

**Report of: Service Director, Public Protection**

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Ward(s):</b>
Licensing Sub-Committee - A	12/08/2021	Finsbury Park

	Exempt	Non-exempt
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**SUBJECT: PREMISES LICENCE REVIEW APPLICATION  
RE: ISLINGTON SPORTS BAR AND GRILL, 274-276  
HOLLOWAY ROAD, LONDON N7 6NE**

**1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 This is an application by the Police Licensing Team, for a Review of the Premises Licence under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003. A copy of the review application is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The grounds for review is related to the following licensing objectives:
- i) The prevention of crime and disorder;
  - ii) Public Safety;
  - iii) The prevention of public nuisance;

**2. Relevant Representations**

Licensing Authority	Yes
Metropolitan Police	No Submitted review
Noise	No
Health and Safety	No
Trading Standards	No

Public Health	Yes
Safeguarding Children	No
London Fire Brigade	No
Local residents	Yes: Two supporting review and a further 47 submitted in support of the premises
Other bodies	No:

### 3. Background

3.1 The premises currently holds a licence allowing:

- i) The sale by retail of alcohol on and off the premises on Monday to Sunday from 10:00 until 00:00
- ii) The provision of late night refreshment on Monday to Sunday from 23:00 until 00:00
- iii) The opening hours of the premises on Monday to Sunday from 10:00 until 00:30 the day following.

#### Licensing History:

- 3.1 This is a review application to amend the licence conditions to enable the premises to operate as a traditional public house / sports bar.
- 3.2 The application is subject to representations supporting the review from the Police, the Licensing Authority, and Public Health, as well as one local resident. There were also 47 representations supporting the premises.
- 3.3 The Noise Team served an abatement notice on the premises licence holder for people and loud amplified music noise in February 2019.
- 3.4 The premises were originally licensed by Islington Council in 2016 and known as The Study and latterly as the Herbert Chapman. These premises had a licence to provide regulated entertainment and alcohol on Monday to Saturday from 11:00 until 02:00 the day following, and on Sunday from 12:00 until 02:00 the day following. This licence was allowed to lapse in 2015.
- 3.5 The current licence was applied for in December 2015, and was granted under delegated authority on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 as no representations were received.
- 3.6 This licence was for granted for a chicken restaurant called the Chicken Shop. The main two conditions restricting the sale of alcohol at the premises to accompany food as set out below.

- The premises shall only operate as a restaurant which provides food in the form of substantial meals that are prepared on the premises.
- Alcohol shall not be sold or supplied otherwise than to persons who are purchasing a meal from the advertised menu displayed at the premises and the consumption of alcohol by such persons is ancillary to taking such meals.

NOTE; the layout of the premises was for a sit down restaurant.

- 3.7 The current licence holders transferred on to the licence in November 2018. This was after a period where the premises had been completely closed for some time. On the 18 November 2018 the current licence holder submitted a minor variation to amend the layout plan of the premises.
- 3.8 The licence holder consulted with the Police and Licensing Authority and they were advised that any application to amend the conditions of the present licence, to change the nature of the business from a restaurant to a public house, would have to be made by a full variation application.
- 3.9 An application for a variation was therefore applied for to change the plans and change the nature of the premises from a restaurant to a bar, removing the restrictive conditions surrounding the sale of alcohol with food. This was granted on the 21 March 2021.
- 3.10 On the 29 April the licence holder was invited into a Licensing Panel to discuss management of the premises. Although the licence holder agreed to submit a minor variation to add conditions to the licence this application was never submitted.

#### **4. Planning Implications**

- 4.1 There are no planning implications for this application

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 To determine the application to review the premises licence under Section 52 of the Licensing Act.
- 5.2 The Committee must have regard to the application and any relevant representations. The Committee must take such steps as necessary for the promotion of the four licensing objectives.
- 5.3 The steps stated in Sections 52(4) of the Act are as follows:
  - a) to modify the conditions of the licence; and for this purpose the conditions of the licence are modified if any of them are altered, omitted or any new condition is added;
  - b) to exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence;
  - c) to remove the designated premises supervisor;
  - d) to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;

- e) to revoke the licence;
- f) the Committee also have the option to leave the licence in its existing state;
- g) the Committee also has the power in relation to steps a) and b) to provide that the modification and exclusion only has effect for a limited period not exceeding three months.

## **6. Reasons for recommendations**

- 6.1 The Council is required to consider this application in the light of all relevant information, and if approval is given, it may attach such conditions as appropriate to promote the licensing objectives.

### **Appendices:**

- Appendix 1: application form;
- Appendix 2: current premises licence;
- Appendix 3: representations;
- Appendix 4: suggested conditions and map of premises location.

### **Background papers:**

None.

### **Final report clearance:**

#### **Signed by:**



02/08/2021

Date

Service Director – Public Protection

Report author: Licensing Service

Tel: 020 75027 3031

E-mail: [licensing@islington.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@islington.gov.uk)

**TOTAL POLICING**

## Application for the Review of a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

### 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 this 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.
- You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

I Petros Loizou Pc 3757CN

apply for the review of a premises licence under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003  
for the premises described in Part 1 below

### Part 1 – Premises or club premises details

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

274 Holloway Road

**Post town:**

Islington

**Post code:  
(if known)**

N7 6NE

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

Welsh Consultants Ltd

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

LN/16074-300120

### Part 2 – Applicant details

I am:

Please tick Yes

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 an individual, body or business which is not a responsible authority<br>(please read guidance note 1 and complete (A) or (B) below) | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2 a responsible authority (please complete (C) below)   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 a member of the club to which this application relates (please complete section (A) below)  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

## PROTECTIVE MARKING

**(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT** (fill in as applicable)

Mr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miss	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other title (e.g. Rev.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surname:				First Names:					
I am 18 years old or over					<input type="checkbox"/>				
Current postal address if different from premises address:									
Post town:			Post code:						
Daytime Tel. No.:			Email: (optional)						

**(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT** (fill in as applicable)

Name and Address:

Telephone Number (if any):

Email address: (optional)

**(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT** (fill in as applicable)

Name and Address:

Metropolitan Police

Telephone Number (if any): 07919547416

Email address: (optional) CNMailbox-.IslingtonPoliceLicensingTeam@met.police.uk

**This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)**

Please tick one or more boxes

- |   |                                      |                                     |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | The prevention of crime and disorder | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Public safety                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | The prevention of public nuisance    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | The protection of children from harm | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Please state the ground(s) for review:** (please read guidance note 2)

This application relates to:

Islington Sports Bar and Grill, 274 Holloway Road, N7 6NE.

This review is entered following ongoing concern around the following Licensing Objectives:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance

The premises is currently licensed as follows;

The provision of late night refreshment: Mon-Sun 2300-0000

The sale by retail of alcohol: Mon-Sun 1000-0000

## PROTECTIVE MARKING

Licence Holder:

Welch Consultants Limited,  
C/O LSR Management Ltd,  
Unit C2A Comet Studios,  
De Havilland Court,  
Penn Street,  
Buckinghamshire,  
HP7 0PX.

DPS: Mr John Charles Phelan

A. Background:

The venue in question is located on Holloway Road, in close proximity to Emirates Stadium. The premises is well known in the local area as an Arsenal FC supporter's bar.

The premises previously operated (and was licensed/conditioned to suit), as a restaurant. On 14/11/18 a Premises Licence Transfer was submitted and the nature of the operation changed.

The venue advertises itself as a destination to watch sporting events and, due in no small part to its close proximity to Arsenal FC, appeals to football fans specifically and followers of sport in general.

The premises is accessed via the front entrance on Holloway Road. The frontage includes pavement curtilage reserved for tables and chairs. The venue applied for and was granted a pavement licence in August 2020.

The premises has one serving bar area with seating, tables and booths positioned throughout the venue. There are also a number of television screens fixed to the walls as well as sports memorabilia on display.

B. Abridged Time-Line [May 2021] / Current Situation:

1. Tuesday 25/05/21.

Police were called to the venue following a report by a staff member that there were around 40 people inside the pub refusing to leave [Police ref: CAD 64/25May21].

When police arrived on scene they found a significant number of people at the venue most of whom were clearly intoxicated. Officers also noted multiple empty drinks glasses on tables throughout. In the view of officers on scene the behaviour of persons present allied to the number of empties left around, suggested that the group had been served far too much alcohol.

