

Community Safety and Street Scene

Licensing, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE

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My Reference:
KLL/0443230621

Your Reference:

Please ask for:
Keeley Ladlow

Date:
23rd June 2021

Strictly Private & Confidential

Mr Paul Gill
Red Lion Hotel
Bridgewater
Rotherham
S60 1PN

Dear Mr Gill,

Review of the premises licence Red Lion, Bridgewater under section 53A Licensing Act 2003.

South Yorkshire Police submitted an application to review the premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act on Monday 21st June 2021.

Due to the likelihood of serious crime and disorder occurring at the premises over the coming days an interim steps hearing of the licensing Sub-Committee was held this morning.

After careful consideration of the above matter, the sub-committee was not satisfied that the premises are upholding the licensing objectives and determined that the concerns raised, in particular the nature of the disorder and presence of children at the premises, were of such a severity that only a suspension of the licence would prevent further issues.

Therefore, I am directed to inform you that the premises licence has been suspended with immediate effect. You must not undertake licensable activity of any kind; the suspension will remain in effect until such a time as the matter has been determined at a review hearing.

Should licensable activity be undertaken whilst the licence is suspended Rotherham MBC may consider further action including prosecuting for offence under the Licensing Act.

There is no right of appeal to the Magistrate's Court following the decision to suspend however, you may make representations regarding this decision to the Local Authority.

Yours sincerely



Keeley Ladlow
Principal Licensing Officer

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Interim Steps Hearing – The Red Lion

On 21st June 2021 the Licensing Authority received an application for a summary review of the premises licence for The Red Lion, Bridgegate, Rotherham, under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003.

The Licensing Sub-Committee considered whether it was necessary to take interim steps pending the determination of a full review of the premises licence. South Yorkshire Police had submitted that such steps were necessary and had requested that the premises licence be suspended.

The application and attached certificate fully explains the reasons for the application and the reasoning for the request for interim steps to be put into place.

Between Friday 18th June and Sunday 20th June 2021 several incidents of serious disorder occurred within the premises and its immediate locality. The incidents increased in severity over the course of the weekend with weapons being used such as broken snooker cues and glasses. The Premises Licence Holder and DPS were not on site and staff members who were present were obstructive, threatening and attempted to intimidate Police Officers who were in attendance.

On Friday 18th June Police Officers attended and witnessed two males, aged 13 and 17, consuming alcohol which they confirmed had been provided by the premises. The males had indicated that they were related to the owner of the premises. Officers also witnessed children of varying ages present within the premises, the youngest being 5 years old.

In addition to the issues outlined the premises were non-compliant with Covid-19 legislation and nor were they compliant with their existing licence conditions.

The Sub-Committee considered the application that had been made and the information provided by South Yorkshire Police in accordance with the following licensing objectives: -

1. The prevention of crime and disorder
2. Public safety
3. The prevention of public nuisance
4. The protection of children from harm

The Sub-Committee had serious concerns regarding the premises and in particular raised concerns surrounding the safeguarding of children considering the information provided by South Yorkshire Police.

The Sub-Committee were of the view that serious incidents of disorder had taken place within the premises and the immediate vicinity, and they were extremely concerned by the use of weapons. The reports of disorder not only involved customers in attendance at the premises but the 'Landlord', members of staff and

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members of door staff. The Police were met with obstructive and threatening behaviour by members of staff and when a visit to the premises took place by the Licensing Authority on Monday 21st June the DPS failed to co-operate with them, particularly in respect of attempts to secure CCTV footage.

It was clear to the Sub-Committee that the premises was out of control and as a result the promotion of all four licensing objectives had been seriously undermined and were not being promoted as expected by the holder of a premises licence.

The Sub-Committee considered all options open to them as interim steps.

The Sub-Committee felt that the modifying of conditions would not assist and would not satisfy them that the licensing objectives would be promoted by the premises. The Sub-Committee did consider whether an amendment to the operating hours might assist but it was clear from the reports that incidents had taken place at varying times of day and in addition the Sub-Committee were concerned that ongoing sporting events [football] may well fuel further disorder at any time of the day. In addition, the premises licence was already heavily conditioned, and it was clear that the premises had a complete disregard for those existing conditions. Modifying the conditions was therefore not an option for the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee considered whether it was appropriate to exclude the sale of alcohol as a licensable activity. Again, they had no confidence that this would address the concerns raised given the premises recent history of compliance and therefore this was not an option.

The removal of the DPS was considered but it was clear to the Sub-Committee that the issues were far wider than concerns surrounding only the DPS of the premises and therefore again this was deemed to be an unsuitable interim step.

The Sub-Committee had no confidence in the premises to promote the licensing objectives and determined that the concerns raised, in particular the nature of the disorder and presence of children at the premises, were of such a severity that only a suspension of the licence would prevent further issues.

The Sub-Committee decision was therefore to implement interim steps by suspending the premises licence for The Red Lion, Bridgegate, Rotherham with immediate effect.