

## **Brighton & Hove Licensing Unit**

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07th September 2021

The Licensing Technical Support Officers
Environmental Health, Brighton & Hove City Council
Bartholomew House, Bartholomew Square
Brighton, East Sussex
BN1 1JP

Dear Brighton & Hove City Council, Licensing.

## RE: TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICE X 3 FOR THE BRIGHTON ZIPWIRE, MADEIRA DRIVE, BRIGHTON BN2 1TB UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003.

I write on behalf of the Chief Officer of Police for Sussex to raise an objection to the three Temporary Event Notices (TEN) that has been submitted for the above location on the grounds that it will undermine the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder. We also make reference to the Public Health Framework report for Assessing Alcohol Licensing 2019 edition.

The notices are for:

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September through to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – 200 people including staff Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September through to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – 150 people including staff Saturday 02<sup>nd</sup> October through to Sunday 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 – 200 people including staff

Each TEN is for between the hours of 12:00-21:00 each day for licensable activities and 09:00-23:00 for opening hours. The licensable activities is for the sale by retail of alcohol on premises. The location of the premises is on the beach prom just East of Brighton Palace Pier and the events are to be held within the premises of which most of this is open air.

Reviewing the Public Health Framework report for assessing alcohol licensing 2019 edition, Queens Park ward, of which this location is within, is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> highest out of 21 wards for police recorded alcohol related incidents.

The reason behind our objection is we have lost confidence in how the premises is being run due to breaches of the premises licence that was previously held until it lapsed. When granting the originally premise licence as

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recently as April 2019, due to the risks associated with alcohol and especially with the beach location, this was with strict restaurant conditions. This requires the premises to only sell alcohol via waiter/waitress service to people seated at tables and ancillary to a meal. By having this condition we reduce the risk of people becoming intoxicated as they are eating a substantial meal with their drinks.

On 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021, a Police Officer (PC) from Police Licensing visited the premises to conduct a licensing inspection. The PC met with the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and went through all the licence conditions. During this it was confirmed that the following condition was not being adhered to and the DPS confirmed they would address this:

Notice to be clearly displayed at serving points and on any alcohol price lists advising customers that 'The purchase of alcohol is only allowed with a table meal and for consumption when they are seated and within the Zip Wire decking area.'

By going through the conditions and pointing out the above breach, the DPS would have been fully aware of their requirement to operate under the restaurant conditions.

25<sup>th</sup> August 2021 a Sussex Police staff member witnessed at approximately 17:15 the premises busy with a number of persons queuing at the bar and being served alcoholic drinks. There was also a number of customer's seated consuming alcohol with no evidence of food although it can't be proven they had not ordered any.

26<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021 at approximately 14:10 Police Licensing witnessed customers at the bar purchasing alcoholic drinks with no food. We approached and asked to talk to the DPS. We had a sit down conversation with the DPS and the management and advised them of the breaches. They confirmed that this was the case in that they have been selling alcoholic drinks without food or table service. It was also noted that they still had not updated the signage stating the conditions under which alcohol will be served.

Sussex Police need to have confidence that premises will operate under their licence conditions. They are set in a way to promote the licensing objectives and protect the public. We are seeing the negative effect that alcohol has resulting in people becoming victims of crime with various offenses occurring along the seafront. Although within the TENs they state it will be under restaurant conditions, by breaching this condition under their lapsed licence, we have little confidence in them adhering to it on a TEN. This is further evidenced when we witnessed the premises breaching COVID regulations in November 2020 by not operating the purchase of alcohol as set out within the current regulations at the time.

Sussex Police invite the Licensing Authority to issue a counter notice of refusal.

Yours sincerely,

Inspector Michelle Palmer-Harris Licensing – Brighton & Hove Division Sussex Police

Please address all future correspondence to Brighton & Hove Licensing Unit, Police Station, John Street, Brighton, BN2 0LA.