Eventually the group was successfully persuaded by officers to leave and the matter was resolved peacefully.

Due to the nature of the incident and the concerns highlighted above the senior officer on scene (a Police Inspector), asked to speak to the person in charge. A staff member identified [REDACTED] as 'the owner'. The Inspector attempted to engage with [REDACTED] but was unsuccessful, noting that he appeared to be intoxicated. He began swearing at the officer and ultimately had to be ushered away by other staff members.

A call to the police was made by the venue earlier in the evening at around 6pm however police were not dispatched as the informant stated there were no issues at that time. It is apparent that after that initial call to police staff continued to serve alcohol for another circa 6 hours before another to call to police was made.

The incident brings to light serious concern around the level of intoxication apparent, the time taken for staff to make a further call to police once the matter escalated, and the intoxication, behaviour and attitude displayed towards police by the person in charge of the premises at the time, [REDACTED].

2. Tuesday 18/05/21.

Police respond to an alarm call at the premises and upon arrival find the premises unlocked and with lights on inside. As part of their investigation at scene officers enter the premises and find five people drinking inside. Officers note one male to be heavily intoxicated to the point of being seemingly passed out on the shoulder of another male. A male who was identified as a co-owner of the venue became verbally abusive to officers when they advised him they would be unable to drive him to his destination following his departure.

## PROTECTIVE MARKING

This incident occurred during Stage 3 of the Governments Covid reopening road map, stipulating the rule of 6, with full social distancing measures in place.

### 3. Saturday 08/05/21

At around 9:30pm police receive a phone call from a member of public reporting that a fight involving a group of some 15 people is in progress outside the premises. [CAD 6977 and 6989/09May21 refer].

Police officers arrive at the location and speak to staff members who state that the parties involved in the disturbance have left prior to the officers arrival.

Following the incident the Police Licensing team contact the DPS ██████████ requesting he provide an incident pack (to include CCTV footage of the incident, statements and any other documents that might assist with enquiries).

The licensing team carry out their investigation and view the CCTV. The footage provided is from a camera positioned outside the premises that covers most but not all of the outside area (camera 3). The date displayed on the footage is shown as 08/05/21 and time shown is from 2101 hours.

The CCTV shows two females having an argument, this situation quickly escalates and prompts other patrons to intervene and attempt to separate the females. A male then emerges from one of the groups and grabs one of the females involved in the initial argument. The male drags the female by placing his arms around her, at which point another male gets involved and a fight ensues.

Several patrons intervene and manage to separate the parties.

A short time later the same two males and one of the females involved at the start of the incident return to the front of premises and another fight ensues between the three parties, all 3 falling into Holloway Road.

A male who can be immediately identified as ██████████ is seen to look across to the melee on the ground in the road, he takes no action to intervene or assist and in-fact continues casually collecting a pavement sign.

The incident was also recorded by a local resident. The footage is taken from an overhead view perspective. It shows a large group of people arguing with some of the members pushing one another, this quickly spills out on to the road which caused vehicle to slow down. People can be heard shouting and swearing. Some of the individuals involved are holding drinks glasses some of which end up being dropped and smash to the ground. A male from the group can be seen charging down the street throwing punches before he is apprehended by another male dressed in chefs' attire.

Throughout the incident the footage shows a female member of staff trying to intervene but with no effect.

This incident posed a very high risk both to patrons and innocent passers-by (some of whom can be seen walking past trying to avoid the group), with the potential for several of those involved to sustain injury.

Again, this incident highlights significant concern around the operation in general and in particular the involvement/management of ██████████. It is alarming viewing CCTV that shows disregard by management staff (and customers evidently having to take matters into their own hands).

Police have also received two statements from residents documenting their concerns around this incident specifically and their general despair around the ongoing poor management of the venue.

This incident occurred during the period where the hospitality sector was under stage 2 of the Governments reopening road map. (Outside table service only, groups of 6)

### C. Abridged Time-Line [April 2021] / Recent History.

The venue has a history on non-compliance, below are listed interactions (during the previous month only), made by the police at the premises where breaches were identified;

15/04/21 - 2315hrs. 8 people standing outside in animated discussions involving pushing with 2 doors to premises still open and lights on. One present was possibly DPS ██████████ No tables outside.

22/04/21 - 2210hrs. Observations after end of shift. 15-20 persons all outside standing under awning space non socially distanced using front window as a bar and holding drinks in glasses. No tables still on pavement. Premises doing nothing to disperse crowd. Also witnessed by CLO Niall Forde who hoped it would be suitable for Friday evening football match visit or alternatively early evening visit next week by joint partnership appointment. On evening believed Council considering CCTV request and CIRN issue as no improvement in observations or improvements by management at premises.

23/04/21 - Large groups mixing on street outside premises, out with the pavement licensed area, some sat at tables but even those were too close. Several complaints received.

## PROTECTIVE MARKING

[29/04/2021 the venue management attended a Licensing panel as a result of the persistent non-compliance with Covid regulations relating to the outside space. An improvement notice was served on premises that day regarding the continued breaches. This was issued by the Licensing Authority.]

This was the second time the management from venue have been invited for a panel meeting as a result of poor compliance despite engagement from the Police and Islington Council].

Prior to the review the police and the council have invited the management in for meetings to discuss and try and resolve issues. As management [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had always attended the meetings held by the council and the police. The purpose for the meeting is to discuss any concerns that have been raised and to try and work out a solution to these issues. In the last 12 months the Police have made some suggestions to try and assist the management in ensuring the management is promoting the licensing objectives. To date none of these conditions have been added to the licence. On Saturday 08th May 2021 at meeting was held at the premises to discuss conditions proposed by the Police. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] deemed some of those conditions as excessive and [REDACTED] even questioned the mandatory conditions as stipulate in Annex 1 on the licence.

Police have had countless interactions with the venue (ie via phone and e-mail), beyond those listed in this submission.

### D. Police Concern and Proposed Action:

Police are of the view that the evidence presented demonstrates that the venue management do not have proper control (either in general operation, or when incidents such as the ones highlighted above occur).

Further, Police and Local Authority have serious concerns that with the imminent further easing of the lockdown rules the premises will continue to generate incidents of crime and disorder. [There have been several more incidents where breaches were identified within the last 12 months, these will be fully documented in the review papers].

Mindful of obvious shortcomings with the current operation and the concerns highlighted, Police ask that the panel review the given premises licence and give consideration to the evidence presented.

In submitting the licence for review, police respectfully submit the following recommendations:

- Exclusion of Mr Mick Doherty from management at the venue, with stipulation that he not be employed or involved in the operation in any capacity.

- Implementation of the following proposed licence conditions, for inclusion on the operating schedule:

1. There shall be a personal licence holder on the premises throughout the time that licensable activity is taking place.

2. On any Thursday, Friday or Saturday where there is no Arsenal home or away match or Emirates Event/Screening, a minimum of 2 SIA registered door staff to be on duty at the venue from 1800 hrs and to remain until half an hour after closing to assist with quiet dispersal of customers . The licensee shall take into account any advice offered by Police concerning the provision of door supervisors.

3. [\*to replace/update current 2.7\*] CCTV shall be installed, operated, and maintained, to function all times that the premises is open for licensable activities. Said CCTV will comply with the following criteria:

(a) The licensee will ensure that the system is checked every two weeks to ensure that the system is working properly and that the date and time are correct.

(b) A record of these checks, showing the date and name of the person checking, will be kept and made available to the police or other authorised officer on request;

(c) The Police will be informed if the system will not be operating for longer than one day of business for any reason;

(d) One camera will show a close-up of the entrance to the premises, to capture a clear, full length image of anyone entering;

(e) The system will provide full coverage of the interior of the premises and any exterior part of the premises accessible to the public;

(f) The system will record in real time and recordings will be date and time stamped;

(g) At all times during operating hours, there will be at least 1 member of staff on the premises who can operate the system sufficiently to allow Police or authorised Council officers to view footage on request.

(h) Recordings will be kept for a minimum of 31 days and downloaded footage will be provided free of charge to the police or other authorised officers on request (subject to the Data Protection Act 2018) within 24 hours of any request.

4. [\*to update current 2.14\*] The premises will operate the 'Challenge 25' proof of age scheme .

(a) All staff will be fully trained in its operation .

(b) Only suitable forms of photographic identification , such as passport or UK driving licence , or a holographically marked PASS scheme cards , will be accepted .

