

LICENSING SERVICE

<i>For Office use only</i>	
<i>LalPac Application No.</i>	
<i>Licence Number</i>	

**APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE
OR CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE
UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

<i>Applicant Name:</i>	Sgt 3390 Nat Cox
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Blackpool will be a Vibrant, Inclusive,
Healthy, Safe and Prosperous Town



PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form.
 If you are completing this form by hand, please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

I	Nat Cox
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[insert name of applicant]

apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 or apply for the review of a club premises certificate under section 87, of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in part 1 below.

Part 1 – Premises Details

Postal address of premises or club premises if any, or if none the ordinance survey map reference or description.									
Premises Name and Address	Kaos								
	38-42 Queen Street								
	Blackpool	Post Code	F	Y	1	2	A	Y	
State the Name of the premises licence holder or the name of the club holding the club premises certificate (if known)									
Neil Malcolm Cropper									
Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate Reference Number (if known)								PL1746	

Part 2 – Applicant details

I am:

1) an interested party (please also complete sections 2A and 2B below)	<small>Please tick</small> <input type="checkbox"/>
a) a person living in the vicinity of the premises	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) a body representing persons living in the vicinity of the premises	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) a person involved in business in the vicinity of the premises	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) a body representing persons involved in business in the vicinity of the premises	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) a responsible authority (please also complete 2C below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3) a member of a club to which this application relates (also complete section 2A below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

(2A) Individual Applicants (fill in as applicable)

Title:	Mr	Mrs	Miss	Ms	Other	I am 18 years old or over	Please tick				
							Yes	No			
Forenames					Surname						
Home address											
					Post Code						
Telephone Number					Mobile Number						
E-Mail Address											

(2B) Other Applicant or Representing Body

Name											
Address											
					Post Code						
Telephone Number											
E-Mail Address											

(2C) Responsible Authority applicant

Name	Nat Cox										
Address	Licensing Department,										
	Bispham Police Station, Red Bank Road										
	Blackpool				Post Code	F	Y	2		0	H
Telephone Number	01253 604074										
E-Mail Address	nat.cox@lancashire.police.uk										

Part 3 – Reason for Review

This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s):

Please tick

1) the prevention of crime and disorder	X
2) public safety	X
3) the prevention of public nuisance	X
4) the protection of children from harm	X

Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 1)

The application is brought on behalf of the Chief Constable of Lancashire Constabulary.

Kaos is a late-night venue which holds one of the latest licences in Blackpool. As a result, by the time customers arrive at the venue they are often already in drink. Consequently, it is the duty of the premises licence holder and designated premises supervisor to take extra care to promote the four licensing objectives.

It is the belief of the Lancashire Constabulary that they have failed in this duty in relation to each of the objectives. That is:

Prevention of crime and disorder

There have been 284 logs recorded by Police at Kaos from August 2021 to date (31st August 2022).

Of these, 76 have been recorded as assaults, 16 as public order and 27 as a variety of other crimes. The Police system, Power BI, which records incidents across the county, shows Queen Street, Blackpool as the 3rd highest location for violent crime in the whole of Lancashire for the period of 1st August 2021 to present day. Over a third of all violent crime recorded on Queen Street during this period is at Kaos.

Despite numerous meetings, advice and warnings given to the licence holder, Kaos simply cannot prevent itself being a magnet for crime and disorder.

Prevention of public nuisance

Since 1st August 2021 there have been 30 logs recorded by the Police as nuisance at Kaos. In April 2022, a Police Officer from the licensing team attended Kaos in company with an Environmental Protection Officer from Blackpool Council following reports of excessive noise from within Kaos.

Every Friday and Saturday there are regular incidents of disorder at the junction of Queen Street and Dickson Road between 0500 and 0630 hours. These are often directly linked back to Kaos, and numerous extremely drunk people who have exited the club.

The sheer volume of calls that Police receive in relation to Kaos means that Officers are often diverted from dealing with other incidents across Blackpool and further afield to resolve fights within and outside the venue.

Public safety

As mentioned above, the sheer number of times that Police are called to the venue and assaulted within or outside, shows that people are not safe. The club routinely operates with the minimum number of doorstaff allowed on their licence. On occasions they have been found to have less than that number on duty, with some not present in the correct locations.

