

Central West BCU  
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham  
Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea  
City of Westminster

Adrian Overton  
Licensing Policy and Enforcement Manager  
Hammersmith & Fulham Council

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21<sup>st</sup> June 2022

Dear Adrian,

### **Response to the consultation for the H&F Statement of Licensing Policy 2022-2027**

Thank you for informing the Metropolitan Police Service of the consultation process Hammersmith & Fulham Council is currently undertaking, in relation to the Statement of Licensing Policy renewal for the forthcoming 5 year period.

I have studied the draft document and appreciate the time and effort put in to it by you and your team. We are fully supportive of the contents and the shaping of licensing policy for the forthcoming 5 years. I will detail below the MPS's primary concerns around licensing with consideration of the Crime & Disorder element.

#### **Policy 2: Licensing Conditions**

We are currently trying to create a set of flexible and consistent set of conditions in line with the Crime & Disorder objective. Once complete, we would be interested in integrating these within your local pool of conditions.

#### **Policy 2: Football Conditions**

We have assessed the policy around licensed premises in the vicinity of the three football stadia. We are happy that this policy sets sufficient expectations on applicants and licensees. It also falls in line with the MPS approach around football.

#### **Policy 3: Licensing Hours**

It is a belief that without core hours detailed in the Licensing Policy, it is and will be increasingly difficult to objectively oppose applications that have limited historical or comparable evidence to base those objections on. My officers have regularly found themselves in the difficult position of wanting to object to applications based on their extensive experience of the NTE, but been evidentially short in these representations. That is not to say we should steadfastly limit any applications to predefined hours, but have a starting point to help guide applicants as to what the Licensing Authority are

willing to accept, based on statistical data and local concerns. This I believe is particularly important around Late Night Refreshment and off sales/Off Licences, where the impact of street drinking and ASB is only as a result of longer opening hours.

It is appreciated, that there is a balancing act between both supporting businesses and shaping a safe enjoyable community landscape. There should always be the flexibility within the policy (outside of any defined CIA) that exceptions can be made based on type of venue including community/cultural significance, locality, resident density or nearby infrastructure.

#### **Policy 14: Delivery Services**

I agree with the assessment around this emerging trend and the difficulties around the lack of guidance. We have the same concerns around the potential risk of this type of licence but these are risks that can be suitably conditioned to mitigate. Currently we have not seen any significant crimes emanating from any of these operations when these conditions have been imposed.

#### **Policy 15: Drink Spiking**

Due to recent media coverage, this is a key area within Licensing that police are directly involved in. Historically there have always been reports of this nature, but the current increase has led this to be discussed at NPCC level. The approach to combatting these offences I believe will evolve over time and it is difficult to give definitive guidance to be placed on a 5 year document.

I believe emphasis should be put on licensees to continually revise any approach to this risk, based on their premises individual environment. There is currently various forms of guidance available and this will adapt over time in line with crime methods/patterns. My expectation on licensees would be that they adapt accordingly and supported by the MPS where necessary.

There is also a question of if this policy could be combined with Policy 16: Safety of Women and Girls in Licensed settings. That's not to say that the only victims within drink spiking are female, but there are overarching approaches very similar in the combatting of both.

#### **Policy 16: Safety of Women and Girls in Licensed Settings**

The MPS's biggest drive in licensing is currently VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls). It is great to see H&F identify this as being a key concern within licensed premises.

From a preventative and reactive measure, staff training is key. There is already an expectation that premises will have policies and procedures in place in both detection and reaction to these incidents. However if the primary point of contact in dealing with these incidents aren't trained in these policies, then action isn't taken and victims aren't supported at the first opportunity. Similar to drink spiking, the approach is likely to

change throughout this policies lifespan and a flexible approach to adapt to what is occurring within the Night Time Economy will be vital.

As a preventative tool, WAVE (Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement) training is key. This is currently provided by a number of different bodies and there are variants that cover the same subject matter.

Reactively, we currently expect with any allegation of crime, for the licensee to safeguard the victim, call police, detain the suspect if safe to do so and facilitate any investigation.

I know there are concerns reported by licensees that significant levels of crimes reported at their premises will bring about undue attention from police licensing. This is a belief we are trying to reverse so that licensees can feel confident that if they are doing all they can in preventing and reacting, they will be fully supported by the MPS and any other responsible authority.

#### **ANNEX 1**

Fully supportive of the approach and guidance. However under the risk types sub heading Event Type at the bottom of page 33, I have concerns with the wording around providing risk assessments to police. With consideration of the problems highlighted when the MPS removed the 696 form, the only times the police should be receiving event risk assessments would be in a guidance capacity to help support the business in question. We would also be only using the local email mailbox to save confusion.

#### **ANNEX 3 & Policy 2**

The police are increasingly looking at “Bottomless Brunch” promotions with consideration for the mandatory condition irresponsible promotions. They are often highlighted in crime reports and are believed to be a significant contributing factor in some offences. We are still looking at the how

If further explanation or comment is required, please do not hesitate to contact my team or me.

Yours sincerely,



**Sergeant Ben Chadwick**

Licensing Department  
Central West BCU