## PROTECTIVE MARKING

5. [\*to update current 2.22\*] The total number of persons on the premises, including customers and staff, shall not in any circumstances exceed the number determined on the current fire risk assessment
6. The premises shall not open before midday on the date of any Premier League , Football League , Football Association , UEFA or FIFA designated football match played within the boundaries of the M25 unless otherwise agreed with Islington Police Licensing Team and the Local Authority .
7. [\*to update current 2.19\*] On days when Arsenal Football Club are playing at home at the Emirates Stadium :
  - a) The designated premises supervisor will be present for the duration of the match day opening unless exceptional circumstances apply .
  - b) There shall be no alcohol sales in glass containers at any time . All sales will be supplied in plastic receptacles , and any bottled drinks will be decanted into a suitable receptacle .
  - c) A pre-match risk assessment shall be undertaken by the management and completed for every upcoming match day to consider the SIA provision cover and any other measure deemed relevant . Said assessment will take account of any advice offered by the Islington Licensing Police Team and Local Authority in relation to that particular game , as well as the licensee's own knowledge of the previous history of any fixture in past seasons and the profile of any persons likely to attend the venue during that matchday . Said assessment will be recorded in a suitable log and made available to the Police and Local Authority on request .
  - d) There shall be a minimum of 2 SIA licenced security staff on duty at the premises from 4 hrs before kick off until closure . Said members of SIA shall be clearly identifiable , in every case wearing suitable high visibility clothing and with SIA accreditation clearly and openly displayed .
  - e) The lead door supervisor shall wear a working body camera .
  - f) The management will ensure security staff and other staff members assist police or local authority officers at all times with any enquiries they make in the execution of their duties .
  - g) On match days and any other days when the management anticipate attendance approaching capacity a suitable clicker or other monitoring system shall be employed to monitor and manage capacity .
8. On days when Arsenal Football Club are playing away or at any neutral or foreign venue and the match is being screened at the premises or when other ticketed events or boxing/UFC or MMA events are shown or the Emirates Stadium is hosting major non-football events:
  - a) The premises may not open before midday unless otherwise agreed with the Islington Metropolitan Police Licensing Team and Local Authority .
  - b) A pre-match or event risk assessment shall be undertaken by the management and completed on each occasion to consider the SIA provision and any other measures deemed relevant . Said assessment will take account of any advice offered by the Islington Licensing Police Team and Local Authority in relation to that particular game , as well as the licensee's own knowledge of the previous similar events and the profile of any persons likely to attend the venue during the event or matchday . Said assessment will be recorded in a suitable log and made available to the Police and Local Authority on request .
  - c) when the management anticipate attendance approaching capacity a suitable clicker or other monitoring system shall be employed to monitor and manage capacity .
9. Door Supervisors Register - A register , in a hardback book , shall be maintained recording all SIA door supervisors employed at the premises . Security personnel . registered with the Security Industry Authority {SIA} and employed at the premises must enter their full name , valid phone contact details , SIA Badge Number in full , employing company , along with the time that they are working in the register upon commencement of their work at the premises . The Designated Premises Supervisor/manager at the time will be responsible for ensuring this is done , that working staff are in possession of their badge and for confirming the security staff details and permission to work . The book is to be endorsed by the management at the end of each night .
10. [\*to update current 2.23 ,15 ,16 ,17,23\*] The licensee shall ensure that all staff are trained on relevant matters , including the conditions of the premises licence , age restricted products , the operation of the CCTV system and how to deal with visits from authorised officers .  
The licensee shall keep written records of training and instructions given to each member of staff , detailing the areas covered to include the Licensing Objectives , identifying persons under 25, making a challenge, acceptable proof of age & checking it, making & recording a refusal, avoiding conflict & responsible alcohol retailing.  
Staff shall sign to confirm that they have received and understood the training.  
All staff who work at the premises will be trained for their role on induction and be given refresher training every six months thereafter.  
The written training records kept for each staff member will be retained on the premises and produced to police or any authorised officer upon reasonable request.
11. The premises shall not be hired out to any third party.
12. The premises to operate a zero tolerance policy to drugs will be adopted and enforced and posters shall be prominently displayed to this effect. Toilet cisterns shall be provided with sloping lids or similar and toilet seats without covers to discourage drug and psychoactive substances use .
13. [\*to update and replace 2.38 and 39\*] The premises licence holder shall endeavour to eliminate or minimise any nuisance arising out of its licensable activities . In doing so the premises licence holder will work with enforcement authorities where any issues are identified . A complaints procedure will be maintained in order that local residents have a means of contact if necessary . The contact telephone number for the premises licence holder/designated premises supervisor/duty manager shall be displayed at the premises such that it is clearly visible without the need to enter the premises .

## **PROTECTIVE MARKING**

(All other current Annex 2 conditions to remain as currently worded.)

**Please provide as much information as possible to support the application:** (please read guidance note 3)

**PROTECTIVE MARKING**

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Have you made an application for review relating to this premises before?  (Please tick yes)

**PROTECTIVE MARKING**

Day	Month	Year
-----	-------	------

If yes, please state the date of that application:

If you have made representations before relating to this premises please state what they were and when you made them:

## PROTECTIVE MARKING

Please tick Yes

I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate.

I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected.

IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION.

### Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 4)

**Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent (see guidance note 5). If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

Signature:

*Rene hem pc 3757 aw*

Date:

02/06/2021

Capacity: Metropolitan Police

**Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application: (please read guidance note 6)**

Islington Police Station, 2 Tolpuddle Street.

Post town: Islington

Post code: N1 0YY

Telephone Number (if any):

07919 547 416

If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address, your e-mail address (optional):

### Notes for Guidance

1. A responsible authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.
2. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
3. Please list any additional information or details, for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
4. The application form must be signed.
5. An applicant's agent (for example, solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
6. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

DPS John Phelan,  
Islington Sports Bar & Grill,  
274 Holloway Road,  
Islington,  
London,  
N7 6NE.

PC Petros Loizou  
Islington Police Station  
Islington  
London  
N1 0YY

Telephone: 07919547416  
Email:  
[Petros.Loizou@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Petros.Loizou@met.pnn.police.uk)  
[www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)

Date 02nd June 2021

Dear Sir / Madam,

Premises Licence **LN/16074-300120**

Please find enclosed an application on behalf of the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police to review the premises licence for Islington Sports Bar & Grill, 274 Holloway Road N7 6NE.

. This application is made under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Yours sincerely,

PC Petros Loizou  
Islington Police Licensing Team



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

Welch Consultants Limited,  
C/O LSR Management Ltd,  
Unit C2A Comet Studios,  
De Havilland Court,  
Penn Street,  
Buckinghamshire,  
HP7 0PX.

PC Petros Loizou  
Islington Police Station  
Islington  
London  
N1 0YY

Telephone: 07919547416  
Email:  
[Petros.Loizou@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Petros.Loizou@met.pnn.police.uk)  
[www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)

Date 02nd June 2021

Dear Sir / Madam,

Premises Licence **LN/16074-300120**

Please find enclosed an application on behalf of the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police to review the premises licence for Islington Sports Bar & Grill, 274 Holloway Road N7 6NE.

. This application is made under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Yours sincerely,

PC Petros Loizou  
Islington Police Licensing Team

## **Timeline of Events**

### **1. Wednesday 14th November 2018**

Licence transfer was made by Welsh Consultants Ltd. Business was previously trading as a chicken shop

### **2. Wednesday 2nd October 2019**

DPS transfer submitted naming John Pehlan as the new DPS from the venue

### **3. Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

At 2330 officers employed by the council “Parkguard” visited the premises following the governments announcement regarding licensed premises during the pandemic.

### **4. Friday 03rd April 2020**

At 0406 hours Parkguard officers were patrolling on Holloway Road when they noticed a large group of girls leave Islington Bar & Grill 274 Holloway Road N7 6NE.

Officers stood in the vicinity and documented the following;

“We arrived to this location to conduct a social distancing policy check. There were no signs of suspicious activity or gathering groups. We saw a large group of people drinking alcohol at ISLINGTON SPORTS BAR AND GRILL on HOLLOWAY ROAD, when the entrance was opened by 3 IC1 males exiting the venue. A suspicious vehicle I1, parked in front of the venue, we carried out a VRN check, the vehicle has no road tax, expired on 04/11/2019. We remained and monitored the venue and observed four other males leaving the venue.”

