



DEVON & CORNWALL
CONSTABULARY

500 161058

Our ref: Lic/Dev/njs

Your ref:

Licensing Department
Torbay Council
Roebuck House
Abbey Road
TORQUAY
TQ2 5EJ



Licensing Department
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
PO Box 1
PAIGNTON TQ3 2YF

3rd May 2011

Telephone: 01803 841327

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: The Sportsman's Arms, 13 – 17 Laburnum Street, Torquay

I refer to the above premises and an application for the Review of the Premises Licence made by Mr Karl Martin of Torbay Council Licensing and Public Protection Team.

The police wish to make the following representation:

These premises have been managed by Mrs Lisa Lang since 16th November 2009, who since that date has been the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS).

Historically the premises have regularly given rise to concerns from local residents in respect of noise and disturbance. The premises are situated in the middle of a densely populated residential area, and is in fact in the middle of a long terrace of private houses.

Together with the Torbay Council Licensing Team and Environmental Protection Team, the Police have made efforts to monitor the premises, particularly late at night.

Since Mrs Lang has taken over, the level of complaints has increased and the premises have been closely monitored by the Police Licensing Team and the local patrolling police officers. A lot of these complaints surround issues connected to patrons going outside into Laburnum Street and smoking and alleged after hours drinking.

At about 10.55 pm on Friday the 11th February 2011, and 10.45 pm on Saturday 12th February 2011 Neil Stanlake, one of my Licensing Officers, carried out observations at the premises. He witnessed a number of patrons coming outside the front door to smoke and numerous taxis arriving to pick up fares. This created a great deal of noise as the smokers were continually shouting and screaming to each other and quite a few



of them were using their mobile phones whilst outside, thus creating additional noise. Quite a few of the taxis arriving would park directly outside the premises with their engines and radios running, and when fares did not come out promptly, the taxi drivers would either sound their horns or get of their vehicles and go into the premises, and in doing so created loud noise by slamming the car door, more than would be necessary if the fare had come outside promptly

On more than one occasion, there were as many as four taxis queued behind each other, with their engines running and taxi radios going, directly outside the Sportsman's Arms, completely blocking the road waiting for fares.

At about 1.10 am on Saturday 5th March 2011, Neil Stanlake again visited the Sportsman's Arms to monitor the premises and immediately could see that lights were on and people were inside and he formed the opinion that the premises were still open, bearing in mind that the Premises Licence only permits the sale of alcohol until midnight on a Saturday night and that the opening hours for the premises finish at 12.30 am. He witnessed a male leave the premises who looked to be under the influence of alcohol. The only noise evident that night was from people still inside the premises.

Mr Stanlake summoned police officers to assist him and on their arrival they entered the premises and could see that there were still a large number of customers present, most of whom were still drinking alcohol. Behind the bar was Mr Lang, the DPS's husband and a male barman. Mrs Lang, the DPS, was in the customer area of the bar.

Three particular males sat at the bar immediately became loud and challenging when questioned about why they were still drinking. All three had full pints of lager and were clearly the worse for drink. Mr Lang and the barman were asked to remove the customers drinks and ensure no further alcohol was supplied to them.

Mr Stanlake engaged with Mrs Lang and requested she close the bar and ask people to leave, which she did. The majority of those present left the premises without question, but the three males previously mentioned immediately became noisy and disorderly once outside the premises and the police officers present had to move them away. Whilst dealing with these males outside, a taxi arrived and it was clear that he had attended at the request of these males. The taxi driver was told to take them away as quickly as possible so as to limit the impact the noise they were making had on the local residents. The males got into the taxi and as it drove off at least one of the males shouted loud obscenities towards the police officers.

On all three occasions that Mr Stanlake monitored these premises late at night, it was clear that the premises and its customers were having a negative impact on local residents who live nearby, in what is generally a quiet area. Mr Stanlake is able to

confirm that at the time of his visits there was no other noise being generated from any premises in the area.

On Monday the 7th March 2011, Mr Stanlake revisited the premises in the company of Mr Karl Martin of Torbay Council Environmental Protection Team and spoke to the DPS Mrs Lang at length regarding their concerns and the till roll for the evening of Friday the 4th of March into Saturday 5th March 2011, was seized and indicates after hours sale of alcohol.

Mr Stanlake has a record of all police logs and L10's connected to these premises since Mrs Lang became DPS and will refer to these at the Review Hearing if required. The majority of these are local residents reporting noise and disturbance and alleged after hours activities. At least two of these residents have been personally visited by Mr Stanlake, and it is clear from what they say that their quality of life is being adversely affected by the activities of the Sportsman's Arms.

Should you wish to seek clarification regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Neil Stanlake of my Licensing Department, who intends to be present at the Review Hearing, and can expand on the above if required.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Nye', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Superintendent J Nye
Geographic Superintendent – Torbay