In January 2022 a customer inside Kaos injured himself accidentally with a glass during an altercation. Another glass related incident happened in April 2022.

In May 2022, the manager of the premises called Police to report a fight within the venue. He was not present himself and there were no door staff on duty. On Police arrival it transpired a fight had taken place within and a male had sustained an injury on a glass.

On numerous occasions where the offender for an assault within or linked to Kaos has been identified to the licence holder, they have failed to apply for a pubwatch ban. The lack of a pubwatch ban means that these dangerous individuals are still allowed to drink at licensed premises within the area. This has a direct result on the safety of the public within this and other bars in Blackpool.

Protection of children from harm

On 20th May 2022 at around 0519 hours, Police were called to the report of a fight within the venue. On arrival it transpired that two females had been removed from the venue by door staff due to being extremely drunk. One of these females was a 17-year-old girl.

Kaos have a condition on their licence prohibiting anyone under 18 from entering the venue.

It is bad enough that she had been inside the club at all, putting them in breach of their licence, but to be there at this time in the morning, drunk, reportedly being assaulted and having to be removed by door staff, shows a clear lack of protection for children from harm.

With one of the latest licences in Blackpool, Kaos has always been a venue that carried a large amount of risk and needed running robustly, to ensure promotion of the licensing objectives and safe management of customers. In **August 2021**. The venue repeatedly came to the attention of the Police licensing department due to excessively high demand placed on Police resources by it.

During this month, there were 27 Police logs where Kaos was given as the location, of which 9 were reports of assaults.

On 10th August 2021 at 0245 hours several logs were received by Police relating to a large brawl outside Kaos where a car was driven at the premises. Two arrests were made (LC-20210810-0130)

A further 16 logs were recorded during the month of **September 2021**.

On Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 0250 hours Police were called to the report of a male knocked unconscious outside Kaos. Two arrests were made. (LC-20210921-0108)

Later that morning, at 0422 hours another male was knocked unconscious outside Kaos and a further two arrests were made. (LC-20210921-0134)

On Tuesday 28th September 2021 at 0455 hours numerous complaints were made from customers alleging excessive use of force by door staff at Kaos. (LC-20210928-0181)

During **October 2021** a further 30 Police logs were recorded at Kaos.

On Saturday 9th October 2021 at 0545 hours Police were called to a large disturbance outside Kaos. (LC-20211009-0369)

On Thursday 14th October 2021 at 0226 hours Police were called to the report of a male knocked unconscious outside Kaos. (LC-20211014-0109)

On Sunday 24th October 2021 at 0302 hours Police observed two customers to exit Kaos and start fighting directly outside the venue. On seeing Police, one of those involved was allowed back inside the club and the other left the area. (LC-20211024-0225)

On Monday 25th October at 0101 hours Police were called by a customer of Kaos stating he had been assaulted by door staff at the venue. (LC-20211025-0059)

On Friday 29th October 2021 at 0331 hours a member of door staff at Kaos was attacked by a male with a knife. This male had been ejected from the club 10 minutes earlier. He was arrested. (LC-20211029-0129)

During the month of **November 2021**, 14 Police logs were recorded at Kaos.

On Thursday 4th November at 0221 hours a member of the public reported to Police that he had been assaulted by door staff at Kaos. (LC-20211104-0078)

On Friday 19th November 2021 at 2316 hours when the premises were checked by Police Officers, they were found in breach of their licensing conditions. The condition states that they must have 2 SIA door supervisors on duty at the entrance every Friday, Saturday and Monday. On Police arrival, there were no door supervisors on the door, although one was located within the venue. He was the only door supervisor on duty.

On Sunday 28th November at 0558 hours Police watching Kaos reported numerous extremely drunk people leaving the premises and causing issues. One female was arrested. (LC-20211128-0327)

On Monday 29th November 2021, Police Licensing Sergeant Nat Cox and Council Licensing Manager Lee Petrak met with the licence holder at Kaos. Following the meeting, a warning letter was issued to the licence holder from Police and Council advising him that any further breaches could result in prosecution or review of the licence.

A further 16 logs were recorded at Kaos during **December 2021** and an additional 23 in **January 2022**.

On Sunday 9th January 2022 a drunk male outside the door of Kaos had his wallet stolen while unconscious on the floor. This happened in front of door staff for Kaos, who failed to intervene, report the matter to Police or provide any assistance.