### **5. Tuesday 07th April 2020**

At around 1530 hours Pc 3757CN Loizou from the Police licensing team and Niall Forde from the Islington Licensing team attended the premises to serve the management with a Prohibition notice after breaches had been identified during the lockdown rules (venue had failed to disperse people from drinking outside the premises). The notice was posted through the letter box as there was no answer from anyone from the venue

Police confirmed identity for one of the investors as [REDACTED].

### **6. Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Premises was revisited for FA CUP FINAL and non-compliance regarding guidelines and social distancing again following resulted in premises attending council led officer panel which has been documented separately

**7. Wednesday 22 April 2020**

Management attended panel meeting at 222 upper street to discuss issues highlighted on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and suggest additional conditions.

**8. Tuesday 07<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Joint visit with Football liaison officer Steve Payne ahead of first ARSENAL home game where pubs were open and matches able to be shown. This premises caters for Arsenal home supporters. On this occasion patrons seen standing and not observing social distancing. Details were referred to Council and management invited in for a panel meeting to discuss findings. DPS [REDACTED] was not present. Officers spoke with one of the investment partner [REDACTED]

**9. Saturday 01<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

Police visited premises with Council ahead of ARSENAL V CHELSEA FA CUP with Council Licensing Manager and CLO Niall Forde following complaints to Council regarding crowd gathering outside and referral from Met FLO Steve Payne after his initial visit and CADS received, DPS [REDACTED] was not present at the time of the visit. , attending officer PC Livermore witnessed overcrowding , standing within the premises and singing.

**10. Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

Pavement Licence Application submitted Details : to sell or serve food or drink supplied from or in connection with relevant use of the premises

Proposed days and hours to be licensed : SUN-SAT 1000-2200

**11. Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Police visited and noted private party of sixty with buffet food. Vertical drinking evident and clear mixing of households and groups. Smoking area outside was a mass of people without any social distancing direction.

Breaches pointed out to manager [REDACTED]. New regulations already in place. [REDACTED] stated he would like more advice from Council. He believed he was working within the guidelines.

**12. Monday 12th April 2021**

Joint visit with the council to discuss outside reopening on 12th April. [REDACTED] present and had several plans in mind which would have been in breach of the current proposed Government regulations. One of which included having customers inside but with windows open. Advised that this would not be acceptable. [REDACTED] stated that he was waiting for the brewery to provide him with new tables and banners and wouldn't be drawn on how many tables he plans to have outside. Venue currently has a pavement license till 10pm. [REDACTED] intends to attempt to have this extended along with the footprint of the outside space. He would like to use the space in front of the next

door venue which is currently closed for building works. [REDACTED] was reminded of the rule of 6 and seated table service. He stated that he intends to offer off sales and as long as customers leave his immediate table licence area they are not his responsibility. [REDACTED] was advised that this was not in keeping with the licensing objectives and that vertical drinking directly outside his venue would be associated with him. Venue will need to be monitored throughout to ensure compliance.

**13. Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Police made following observation at 2315 hrs 8 people standing outside in animated discussions involving pushing with 2 doors to premises still open and lights on. One was possibly DPS [REDACTED]. No tables outside.

**14. Wednesday 22th April 2021**

Pc Livermore made following observations, 15-20 persons all outside standing under awning space non socially distanced using front window as a bar and holding drinks in glasses . No tables on pavement . Staff doing nothing to disperse crowd . Also witnessed by CLO Niall Forde.

**15. Friday 23rd April 2021**

PC Emmanuel witnessed were vertical drinking within the designated seating area and off sales consumed directly outside the premises. This meant there was a complete lack of social distancing outside the premises.

**16. Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Venue management attended a Licensing panel via MS Teams. Panel chaired by Jan Hart. Panel called owing to the persistent non-compliance with Covid regulations relating to the outside space. Jan advised DPS and PLH that an improvement notice would be served on them regarding the continued breaches. This notice was served by Carol Jones on evening of 29/04. Police also discussed amending licence to include additional to improve issues highlighted (email sent to management team).

**17. Thursday 06<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Visit during joint partnership patrols on ahead of ARSENAL V VILLAREAL European semi final where demonstration expected by spectators and supporters. At the last demonstration people gathered at premises in and around their outside seating area to watch match shown on screens within visible from street

**18. Saturday 08<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

On Saturday 08<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at meeting was held at the premises to discuss conditions proposed by the Police. Mr [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] deemed some of those conditions as excessive and [REDACTED] even questioned the mandatory conditions as stipulate in Annex 1 on the licence

**19. Saturday 08<sup>th</sup> May 2021 CAD 6977 & 6989/08MAY21**

Police attended location following reports of up to customers fighting outside the premises which was captured on the venues CCTV system. This was also witnessed by two residents. Staff did not contacted police at the time.

**20. Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 NIRT00555056**

Police responding to unrelated call find patrons drinking inside premises. The attending officers note notice one male to be heavily intoxicated to the point of being seemingly passed out on the shoulder of another male. This incident occurred during Stage 3 of the Governments Covid reopening road map, stipulating the rule of 6, with full social distancing measures in place.

**21. Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 CAD 64/25MAY NIRT00555301**

Police were called to the venue following a report by a staff member that there were around 40 people inside the pub refusing to leave. Officers found a significant number of people at the venue most of whom were clearly intoxicated. The Inspector attempted to engage with [REDACTED] but was unsuccessful, noting that he appeared to be intoxicated. He began swearing at the officer and ultimately had to be ushered away by other staff members

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## WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

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Statement of: Petros Loizou PC 3757CN

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Officer

This statement (consisting of 6 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Witness Signature: *Petros Loizou PC 3757CN* Date: 02/06/21

I am PC Petros Loizou and I have worked for the Metropolitan Police for 12 years. I am a Licensing Officer for Central North Basic Command Unit, based on the borough of Islington. I am responsible for dealing with licensed premises across Islington Borough. My role involves proactive patrols of these premises, offering help and reassurance to patrons and management, as well as ensuring that venues fully uphold the licensing objectives. I am also responsible for working with venues when incidents do occur and submitting reports and review files when necessary.

This statement is submitted in addition to the application for a standard licence review submitted under section 51 of the licensing act dated 02/06/2021. Both documents have been prepared in relation to the premises licence at Islington Sports Bar and Grill, 274 Holloway Road, N7 6NE. Premises Licence LN16074-300120.

This review is entered following ongoing concern with regard to the following Licensing Objectives:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public Safety
- Prevention of public nuisance

Prior to 2018 the premises in question had operated as a restaurant.

A licence transfer was made on 14/11/18 at which time the nature of the operation changed and became one that appeals to customers who follow sport. On 02/10/19 a DPS transfer was submitted naming John Phelan as the new DPS for the venue.

In the last 12 months the premises has been the subject of a number of incidents where it has been found to be non-compliant. The management have been invited in for two panel meetings to discuss what measures could be put in place to improve things.

Below I highlight 3 incidents occurring over the last month (listed as A, B, C), and a further timeline showing incidents stretching back over the last 12 months.

A)

This review is entered following a serious incident that occurred on Saturday 08<sup>th</sup> May 2021 when a member of the public contacted police to report a fight, involving up to 15 customer from the premises, taking place outside the venue [police references CAD6077/08May21 and CAD6989/08May21 refer].

I have submitted in this review CCTV footage provided by the venue.

CCTV footage and statements of the incident have also been provided by a local resident.

The footage provided by the venue shows the incident almost in its entirety. The footage is from a camera positioned outside the premises that covers most but not all of the outside area (Cam 3).

The date displayed on the footage is: 08/05/21. The time displayed on the footage is: (commences at) 2101 hours.

Witness Signature: *Petros Loizou PC 3757CN*

Signature Witnessed by Signature:.....

Continuation of Statement of: PC 3757 CN C012a

The CCTV shows two females having an argument, this situation quickly escalates and prompts other patrons to intervene by trying to separate the females. A male then emerges from one of the groups and grabs one of the females involved in the initial argument. The male drags the female by placing his arms around her, at which point another male intervenes and a fight ensues. Several patrons intervene and manage to separate the parties.

A short time later the same two males and one of the females involved at the start of the incident return to the front of premises and a further fight ensues between the three parties, all three of whom fall to the ground in the roadway. A male who can be immediately identified as [REDACTED] is seen walking across the scene, looks at the people fighting and on the ground, and walks on – taking no action whatsoever. He walks past the group and casually collects a pavement sign.

