

PROTECTIVE MARKING



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

TOTAL POLICING

Form 693

Form for Applying for a Summary Licence Review

Application for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003
(premises associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both)

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form. If you are completing the form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink.

Use additional sheets if necessary.

Insert name and address of relevant licensing authority and its reference number:

Name: Islington Council

Address:

222 Upper Street, Islington

Post town: London

Post code: N1 1XR

Ref. No.:

I PC Loizou 3757CN

on behalf of the chief officer of police for the Metropolitan Police area apply for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003.

1. Premises details

Postal address of premises or club premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description:

256-260 Old Street, London

Post town: London

Post code:
(if known) EC1V 9DD

2. Premises licence details

Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known):

Aquarium Management Ltd

Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known):

LN/11384-130819

3. Certificate under section 53A(1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 (Please read guidance note 1)

I confirm that a certificate has been given by a senior member of the police force for the police area above that in his opinion the above premises are associated with serious crime or serious disorder or both, and the certificate accompanies this application.

Please tick the box to confirm:

PROTECTIVE MARKING

4. Details of association of the above premises with serious crime, serious disorder or both
(Please read guidance note 2)

PROTECTIVE MARKING

This application relates to the premises licence for Club Aquarium 256-260 Old Street, Islington, EC1V 9DD. The venue is a nightclub and is licenced for the sale of alcohol 7 days a week, Monday - Wednesday 0900 to 0230, Thursday 0900 to 0600 and Friday - Sunday 0900 to 0900.

On Wednesday 1st January 2020 at 0430 hours, police were outside the premises when they were alerted by members of public that a fight was taking place on Singer Street.

Police officers quickly made their way to the location which is around 20 - 30 metres away from Club Aquarium. When they arrived they saw a group of males fighting. One male was holding a belt in his hand using it as a weapon, another male had a fresh wound and was bleeding heavily from the head.

Police officers had to quickly take control of the situation and detained the group.

Police officers carried out their initial investigation. It transpired the two groups of males fighting had been inside Club Aquarium. It had been alleged that one male had been punched. The first group left at around 0430 hours and were stood on Singer Street waiting for a taxi when the second group they had an altercation with earlier on approached them. A fight quickly ensued and one of the males from the first group had been hit with what is believed to be a bottle of champagne.

Officers from the Police Licensing team have viewed body worn video from the attending officer which captures part of the altercation in the street. The officers are stood across the road dealing with an unrelated incident. A very short time later the officers are seen running across the road to the junction of Singer Street to a group of males fighting. The officers reacted quickly to male armed with a belt. A second male is also detained for punching another male.

Both males were arrested for the offences of GBH, Affray and Offensive Weapon.

This incident posed a very high risk and had the potential for member of public to be injured in the potential cross fire. Officers had to be called away from an incident they were dealing with to take control of the situation. Officers are seen using batons as a tactical option due to the level of violence being used by the group.

Police have significant concerns regarding this incident and are concerned that the operation of this venue in its current state poses a risk to public safety. The incident in question was investigated as a GBH and Affray. Both of these crimes can be categorised as 'serious crime'.

It would be naive to conclude that this incident was solely down to New Year celebrations. Officers from the police licensing team attended Club Aquarium earlier on in the night. When they arrived they witnessed a large number of people congregating outside shoving one another and pushing barriers. It appeared that the security team were overwhelmed. Once inside things did not improve officers were unable to get inside due to the large numbers of customers blocking the stairwell as this was used for both entry and exiting customers. This in itself posed a potential risk and only raised tensions as patrons were getting frustrated.

Police are concerned that the venue management do not have proper control of the operation of the venue or the security who work within it.

A standard review of the premises licence was submitted on the 7th December 2019. This review is yet to be heard. Despite a review pending, the venue are still coming to police notice. Below are examples of this;

On Saturday 21st December 2019 at around 0410 hours police were called to the venue after a female customer had assaulted the head door man. The security team had to eject two females from the venue due to levels of intoxication. Once outside the females walk across the road when one of them takes umbrage to the way the head door man was dealing with her friend. She runs over and whilst holding her shoe begins to hit the head door man causing him an injury. A video clip has been provided by the venue which demonstrates the level of violence used. This is yet another example of over intoxicated customers committing crime in the early hours. Cris 2733018/19 refers.

On Friday 27th December 2019 Police attended location due to reports of a fight at the location. Upon police arrival there was nothing to indicate a fight had taken place. Officers noticed the venue was in the process of closing so police remained on scene to facilitate with the egress of people leaving the venue.

There were a number of customers complaining that there were ongoing issues downstairs in the cloak room and door staff were becoming aggressive towards customers.

Police have entered the scene to investigate allegations that the situation was getting out of hand. Officers made their way to the cloak room it was apparent that staff had lost control of the situation. There were approximately 150 people pushing one another. Due to the limited space and the volume of people officers were concerned for potential crushing. Police have held the crowd back to protect staff and prevent any harm to customers at the location.

PROTECTIVE MARKING

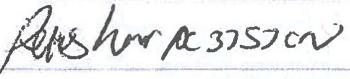
Officers noted the security team and other members of staff were not helpful in trying to sort the situation and police have had to step in to gain control before any serious harm was caused to members of the public. Some of the door staff were not helping patrols and began to flare the situation up in the way they were dealing with customers. It was left to the police to act as glorified cloak room attendants. There is a complete failure by the staff at the venue to control and manage its customers and echoes scenes very similar to those recorded on 20th October 2019 and prompted the review.

On Saturday 28th December 2019 at 0327 hours an assault against a member of the security team was alleged to have taken place by the victim. He states that he attended the venue and was ejected due to his behaviour. During the ejection the victim alleges that one of the members of the security team has punched him in the face. The male has left on the street and was robbed by a group of males. Cris 2733497/19 refers.

There is concern the management of the venue has failed to put measures into place to try and improve things at time of the review. It was suggested that one of the attributing factors to the levels of crime was the event "Afro Beats in the City" continues to take place and will continue to do so until mid-January. We the police have no confidence with the management and believe the venue will continue to be a crime generator.

The Police seek urgent attention and ask that consideration be given to suspending the premises licence in question pending full review.

Signature of applicant

Signature:  **Date:** 02/01/2020 **DL**

Capacity: Police Licensing Officer

Contact details for matters concerning this application

Surname: Loizou	First Names: Petros
Address:	
Licensing Department, 3 rd floor, 222 Upper St	
Post town: Islington	Post code: N1
Tel. No.: 07919547416	Email: Petros.Loizou@met.police.uk

Notes for guidance

1. A certificate of the kind mentioned in the form must accompany the application in order for it to be valid under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003. The certificate must explicitly state the senior officer's opinion that the premises in question are associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both.
Serious crime is defined by reference to section 81 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. In summary, it means:
 - conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences for which a person who has attained the age of eighteen and has no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of three years or more; or
 - conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences and involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose.Serious disorder is not defined in legislation, and so bears its ordinary English meaning.
2. Briefly describe the circumstances giving rise to the opinion that the above premises are associated with serious crime, serious disorder, or both.