



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

# Licensing Sub-Committee

## Minutes

Friday 30 November 2012

### PRESENT

**Committee members:** Councillors Matt Thorley (Chairman) and Lucy Ivimy

**Applicant:** J Palmer, solicitor for the applicant and L. Dodd, Regional Licensing Manager for Ladbrokes

**Officers:** Alex Russell, Legal Adviser, Adrian Overton, Licensing Officer, and Owen Rees, Committee Clerk

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cartwright.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman declared an other interest on account of the online betting account he held with Ladbrokes.

#### 3. LADBROKES , 173 UXBRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, W12 9RA

The Sub-Committee received and considered an application under the Gambling Act 2005, in relation to Ladbrokes, 173 Uxbridge Road, London, W12 9RA.

#### Main Points Of Evidence

##### Licensing Officer

Adrian Overton, Licensing Officer, introduced the application. He said that the Police had made a representation, in response to which the applicant had agreed a number of conditions. These conditions, together with those standard under the Council's Gambling Policy, had been sent to the other objector, Mr Johann Perry, but Mr Perry had not chosen to withdraw the application.

##### Applicant

Ms J Palmer, solicitor for Ladbrokes, said that the statement and other materials submitted by Mr L Dodd, the regional Licensing Manager, covered the applicant's case in some depth, and she proposed to highlight key points to the Sub-Committee.

Ms Palmer said that the premises were located in a secondary shopping area away from the main town centre around Shepherds Bush Market. She said that the map submitted to the Sub-Committee that the only shop in the immediate vicinity was a branch of another operator (William Hill) and Ladbrokes would therefore offer choice to customers. She said that Ladbrokes was the second largest operator in the country and with 2000 outlets, and were a responsible operator.

She then set out the premises' layout to the Sub-Committee. She emphasised the CCTV coverage, which was linked to a specialist CCTV security team at Ladbrokes' head office. She stressed that staff had their own staff room and that the safe was on a timer and set into the floor.

She said that staff were given extensive training on spotting customers who were displaying problematic betting behaviour. She said that all shops contained posters and literature advertising GamCare. She added that all shops compiled an incident logbook; Mr Dodd had reviewed the log belonging to the borough's other Ladbrokes branch and made a visit to the William Hill prior to attending the Sub-Committee: in neither case had he seen any evidence of problems with drug dealing or with under-18's trying to use the shops.

Councillor Ivimy asked about the number of fixed odds betting terminals and whether delays for those waiting to place a bet might lead them to use a fixed odd terminal instead. Mr Dodd said that such a thing was unlikely, as while there were usually 10 to 15 customers in a shop, they place bets relatively infrequently.

Councillor Ivimy asked how Ladbrokes prevented money laundering through cash bets. Ms Palmer said that, unless staff could detect a pattern, it would be difficult to tell whether small cash bets were being made for that reason. Mr Dodd said that large cash bets would automatically trigger staff suspicion and additional monitoring.

Councillor Ivimy asked whether there was an ATM in the shop. Mr Dodd confirmed that there was not.

The Chairman asked how often shop audits were conducted. Mr Dodd said that they were annual, but were also conducted by exception if problems arose.

The Chairman asked Mr Dodd whether he had any experience of anti-social behaviour in relation to the gambling industry in the borough. Mr Dodd said that he had not, and that there was not usually a relationship between betting shops and anti-social behaviour. He also clarified that the Citizens Card was a form of ID issued by the Government to those without a passport or driver's licence.

### Summing Up

Ms Palmer said that the Gambling Act applied a different methodology to the Licensing Act, with its two-tier system for approving operators. She said that the Gambling Commission had, when granting a licence to Ladbrokes, assessed Ladbrokes' suitability to hold a licence against a number of criteria, including its attitudes to responsible gaming and its procedures with regards to the protection of

children from harm. She said that the Sub-Committee could only refuse a licence where it felt that harm would definitely be caused.

She argued that the evidence put before the Sub-Committee by the objectors did not meet this test, and did not believe that simply passing by a bookmaker amounted to harm. She said that Section 153 of the Guidance supported this view. She noted the extensive conditions agreed with the Police, and asked that, subject to those conditions being imposed, the application be granted.

*The Sub-Committee retired at 10.29am, returning at 10.34am.*

## **RESOLVED THAT**

The Sub-Committee decided to grant the application, subject to the conditions agreed with the Police and the default conditions being added to the licence.

*Full reasons for decision are contained in the decision letter that accompanies these minutes.*

Meeting started: 10.00 am  
Meeting ended: 10.35 am

Chairman .....

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