It is extremely concerning when the violence spills out on to the road and vehicles can be seen to slow down to avoid the fracas.

B)

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at around 0230 hours Police responded to an alarm call to the venue. When they arrived they found the premises unlocked and the lights on. Due to the time of morning and as part of their immediate investigation the officers entered the premises and found five people drinking inside. Officers noted that one of the males was so heavily intoxicated as to be seemingly passed out on the shoulder of another male. A male who was identified to officers as a co-owner of the venue became verbally abusive to officers when they advised him they would be unable to drive him to his destination following his departure. [Police ref: CAD 551/18May21].

The visit was recorded on body worn video by one of the attending officers, PC Catherine Menzies. The footage shows 3 males sitting at a table, one of whom is asleep and slumped next to another male.

The officer speaks to a male stood behind the bar who later identifies himself as the key holder. He states the male who is asleep is the co-owner.

The officer points out the number of bottles of beer on the table. The key holder states he has not been recently serving and the drinks had been purchased at the end. PC Menzies then asks if the licence holder is aware of what is happening as is advised that the licence holder is indeed aware as it's a birthday.

C)

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Police were called to the venue following a report by a staff member that there were around 40 people inside the pub refusing to leave [Police ref: CAD 64/25MAY21]. Due to the apparent magnitude of the incident the visit was managed on scene by the on duty inspector. The incident was recorded on body worn video. The footage shows a large numbers of customers inside the premises. Due to the amount of glasses on the tables it was apparent that customers had recently been provided with drinks despite police having been called to remove customers. Officers noted the customers present were heavily intoxicated.

Staff initially contacted police at around 1800 hours, but at the time no allegations were made and police officers were not dispatched. Almost 6 hours later police were called again, this time staff reported they had a group of customers refusing to leave. This evidences wholly unacceptable management and poor decision making by staff continuing to serve customers over an extended period of time despite having concerns and having already called the police.

Police are also gravely concerned by the behaviour and attitude displayed by [REDACTED]. The body worn footage provided by the inspector shows [REDACTED] identifying himself as the owner. He is advised to consider security. [REDACTED] shows aggression and directs abusive language at the officer before being ushered away by staff members.

The 3 incidents above, all occurring within the last month, highlight recent examples where the police feel the venue has fallen well short of what is expected of any premises.

This poor management has been evident over the last 12 months, as evidenced below.

I have included CCTV footage which shows the high level of violence that has been linked to the venue. The footage has been provided by members of the public, police officers and the venue itself. The CCTV footage highlights the delayed and often poor decisions made by the management in these situations.

Witness Signature: [Signature] 3757 CN

Signature Witnessed by Signature: [Signature]

Continuation of Statement of: PC 3757 CN Loizou

### Timeline

Below follows a brief timeline of events recorded at the venue from March 2020 until present.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020** at 2330 Operation Nightsafe officers, contracted by Islington Borough Council to patrols the Islington NTE, visit the premises in order to monitor compliance with the Governments Coronavirus regulations.

**Friday 03rd April 2020** at 0406 hours Op Nightsafe officers were patrolling on Holloway Road when they noticed a large group of girls leave Islington Bar & Grill 274 Holloway Road N7 6NE.

Officers stood in the vicinity and documented the following;

"We arrived to this location to conduct a social distancing policy check. There were no signs of suspicious activity or gathering groups. We saw a large group of people drinking alcohol at ISLINGTON SPORTS BAR AND GRILL on HOLLOWAY ROAD, when the entrance was opened by 3 IC1 males exiting the venue. A suspicious vehicle I1, parked in front of the venue, we carried out a VRN check, the vehicle has no road tax, expired on 04/11/2019. We remained and monitored the venue and observed four other males leaving the venue."

Tuesday 07th April 2020 at around 1530 hours PC 3757CN Loizou from the Police Licensing team and Niall Forde from the Islington Council Licensing team attended the premises to serve the management with a prohibition notice after breaches with the coronavirus regulations had been identified. The venue had failed to disperse people from drinking outside the premises and a notice was served on the venue by Niall Forde from the Islington Licensing team.

Police confirmed identity for one of the investors as [REDACTED]

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020** - Premises was revisited for FA CUP FINAL and non-compliance regarding guidelines regulations and social distancing again following resulted in premises attending council led officer panel which has been documented separately

**Wednesday 22 April 2020** - Management attended panel meeting at 222 Upper Street to discuss issues highlighted on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and suggest additional conditions.

**Tuesday 07<sup>th</sup> July 2020** - Joint visit with Football Liaison Officer (FLO) Steve Payne ahead of first Arsenal home game where pubs were open and matches able to be shown. This premises caters for Arsenal home supporters. On this occasion patrons seen standing and not observing social distancing, contrary to Coronavirus regulations. Details were referred to Council and management invited in for a panel meeting to discuss findings. DPS [REDACTED] was not present. Officers spoke with one of the investment partner [REDACTED]

**Saturday 01<sup>st</sup> August 2020** – FA Cup Final Arsenal vs Chelsea. Joint visit conducted by the Police Licensing team and Islington Council. Information had been received that large numbers of customers had gathered outside, this was confirmed by the attending officer PC Tim Livermore. [REDACTED] was present at the time of the visit. PC Livemore has provided a separate statement documenting his findings.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020** - Pavement Licence Application submitted. Details : to sell or serve food or drink supplied from or in connection with relevant use of the premises

Witness Signature: [REDACTED] PC 3757 CN

Signature Witnessed by Signature:.....

Continuation of Statement of: PC 3757 CN [REDACTED]  
Proposed days and hours to be licensed : SUN-SAT 1000-2200

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020** - Police visited and noted private party of sixty with buffet food. Vertical drinking evident and clear mixing of households and groups, contrary to coronavirus regulations. Smoking area outside was a mass of people without any social distancing direction. Breaches pointed out to manager [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] New regulations already in place. [REDACTED] stated he would like more advice from Council. He believed he was working within the guidelines.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021** - Joint visit with the council to discuss outside reopening on 12th April. [REDACTED] present and had several plans in mind which would have been in breach of the current proposed Government regulations. One of which included having customers inside but with windows open. Advised that this would not be acceptable. [REDACTED] stated that he was waiting for the brewery to provide him with new tables and banners and wouldn't be drawn on how many tables he plans to have outside. Venue currently has a pavement license till 10pm. [REDACTED] intends to attempt to have this extended along with the footprint of the outside space. He would like to use the space in front of the next door venue which is currently closed for building works. [REDACTED] was reminded of the rule of 6 and seated table service. He stated that he intends to offer off sales and as long as customers leave his immediate table licence area they are not his responsibility. [REDACTED] was advised that this was not in keeping with the licensing objectives and that vertical drinking directly outside his venue would be associated with him. Venue will need to be monitored throughout to ensure compliance.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021** - Police made following observation at 2315 hrs. 8 people standing outside in animated discussions involving pushing with 2 doors to premises still open and lights on. One was possibly DPS [REDACTED] No tables outside.

**Wednesday 22<sup>th</sup> April 2021** - PC Livermore made following observations. 15-20 persons all outside standing under awning space, non socially distanced using front window as a bar and holding drinks in glasses . No tables on pavement . Staff doing nothing to disperse crowd. Also witnessed by CLO Niall Forde.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021** - PC Emmanuel witnessed were vertical drinking within the designated seating area and off sales consumed directly outside the premises. This meant there was a complete lack of social distancing outside the premises. This has been documented by the officer in a statement.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021** - Venue management attended a Licensing panel via MS Teams. Panel chaired by Jan Hart. Panel called owing to the persistent non-compliance with Covid regulations relating to the outside space. Jan advised DPS and PLH that an improvement notice would be served on them regarding the continued breaches. This notice was served by Carol Jones on evening of 29/04. Police also discussed amending licence to include additional conditions to improve issues highlighted. (email sent to management team).

**Thursday 06<sup>th</sup> May 2021** - Visit during joint partnership patrols ahead of Arsenal v Villarreal European semi-final where demonstration expected by spectators and supporters. At the last demonstration people gathered at premises in and around their outside seating area, breaching Coronavirus regulations, to watch match shown on screens which were visible from street

Witness Signature: [REDACTED] PC 3757 CN

Signature Witnessed by Signature:.....

