

# SECRETS HAMMERSMITH LIMITED

Councillor Patricia Quigley  
Labour Councillor for Hammersmith Broadway  
Cabinet Assistant for Health and Adult Social Care  
Hammersmith & Fulham Council  
Town Hall  
King Street  
London  
W6 9JU

7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Councillor Quigley,

I write with reference to your letter of 6<sup>th</sup> April, regarding the application for renewal of the SEV licence in respect of Secrets, 62 Glenthorne Road, London, W6 0LR, reference number 2021/00175/SEV which was forwarded by LBH&F on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The application before the Licensing Committee of LBH&F is for the renewal of the SEV licence for the premises. The renewal application is made on the same terms as those that currently apply and have done for many years.

Thank you again for pointing out the administrative error regarding the change of Directors. This matter has now been corrected and was done so as soon as the matter was brought to our attention and as notified to you in my email dated 30<sup>th</sup> April, sent via the Licensing Officer.

We have operated from the venue since July 1997 and always to the highest of standards. We strive to be good neighbours at all times. We operate with the utmost discretion, for example the internal premises deliberately cannot be viewed externally, indeed, this is a condition of our licence. We have always operated with such constraints as required by LBH&F. Additionally, we operate with great sensitivity, for example there is limited and discreet advertising at the premises as to the nature of the venue, again in accordance with the terms of our licence. We take our responsibilities as an operator extremely seriously and scrupulously abide by the conditions of our licence, the requirements of the Licensing Authority and applicable legislation. Indeed we have done so for nearly a quarter of a century and during that time have never had a licence renewal application refused, either in Hammersmith or any other of our operating venues.

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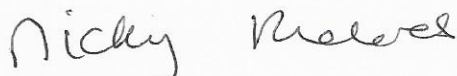
We work very closely with the Authorities at LBH&F and do not understand or accept the suggestion that the Licensing Authority does not already "go the extra mile to ensure that these places are working within the letter of the law" or that we as the operator do not seek to do "everything correctly". We have operated responsibly and professionally in the residential and mixed-use area for many years.

I note your comments regarding vulnerable members of the community not being aware of the nature of the establishment. In view of the professional manner in which the premises are operated, including minimal advertising on site and lack of visibility regarding internal activity, we have never encountered an issue such as you have outlined. For the same reasons, we do not accept the specific concerns raised in your letter regarding children and sexualisation/harmful sexual behaviours. The premises operate as a late night venue, with the opening hours currently being advertised as commencing at 21.00 on weekdays, significantly later than when children may be in the proximity.

Accordingly, we respectfully disagree that the application should be refused and a professionally managed and legitimate business be extinguished with the loss of up to 75 jobs in an extremely difficult economic environment for the hospitality industry. As a concession and in the spirit of cooperation, we are prepared to amend the renewal of the SEV licence application in respect of the commencement hour of the SEV licence from 18.00 to 21.00 on weekdays i.e. Monday to Fridays and trust that you would feel able to withdraw your objection on this basis.

Should you wish to discuss any aspects of the application, I would welcome the opportunity to do so. I can be contacted on telephone number 0208 942 2501. Alternatively, should you wish to discuss matters with the owner, Stephen Less, he can also be reached on the same number.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Richards

Technical Manager

For and on behalf of Secrets Hammersmith Ltd