

Blackpool Council Licensing Service

**Representation made by a Responsible Authority
to an application for the grant of a Premises Licence /
Club Premises Certificate**

Responsible Authority

Name of Responsible Authority	LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY		
Name of Officer <i>(please print)</i>	PC 3127 Ben Reynolds		
Signature of Officer			
Contact telephone number	01253 604079		
Date representation made	07	04	15
Do you consider mediation to be appropriate			No

Premises Details

Premises Name	Vidella Hotel
Address	80-82 Dickson Road
	Blackpool
Post Code	FY1 2BU

Reasons for making representations

I am in receipt of an application to grant the above a premises licence to the applicant, Mr Gary Thomas Hargreaves. On behalf of the Chief Officer of Police, I make a formal objection to this application.

On receipt of the application from Mr Hargreaves he listed as the nominated Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) Mr Derek Littlejohns, on checking the suitability of Mr Littlejohns as a DPS, the following issues were highlighted as below.

Since 1999 Mr Littlejohns has been convicted of 4 offences in England and Scotland the last being in 2012, 3 of these convictions relate to Theft offences and the fourth being for criminal damage. The Theft offences are relevant to the Licensing Act.

Since 2000 Mr Littlejohns has also received 4 Police Cautions, 2 again for Theft offences and the remaining 2 both in 2009 for a Drugs offence that being

Possession of a Class B substance and a Public Order offence contrary to Section 5 of the Public Order Act.

Although not all of the above are listed as Relevant Offences under the Licensing Act, and they may be spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, they cause huge concern to the Constabulary, due to the nature and the number of crimes.

In addition to the above the Lancashire Constabulary Intelligence system holds information which links Mr Littlejohns to matters pertaining to the Supply and Use of Drugs, Child Protection issues and also the Misuse of Alcohol and its provision to underage persons.

With the aforementioned criminal history and intelligence reports, it is our belief that Mr Littlejohns is not a fit and proper candidate to run any licensed premises in the town of Blackpool.

In light of this I contacted Mr Hargreaves on the 26th March 2015 to raise my concerns and advised him that the police would be objecting to his application on this basis however if he were to vary his application by nominating an alternative DPS the police would reconsider their stance. During this conversation however Mr Hargreaves explained that Mr Littlejohns was also heavily involved in the running of the Vidella Hotel and that it was his belief that Mr Littlejohns was the leaseholder which obviously raised concerns beyond Mr Littlejohns being the new DPS should premises licence be granted. I explained to Mr Hargreaves that it was my opinion that he should speak with Mr Littlejohns to discuss our conversation to assess their position.

On the same date after my conversation with Mr Hargreaves, Mr Littlejohns contacted me shortly after and requested a meeting with myself to discuss. This meeting was facilitated on the same day and the above was explained in full to Mr Littlejohns. Mr Littlejohns provided evidence that he was not in fact the leaseholder as this was held by a family member but he did concede he was heavily involved in the day to day running of the business and that this was to continue.

On the 07th April 2015 I re-contacted Mr Hargreaves to ascertain if he was still intending to continue with his application as it had been originally submitted with Mr Littlejohns as named DPS and knowing Mr Littlejohns is linked to the Vidella Hotel business as a complete entity. Mr Hargreaves confirmed that this was the case.

It is the belief of Lancashire Constabulary that Premises Licence Holders wishing to operate in Blackpool should be capable of, and willing to, promote the Licensing Objectives; with the objectives "The prevention of crime and disorder" and "The protection of children from harm" in mind, it is our opinion that the applicant is neither.

If this application is granted, it is our belief it would seriously undermine the crime and disorder objective and also gravely weaken the status of Premises Licence Holders both within the licensed trade and to members of the public, police and media.

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