Continuation of Statement of:

PC 3757 CW L01202

**Saturday 08<sup>th</sup> May 2021** - Meeting was held at the premises to discuss conditions proposed by the Police. Mr [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] deemed some of those conditions as excessive and [REDACTED] even questioned the mandatory conditions as stipulate in Annex 1 on the licence

**Saturday 08<sup>th</sup> May 2021** (Highlighted above) - Police attended location following reports of up to 15 customers fighting outside the premises. Captured on the venues CCTV system. This was also witnessed by two residents. Staff did not contact police at the time. [CAD 6977 & 6989/08MAY21 refer]. Two evidential witness statements have been provided.

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021** (Highlighted above) - Police responding to unrelated call find patrons drinking inside premises. The attending officers note notice one male to be heavily intoxicated to the point of being seemingly passed out on the shoulder of another male. This incident occurred during Stage 3 of the Governments Covid reopening road map, stipulating the rule of 6, with full social distancing measures in place.]

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021** (Highlighted above) - Police were called to the venue following a report by a staff member that there were around 40 people inside the pub refusing to leave. Officers found a significant number of people at the venue most of whom were clearly intoxicated. The Inspector attempted to engage with [REDACTED] but was unsuccessful, noting that he appeared to be intoxicated. He began swearing at the officer and ultimately had to be ushered away by other staff members [CAD 64/25MAY refer]

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021** - Islington Council revoked the pavement licence and tables and chairs permission. This was as a result of the continued breaches documented in this statement.

In summary: it is very disappointing that despite ongoing attempts at engagement by both the Police and the Local Authority, the management at this venue continue to fall short of what is expected of a well operated premises.

Police feel that the licensing objectives are not being upheld and that the number and nature of incidents recorded suggest ongoing risk to public safety.

Clearly changes to the management and operating procedure are urgently needed in order to help assist the venue operate safely and in line with the licensing objectives

In the majority of cases when the Police and Council have visited the premises and identified breaches (and indeed when instances of crime and disorder have been apparent), the person identified as the manager or 'person in charge' has been [REDACTED]

It should be noted that [REDACTED] is named as the DPS but is rarely present. Further, [REDACTED] has stated himself that he is a co-owner. At any time (let alone when a venue is experiencing repeat incidents/breaches and is under scrutiny), there is an expectation that the DPS will be present or at the very least constructively monitoring and managing staff/venue and that both DPS and PLH will demonstrate a full commitment to engage and improve matters.

There is significant concern that with the imminent further easing of the lockdown rules the premises will continue to generate incidents of crime and disorder.

Witness Signature: *[Signature]* PC 3757 CW

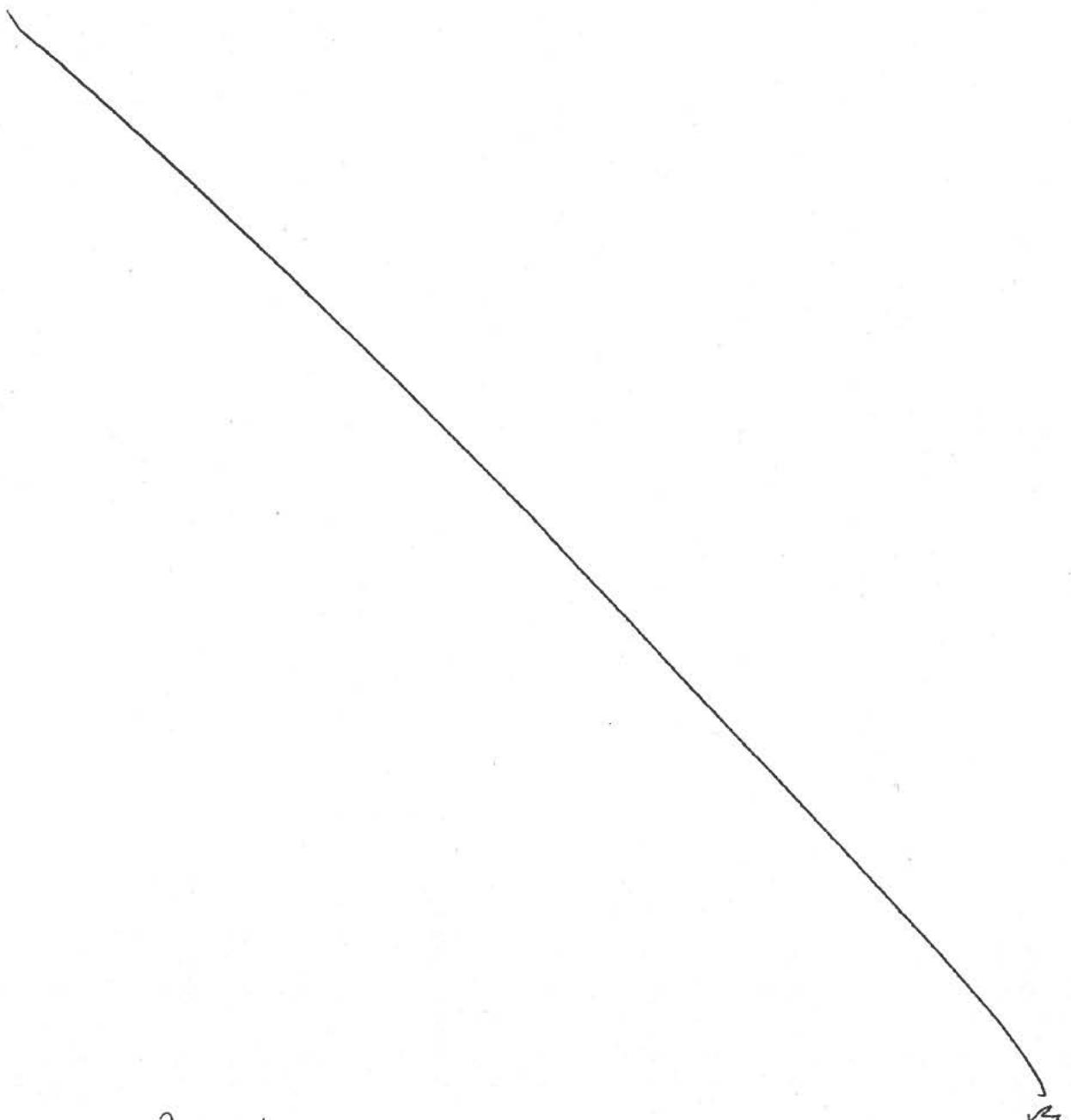
Signature Witnessed by Signature:.....

Continuation of Statement of: PC 3757 on L012u

In submitting the licence for review, police respectfully submit the following recommendations:

- **Exclusion of Mr Mick Doherty from management at the venue, with stipulation that he not be employed or involved in the operation in any capacity.**
- **Implementation of the following proposed licence conditions, for inclusion on the operating schedule**

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Witness Signature: PC 3757 on L012u

Signature Witnessed by Signature: .....

**STATEMENT OF WITNESS***(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)*

URN

Statement of: Constable Darren Emanuel

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation: Police officer

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: 

Date: 25 Apr 2021

I am an Islington police officer, currently based at Islington Council, attached to the Islington Police Licensing Team. Due to Covid, in recent times I have routinely been out conducting proactive and reactive visits to venues, monitoring compliance of Coronavirus regulations. This statement relates to an incident that took place after the 12th April 2021, when pubs and bars with outside spaces were permitted to open again, after the lockdown. The rules stipulated however that any alcohol sales needed to be via table service to socially distanced customers sat outside, or off sales to customers taking the drinks away from the premises.

On Friday 23rd April 2021, at approximately 20:15 hours, I was patrolling the Holloway Road, N7 area during the Arsenal football club fans protest of their management board. Hundreds of fans had travelled to protest outside the ground while the game took place as fans were still not permitted inside. Islington Sports bar and Grill, 274 Holloway Road N7 is an Arsenal supporters pub with a very limited capacity for seating customers outside. While reviewing the potential for disorder in the Holloway area, I went to visit the manager of the venue. When I arrived there I could see the manager in the seating area dealing with a large number of customers. While some customers were sat, some were standing in the seating area jockeying for a position where they could get the best view of the television screens inside. Either side of the seating area was approximately a total of forty more customers who were either drinking off sales or hanging around on the pavement. Due to the numbers of football fans at the location, I took the decision to call the manager [REDACTED] to one side and tactfully avoid any confrontational language in regards to what I could see. [REDACTED] stated that due to the protests he was struggling to deal with the customers, even pleading with them to comply if they wanted his Arsenal pub to still be there post lockdown when everything goes back to normal. From my perspective, having no security present made controlling these fans all the more difficult and having the game on in view from the pavement was ill advised. [REDACTED] stated he was showing this for his seated customers and had been trying to get the others to move on. Prior to this I had spoken to [REDACTED] and the owner [REDACTED] about considering shutting if they got a football crowd that they could not control.