On Saturday 15th January 2022 at 1549 hours, Police were called to Kaos by North West Ambulance Service (NWS) reporting that they were attending a suspect glassing. On arrival, it transpired that a dispute between two customers had led to one of them smashing a glass on the counter, injuring himself. (LC-20220115-0908)

This incident followed a warning to Kaos from PC Pritchard of the Police Licensing team on Friday 6th March 2020 about the use of glass within the venue, after a glass-related assault in February 2020.

On Thursday 20th January 2022 at 0511 hours Police were called to the report of a fight at the door of Kaos. The informant, who was a door supervisor reported that an unlicensed door supervisor was on duty at Kaos and needed assistance. On Police arrival, one male was arrested and the report about unlicensed door staff couldn't be verified. (LC-20220120-0173)

On Saturday 22nd January 2022 an assault took place directly in front of the door of Kaos. Again, door staff stood and watched, making no attempt to prevent the offence or report the matter to Police.

On Sunday 23rd January 2022 at 0545 hours a window at the front of Kaos was damaged by a customer. Door staff detained this customer outside the venue and the customer sustained a broken nose and eye socket during the incident. While some of his injuries were caused by door staff, a member of staff could be seen exiting Kaos before launching a flying kick at the customer and punching him repeatedly. This member of staff has since been identified as a male who previously possessed an SIA licence, but it was revoked following his arrest for GBH. This individual will be referred to as **male A** within this document. (LC-20220123-0390)

During the month of **February 2022**, a further Police 25 logs were recorded at Kaos.

On Saturday 5th February 2022 at 0343 hours, CCTV identified a large fight outside Kaos. On Police arrival it transpired that 5 door supervisors had been chasing a male who had then armed himself with a metal pole. (LC-20220205-0245)

Again, at 0521 hours, CCTV identified a large fight outside the door of Kaos. On Police arrival all parties were dispersed. (LC-20220205-0295)

On Wednesday 9th February PC Pritchard from the Police licensing team spoke to the premises licence holder having viewed the CCTV of the incident on the 23rd January 2022. The premises licence holder informed PC Pritchard that they had given **male A** a second chance following the revocation of his door badge. The licence holder informed PC Pritchard that he had discussed the matter with his manager, and they had decided to sack **male A** as they felt he was "TOO MUCH OF A RISK."

On Monday 21st February 2022 PC Pritchard and PC Harrison from the Police licensing team met with the premises licence holder and his manager. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the number of incidents recorded at Kaos over the previous months and to ensure the licence holder was aware of his responsibilities under the Licensing Act.

On Friday 25th February 2022 at 0431 hours, Police were called by staff at Kaos reporting a large fight involving customers throwing chairs around the venue and door staff unable to cope. On Police arrival, it transpired that an ex-employee had been allowed entry to the bar and was causing issues within the venue. (LC-20220225-0148)

During the month of **March 2022** there were a further 21 logs recorded by Police at Kaos.

On Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 0518 hours Police were called to Kaos to the report of a double stabbing. On arrival, it transpired an assault had taken place but thankfully no one had been stabbed. One arrest was made (LC-20220302-0157)

On Friday 18th March 2022 at 0514 hours a complaint was made to Police about racist language used towards a customer by door staff at Kaos. (LC-20220318-0159)

On Saturday 26th March at 0010 hours Kaos were visited by PC Pritchard and Sgt Cox. Only 2 door staff were on duty, which was a breach of their licence condition at this time. On enquiring with the manager, Sgt Cox was informed that the third member of door staff was on route and would be there shortly. **Male A** was observed within the venue and the manager confirmed that he was still employed by Kaos as bar staff.

There were 22 logs recorded at Kaos by Police during the month of **April 2022**.

On Thursday 14th April 2022 at 0346 hours Police were called by a customer at Kaos who had received injuries to his head when a glass was thrown at him. (LC-20220414-0153)

On Friday 15th April at 2245 hours a joint visit was conducted by PC Pritchard and Nicky Todd from Blackpool Council Environmental Protection at Kaos. They were attending following complaints from local residents about the volume of noise within the premises and the associated nuisance in the surrounding area. During this meeting, only one member of door staff was on duty and they were not present on the front door. **Male A** was observed working behind the bar.

