting, group of 8 surrounding the, some girls trying to stop it. Crime No WA1719825 refers

LC-20171106-0125 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 at 03:15 Dickson Road  
There is a group of males and females with crow bars; they are walking up Dickson Road. They had pieces of wood as well.

LC-20171216-0322 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 at 04:52 Flamingos, Queen St  
There are a number of people fighting. They are at the back entrance of Flamingos. They have come spilling out of the Club and are fighting.

LC-20180123-0144 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2018 at 05:04 Kaos, Queen St  
Officer reports having pava'd someone outside Kaos. Male and female arrested. The female is banging her head against the cage requiring officer assistance in custody.

LC-20180214-04:14 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 at 04:14 Flamingos, Queen St

A large male is kicking off; he has been kicked out of the Club. Informant advised Police need to hurry up because this male is going 'absolutely nuts'. Caller could hear male shouting in the background.

Again this is only a brief sample of the logs that Police have to deal with between 03:00 – 07:00hours in the area that has the two current latest licences.

In direct comparison regarding the figures provided for both areas over the past 6 months – the area around Talbot Road where Home and Headquarters and Urban Lounge are located shows a natural decrease in number of incidents heading into the following morning whereas the area around Dickson Road where Kaos and Flamingo are located shows an increase with the highest percentage being between 5-7am. Police therefore firmly believe that should the later licence be granted for Headquarters this area will suffer the same fate, esp as the variation is to serve alcohol until 6am.

In relation to incidents at the premises themselves:-

Home and HQ and Urban Lounge are the busiest late night venue in Blackpool and as such it is expected that it will suffer from a certain amount of crime and disorder. On saying that there have been 38 calls to the venue in the last 6 months between 02:00 – 07:00, 14 of which have crimes recorded against them.

There have been 49 crimes altogether recorded at the venue (many are rung in the following day) which is 12 more than any other venue within the immediate vicinity, including those with a 4am licence.

Police will state that they have no issues with the management of the premises and are very satisfied with the way the premise is run. They are one of, if not the most, responsive teams to any issues or concerns raised. They are always looking to make improvements and put in new policies and procedures to help combat issues. They search more people and seize more drugs than any other venue and their seizure logs are always accurate. Furthermore, their incident book will always match and contain further incidents than those that the Police have recorded. As stated, running a licensed venue it is expected that it will suffer a certain amount of crime and disorder, and naturally being the busiest venue it is expected to have more than others. What the Police are highlighting is not against how the premise is run we are stating that 'despite' being one of the best runs venues it already has issues with crime and disorder. Adding a further two hours of drinking time will only exacerbate this further.

Small sample of the recorded incidents at the venue are as follows:

Lc-20170905-0096 – report of an assault where the offender has approached the aggrieved an in an unprovoked attack has punched the aggrieved causing a two inch cut to their lip requiring stitches. Crime no WA1716324 refers.

LC-20171223-0290 – report of an argument starting inside the premises and the offender has grabbed the victim and bitten the victim's ear causing a large split. Crime No. WA1723594 refers.

LC-20180128-0460 – Female and her friend have been ejected using the rear doors onto the Strand due to being too drunk. One female refused to move from the doorway preventing it from being closed resulting in the doorman having to forcibly remove her to allow them to close the door.

LC-20180107-0056 – Doorman had to use significant force to push a male away in self-defence after the male came at him aggressively.

LC-20180204-0132 – Doorman had to push away drunken male after refusing him entry through being too drunk. The male then stumbled and fell causing suspected broken hip.

These last three logs are complaints rung in the revellers out on the night complaining about the actions of the doorman. This is not uncommon especially when people feel aggrieved at being ejected or refused entry to a premise. The doorman were found NOT at fault on any of these incidents but

demonstrates the issues the doorman already experience with levels of drunkenness, Police firmly believe this will only increase if the premise is allowed to open for a further 2 hours.

The premise have operated on their full allocation of 15 TENS in 2017 opening HQ until 6am. Police have 8 recorded incidents from the venue during these TENS. These are:

LC-20171001-0345 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2017 at 04:43

Drunk and abusive male claiming assault by doorstaff after being refused entry after leaving for a cigarette

LC-20171031-0173, 0180 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2017 at 05:51 and 06:17

These are two separate calls regarding two separate 17 year olds who became ill after leaving the venue, both having admitted to taking drugs.

LC-20171126-0269 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 at 05:02

Call from ambulance stated a male has been assaulted causing a broken nose.

LC-20171203-0295 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2017 at 06:12

Report from a passing motorist that there is a fight outside but the doormen appear to be handling it.

LC-20171219-0134 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 at 04:13

Two people arrested for drunk and disorderly outside Home and HQ.

LC-20171219-0165 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 at 06:18

Report that a male has been punched in the face.

LC-20171217-0268 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 at 04:40

Report of a stolen handbag after two groups of females have been involved in an altercation and removed by doorstaff.

Lancashire Constabulary has significant concerns that crime and disorder will increase if this premises is allowed to increase the licensable hours. This will add to the cumulative impact already being experienced within the Town Centre Saturation Area and would lead to further alcohol fuelled crime and disorder and contribute to the stress and further burden on the emergency services.

**It is recommended that the licence should only be granted if the application is amended, or if conditions are applied, as detailed below.**

N/A