In summary, the issues identified and witnessed by myself on this occasion were vertical drinking within the designated seating area and off sales consumed directly outside the premises. This meant there was a complete lack of social distancing outside the premises on the date in question. While I agree there were exceptional circumstances leading to the extent of the issues I witnessed, I do believe the venue played its part by continuing to serve the customers that were indirectly encouraged to stay there.

I exhibit my worn video footage of this incident as DAE/1/BW.

Signature: 

Signature Witnessed by:

Witness contact details

URN

Name of witness: Tim LUGEMORE  
Home Address: N/A  
E-mail address: AS PER LICENSING  
Home Telephone Number: N/A

Postcode:

Mobile: 07919547416

Work Telephone Number: as above

Preferred means of contact (specify details for vulnerable/intimidated victims and witnesses only):

Gender: M

Date and place of birth: 15 3 66

Former name:

Ethnicity Code (16 + 1): 1C1

DATES OF WITNESS NON-AVAILABILITY:Witness care

- a) Is the witness willing to attend court? Y If 'No', include reason(s) on form MG6.
- b) What can be done to ensure attendance?
- c) Does the witness require a Special Measures Assessment as a vulnerable or intimidated witness? N (youth under 18; witness with mental disorder, learning or physical disability; or witness in fear of giving evidence or witness is the complainant in a sexual offence case) If 'Yes' submit MG2 with file in anticipated not guilty, contested or indictable only cases.
- d) Does the witness have any particular needs? N If 'Yes' what are they? (Disability, healthcare, childcare, transport, disability, language difficulties, visually impaired, restricted mobility or other concerns?).

Witness Consent (for witness completion)

- a) The Victim Personal Statement scheme (victims only) has been explained to me Yes  No
  - b) I have been given the Victim Personal Statement leaflet Yes  No
  - c) I have been given the leaflet "Giving a witness statement to the police..." Yes  No
  - d) I consent to police having access to my medical record(s) in relation to this matter (obtained in accordance with local practice) Yes  No  N/A
  - e) I consent to my medical record in relation to this matter being disclosed to the defence Yes  No  N/A
  - f) I consent to the statement being disclosed for the purposes of civil, or other proceedings if applicable, e.g. child care proceedings, CICA Yes  No  N/A
  - g) **Child witness cases only.** I have had the provision regarding reporting restrictions explained to me. Yes  No  N/A
- I would like CPS to apply for reporting restrictions on my behalf. Yes  No  N/A

'I understand that the information recorded above will be passed on to the Witness Service, which offers help and support to witnesses pre-trial and at court'.

Signature of witness: T. LUGEMORE PRINT NAME: Tim LUGEMORE PC3472CN

Signature of parent/guardian/appropriate adult: PRINT NAME:

Address and telephone number (of parent etc.), if different from above:

Statement taken by: Sef

Station: TOLPUDDLE ST

Time and place statement taken: 2:30 01/08/20 ISLINGTON LICENSING TEAM OFFICES

The contact and trace details the premises were keeping for the premises were looked at and worthwhile details had been obtained for very few of the numbers apparent at the premises in the event of further contact being required . For the majority there were no details .

I witnessed that there was little evidence of effective management or planning and control of the licensed premises during the event and ahead of match screening , social distancing or adherence to guidance inside or outside during this visit .

[REDACTED] stated he had the premises risk assessment for the screening on his phone .

It appeared safer on consideration to allow the screening to continue rather than ask for it to close or be curtailed so as to avoid a likely Public Order situation . Public Order colleagues agreed with my assessment when consulted and spoken with .

The Council also spoke with [REDACTED]

We left at 1515 hrs and asked both to try and exert some control in the absence of the DPS for the remainder of the day .

I am making this statement from my immediate recollection and notes of the visit on my return to the office the same evening as my BWV camera is defective and the battery had not charged prior to the visit .

When I returned to the office later in the shift I emailed [REDACTED] and requested that he supply a copy of the premises CCTV for the visit to me in support of this statement and any Officer Panel or engagement work to follow to assist in identifying the improvements required in operation and standards . The premises licence has a CCTV supply condition . I also stated that I was willing to collect this along with any documentation or paperwork the council had requested as soon as it was available or he could arrange given the expected long term absence of the DPS , [REDACTED] as he had indicated to me .

The premises also has a condition re requesting permission to open before 1200 on football matchdays within the M25 . Wembley is within the M25 . The licence in place currently LN/16074/300120 has sale by retail of alcohol from 1000 MON – SUN.

The condition for Annex 2.19 relates to matchday conditions and starts - On days when Arsenal Football Club are playing at home :

Subsection e/ then states – The venue may not open before midday on the date of any Football League Designated Football Match played within the boundaries of the M25 unless otherwise agreed with the Metropolitan Police Licensing Team , Metropolitan Police Football Unit , and Local Authority .

To my knowledge the premises had not sought or received permission to open at 0915 hrs but I believe this is because there was no effective management or control at the premises on the day or any present who had sufficient knowledge of the premises licence .

The subsection (e) condition would be better presented as a separate condition for ease of reading and understanding by way of a minor variation I believe by the premises to assist them in complying in future under the current or future management teams and to make it clear that this condition does not only apply on Arsenal home games .

Signature:

T. viscous PCB472W

Signature witnessed by:

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9

URN

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Statement of: Tim Livermore

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Police Constable - CN Islington Police Licensing Team

This statement (consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: (witness)

*T. Livermore PC 3472 CW*

Date: 01/08/2020

On Saturday 1st August 2020 I was on duty as a Police Licensing Officer in Islington in plain clothes making pre FA CUP Final visits to licensed premises as Arsenal were playing Chelsea in a joint operation in support of Council Licensing Manager , Terrie Lane and Council Licensing Officer , Niall Forde

At 1440 Hrs we visited the ISLINGTON SPORTS BAR & GRILL on HOLLOWAY ROAD . On approach loud singing and shouting could be heard from the group of approximately 40-60 people standing on the street and using the small seating area on the pavement outside the premises . Most of the persons outside were drinking from glass and while present other people turned up to join the group with people already present entering the pub and returning with drinks for them in a mix of glass and plastic . It was clear that no effort was being made or system managed for their contact details . Through the open front windows there were also a considerable number of people standing and singing and shouting within the crowded interior in which there was clearly no further room . I would not wish to estimate how many person were inside but it looked more like a normal matchday crowd rather than a reduced safe social distancing layout and arrangement . It was not possible to take a realistic head count due to crowd dynamics and people joining the group outside and sending others in for drinks while we were present .

I identified myself as a Police Licensing Officer to the one ineffective security officer on the front door [who was not controlling the outside smokers or drinkers] by way of my warrant card and asked if [REDACTED] the manager were available to come out and speak with me on the pavement nearby ,

[REDACTED] is one of 2 directors of the PLH for the premises , Welch Consultants and has recently replied to the pre match emails stating that the premises would be open and showing the game on the day and following and implementing all the guidelines in place but not running a ticketed event or promotion after what they believed was negative feedback from the Council re their operation for the recent North London derby . It was clear the premises were not following and implementing all the guidelines issued and in place .

[REDACTED] was located and came out to speak along with [REDACTED] who is an investor in the premises and often present but not formally represented on the premises licence . On previous visits with previous DPS's [REDACTED] has been indicated as the owner of the premises .

The DPS [REDACTED] was confirmed as not present after some phone calls by [REDACTED] and it was stated initially he was thought to have possibly been drinking there socially for the match screening but this was not the case . It was then stated that he is currently furloughed from the business at present and has other health issues so was not in a position on the day to improve or control circumstances at the premises . Stated that there were 2 members of bar staff inside who had personal alcohol licences .

Neither [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] were in a position to exert any control over the large number of persons already gathered inside and out .

I was told by [REDACTED] that people had started turning up and queuing at the premises at 0915 hrs and to manage the crowd the premises had opened early .