On Saturday 23rd April 2022 at 0458 hours PC Graham was on duty in Blackpool when he witnessed a fight outside the door of Kaos. Assisted by other officers, he dispersed those involved but recorded on the Police log that this was due to "KAOS ALLOWING PEOPLE IN TOO INTOXICATED AND THEN CAUSING ISSUES!" (LC-20220423-0213)

There were 32 logs recorded by Police at Kaos in **May 2022**, including numerous assaults.

On Monday 9th May 2022 at 0359 hours, Police were called by NWS to Kaos to the report of a serious assault. On arrival, it transpired an argument within the club had led to one male being removed by door staff. The second male involved has followed them out and seriously assaulted the first male, directly in front of door staff. Door staff failed to intervene and were slow to assist the injured male, who was knocked unconscious. One male later arrested. (LC-20220509-0145)

On Saturday 14th May 2022 at 1946 hours the manager of Kaos contacted Police to report a fight within Kaos. He was not present at Kaos but reported they had no door staff and staff there were unable to cope. (LC-20220514-1481)

On Sunday 15th May 2022 at 0510 hours Police were called to the report of a suspected glassing at Kaos. On arrival the victim couldn't be located. (LC-20220515-0344)

On Friday 20th May 2022 at 0042 hours Police received intelligence stating that door staff and staff behind the bar at Kaos were offering Cocaine to customers. (LC-20220520-0048)

Later that day, at 0519 hours a disturbance was reported within Kaos. On Police arrival it transpired that a fight within the club had resulted in 2 drunk females being ejected, of which one was a 17-year-old girl. (LC-20220520-0196)

On Saturday 28th May 2022 at 1808 hours a report was received of a spiking related incident at Kaos the previous evening. On Police arrival the customer involved refused to take a test and officers believed he was under the influence of Cocaine. (LC-20220528-1241)

A total of 19 Police logs were recorded at Kaos in **June 2022**.

On Sunday 5th June 2022 at 0528 hours a customer at Kaos was punched to the face by a door supervisor, falling over and banging his head on the pavement. A similar incident in Lancaster tragically led to someone losing their life, but thankfully this incident did not end in the same way. The customer was treated by NWS and refused to speak to Police. (LC-20220605-0300)

On Thursday 9th June at 0329 hours an assault took place, starting within Kaos and finishing on the street outside. A customer of Kaos was arrested. (LC-20220609-0136)

On Sunday 12th June 2022 at 0155 hours a customer at Kaos alleged he had been racially abused and assaulted by door staff at Kaos. (LC-20220612-0138)

On Tuesday 14th June 2022 a large Cannabis grow was located at a building owned by the Premises Licence Holder – Neil Cropper. He is still under investigation in relation to this offence.

On Sunday 19th June 2022 at 0100 hours a visit was conducted at Kaos by Police. **Male A** was once more observed to be working behind the bar.

On Tuesday 21st June at 1100 hours a meeting was held between Sgt Cox, the licence holder, his manager (Sean McHale), Martin Chapman - owner of Link Security and Lee Petrak, Blackpool Council licensing manager. Numerous incidents were discussed as outlined above and recommendations made to the licence holder.

Sgt Cox queried why **male A** was still employed at the venue when the licence holder had told PC Pritchard in February that he considered him to be a risk and was planning to dismiss him. The licence holder stated that he was not prepared to dismiss **male A** and that he believed in second chances.

Sgt Cox explained that he would be sending an action plan to the licence holder with a series of recommendations, the key recommendation being to close the venue at 0200 hours each night, to prevent the large number of Police logs for disorder linked to the venue after this time.

There were a further 17 Police logs recorded in **July 2022** at Kaos.

On Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 0318 hours a taxi driver called Police to report that a male had smashed one of his windows in an unprovoked attack. Enquiries identify the suspect as **male A**, who is still under investigation for the incident. (LC-20220713-0147)

During **August 2022** another 20 Police incidents were recorded at Kaos.

On Friday 12th August 2022 at 0522 hours, Police were called to the report of a large fight outside Kaos. On arrival, a male had to be detained using PAVA spray and arrested. (LC-20220812-0239)

On Wednesday 17th August 2022 at 0510 hours, Police were called to another large fight outside Kaos. On arrival, a large drunk crowd were dispersed. (LC-20220817-0220)

On Saturday 20th August 2022 at 0422 hours Police were called to Kaos, following reports of a male knocked unconscious on the dance floor. The victim left before Police could identify them. (LC-20220820-0254)

At 0455 hours that morning, Police were called to the report of a spiking and assault at Kaos. The victim was taken to Blackpool Victoria Hospital but discharged themselves before speaking to Police. (LC-20220820-0273)

On Monday 22nd August 2022 at 0403 hours, Police were called to a fight on the street involving customers from Kaos. On Police arrival, one male was arrested. PC Graham endorsed the Police log stating, "SERVING PEOPLE THAT ARE FAR TOO DRUNK!" (LC-20220822-0175)

On Saturday 27th August 2022 at 0511 hours Police were called by a customer of Kaos reporting that she had been assaulted and transphobically abused by doorstaff at Kaos. (LC-20220827-0331)

The sheer volume of Police calls to this club is a massive drain on Police resources that could be utilised elsewhere. The number of assaults especially is disproportionate to the size of the venue and is more than twice as many as any other venue in Blackpool, including much larger premises.

The main problematic times are clearly between 0400 hours and 0600 hours where Kaos becomes one of the only venues still open in the town. People who have clearly already consumed enough alcohol and should be going home are taken in by Kaos and provided with more alcohol. This then, unsurprisingly, leads to the serious problems, fights and assaults that take place within and outside the venue after this time.

The Police have no confidence in Neil Cropper, who is both the premises licence holder and designated premises supervisor. He is either unable or unwilling to prevent these incidents, despite numerous warnings and advice, especially around closing earlier and preventing drunk persons from entering the premises.

In the last year, despite advice from Police and numerous assaults directly linked to Kaos, Neil Cropper has not submitted a single person to be banned under the pubwatch scheme. Kaos also continues to employ a male (male A) within the club that Mr Cropper himself described as "TOO MUCH OF A RISK!"

He has been found by Police to be in breach of the conditions of his licence on at least four occasions. It is fair to assume that there have been further breaches, as it seems extremely unlikely that every breach has been witnessed by Police.

Neil Cropper himself is still under investigation for a serious offence of production of Cannabis. He has a conviction from June 2022 for offences in relation to section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986. He was convicted of drink driving in 2019 and banned from driving for 20 months. He also has a conviction from 2014 for offences in relation to the Licensing Act 2003.

Additionally, he is currently being investigated by Blackpool Council Licensing Enforcement in relation to a suspected breach of conditions at another venue for which he holds the licence, Trades Club on Lord Street, Blackpool.

The Police would ask the committee to consider whether Mr Cropper is a fit and proper person to hold a premises licence in these circumstances.

There are several options available to the committee, ranging from no action through to full revocation of the licence.

Neil Cropper is inextricably linked to Kaos, as both DPS and PLH. The inaction of Mr Cropper to uphold the licensing objectives is clear, as evidenced above and supported by the breaches of licence conditions. The main concern of the Police is that the next assault within or outside the venue will be so serious as to result in life changing injuries or, ultimately, the loss of life.

The Police would suggest to the committee that a full revocation of the premises licence at Kaos is the only way to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives and to prevent the next serious incident.

Part 4 – Other relevant information

Have you made an application for review relating to this premises before?	Please tick	
	Yes	No
		X
	Day	Month
Year		
If yes, please state the date of that application		

If you have made representations before relating to this premises, please state what they were and when you made them.


Please tick

I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate.	X
I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected	X

IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION

Part 5 – Signatures (please read guidance note 3)

Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent. (Please read guidance note 4) If signing on the behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.

Signature:	Capacity:	Date:		
	Licensing Sergeant	Day	Month	Year
		01	09	2022

Contact name and address for correspondence associated with this application. (Where not previously given) (See guidance note 5)

Title:	Mr	Mrs	Miss	Ms	Other								
Forenames					Surname								
Address for Correspondence associated with this application													
						Post Code							
Telephone Number					Mobile Number								
E-Mail Address													

Notes for Guidance

1. The grounds for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
2. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems that are included in the grounds for review if available.
3. The application form must be signed.
4. An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf, provided that they have actual authority to do so.
5. This is the address that we shall use to correspond with you about this application.