## **Notes of Licensing Panel – FA Cup Final Day**

**25<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

Via Teams

### **Present**

LBI:  
Jan Hart (JH)  
Terrie Lane (TLane)  
Emma Kidd (note-taker)

Met Police:  
Tim Livermore (TLive)

### **1pm - Islington Sports Bar & Grill 274-276 Holloway Rd – Mick Doherty, Alex Howard & John Phelan**

JH opened the meeting by explaining that licensing panel was an informal and open discussion whereby licensees are asked to come in when problems are identified in order to reach a resolution and prevent the need for further action.

JH explained that this meeting was being held to due to the following incident(s):

JH – Staff visited the premises on the 1<sup>st</sup> August which was the Arsenal FA cup final and the issues we witnessed on the day. We are mindful of the fact there is another game this Saturday and looking for some assurance around the issues around Covid restriction. We may be in a position that we use the restrictive powers around this to restrict opening. Our intention is not to use the formal power but if we cannot be satisfied we will be reviewing this.

TLiver – When we visited on the day we spoke to Alex and Mick and I wrote a statement when I came back and requested CCTV. There were a large number of people inside and also standing outside singing and chanting. I have some concerns around the times you open, however the time on the licensing isn't clear so I would like this updated. I would also like to see a number of licensed doorman on event days. Your premises was the one of the worst we saw on the day. I deferred to TLane regarding the Covid restrictions. We need to ensure that this does not happen again.

TLane – When we got there it was 3 hours before kick-off. There was no DPS on site. There were far too many people with regard to social distancing and no formal log of contact details for customers. People were too close together inside and outside, people were standing inside, singing and shouting. Alex Howard was there and spoke to Tim and he could not provide us with their Covid 19 risk assessment. The contact list was inadequate as it only showed names, some first name only and a post code. The CCTV was requested but has not been sent to us. A letter was sent to all premises in advance of opening with what needed to be completed for Covid

restrictions and conditions to implement if showing the cup final. We also witnessed anti-Semitic chanting which generated complaints from residents. The match day conditions need to be changed to cover opening times and conditions for all match days whether home or away games.

JH – Covid 19 risk assessment, have you looked at the guidance for pubs which are reopening, which is quite clear that customers need to be seated and are not allowed to sing or chant.

Alex Howard - We do have a risk assessment which we can send to you following this meeting. We also provided the CCTV to Niall Forde when he came down to speak to us. The event on the day was not a success, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> large event since lockdown. For the Tottenham game we ran a strict ticket event which we charged £70 to try to discourage a high number of people to attend. We did not anticipate the number of people who would attend for this game. The current risk assessment is against the Tottenham game which was very different to this game. We will be selling tickets for the next game following this. We have also put in an extended pavement license.

JH – can you email the risk assessment to us after the meeting? Also how many tickets will you be selling?

Alex H - We are looking at no more than 60 tickets.

JH – with the pavement license you will need to adhere to the social distancing within this area.

Alex H - Yes we are aware of this.

JH – You will need to have the DPS present on match days

[REDACTED] - Yes we will, it is me and I was sick on the day

JH – In regard to security, how many will you have on Saturday?

Mick Doherty - We will have two security guards.

TLive – The security on the license is that you should have two and you only had one.

Mick D - We did have two on that day

TLive - I only witnessed one but there was so many people present I possibly couldn't see the other person. As you are the designated Arsenal home pub I would look to increase the number on match and event days.

JH – If your pavement license comes through you will need someone to manage this, someone to manage admissions and also someone to manage the inside. On

Saturday we will have people visiting who will be looking at your compliance and if we see anything we will be reviewing your license. We also expect you to have a list of customers which includes full name, full address and a contact number, we expect you to liaise with your customers to get this information so we can properly manage any outbreaks. You will also need someone to check ID to ensure that the contact details are correct.

Alex H - We have amended our forms to either contact telephone number or email address.

JH – I would strongly advise that you get both of these as sometimes people won't answer the phone.

Alex H - OK

JH – The Anti-Semitic chanting is not acceptable and I do not want to hear this again. Following the game on Saturday we will need to do some tweaks on license. We would also like you to use plastic on Saturday rather than glass.

Mick D - We were already planning on doing this and we are ticket only.

TLane – is there a drinks deal?

Mick D - No it just £10 for the ticket.

TLane – how do they get the tickets?

Alex H – we are selling them to our regulars first and then will offer them to others. Once we have sold out we will be putting out social media messages to say we are a ticket event and have sold out. We will get the risk assessments to you today and will also get an update contact list for your approval.

JH – is there anything you would like to ask us?

Mick D - When will we get the result for the pavement license?

JH – we have 14 days to process this, we will check with our team however we have had a large number of applications so we will try to get this sorted to you for Saturday but if not it will be by the 14 days.

TLIVE – what time are you opening?

Alex H – our licence says we can open at 10am but if there is any objections we can look at this.

JH – we would prefer you to open later as the game isn't until 4pm.

Alex H - What time would you like us to open?

TLive - we would prefer you to open at midday which is still 4 hours of drinking before the game.

Mick D - We are fine with that.

JH – hopefully this has been productive and we will see an improvement. You do need to get bar staff to liaise with customers so they understand why all these measures are in place, as you have seen what has happened in other parts of the country. We all have to do what we can to avoid it.

## **Notes of Licensing Panel**

**Date 29th April 2021**

**2:30pm - Islington Bar & Grill with Mr Mick Doherty & Mr John Phelan & Mr Alex Howard**

Jan opened the meeting by explaining that licensing panel was an informal and open discussion whereby licensees are asked to come in when problems are identified in order to reach a resolution and prevent the need for further action.

Jan explained that this meeting was being held due to the following incident:

Jan - We are only in step 2 of the government's covid restrictions which allows outdoor seated service only. A permit licence for tables and chairs has been granted. At the moment our expectation is that orders are taken at the table and all patrons are seated. However, we have witnessed customers standing and the licence is not being managed and you are using a much larger area than granted. There is a large number of people standing and drinking and people purchasing drinks at the bar. You are breaching current covid regulations and remit of your pavement licence. Options available are:

- Covid controls - we are going to serve you with an improvement notice to comply.
- Regarding the other matters we need to know your plans to improve.

Neil - On Friday the sheer amount of people outside the venue (for the game and protest) was an issue and breached the current covid regulations. My colleague Adam spoke to the staff at the time. There didn't appear to be any security staff and exasperated by the game being screened on the large screen.

Mick advised that from Monday the **take away service** has been stopped. He also advised that he did try to move the crowd on but they wouldn't leave. Yesterday a council officer visited and measured the distances between the tables and was happy with the perimeters.

John - On Friday I spoke with Darren who said there was too many people outside and they were purchasing drinks from other venues. I and two members of staff were verbally abused by some of the crowd who weren't our customers. We didn't realise the protest crowd would be so large and we need the council's help too.

Neil asked if they had comments about the table service and issues of people standing and drinking. John advised that on match days SIA officers will be used on the pavement area.

Simon advised the area was measured and was found to be okay but the issue arises when the area is very busy and the rules should be adhered.

Terrie asked about the television issue which causes people to stand up to view it but Mick did not agree and advised that BT are still providing a service for all the televisions and they can all be viewed from outside without people huddling together. Neil suggested turning the television off if people are not adhering to the rules or stop selling alcohol if there are large crowds. **Mick was in agreement.**

Jan said she was pleased to hear the positive suggestions and advised calling Parkguard for assistance. Tonight the venue will be monitored.

- Mick advised to deter crowds, the venue will go to "ticket only" if AFC progress to the next stage of the champions league.
- Neil asked if the venue are happy to add the amended conditions to the licence as discussed at last September's panel hearing.

## WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

Statement of: [REDACTED]

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Strategy Director for Education

This statement (consisting of 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Witness Signature: ..... Date: 11/05/2021

This statement relates to a large fight I witnessed outside Islington Sports Bar and Grill on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

I live in [REDACTED]

On Saturday evening, my partner and I returned home having been out for dinner at about 8pm. As we approached our front door, I noticed a boisterous group within the roped area of the Pub. This group were loudly shouting at one another. Some of them were standing and some sitting down. My partner and I had no interaction with the group and headed straight to our flat.

At about 9.30pm, we were distracted from the TV by loud shouting coming from outside. I could hear that the shouting appeared to be getting louder, to the point where I couldn't hear the TV. I heard glass smashing. My partner [REDACTED] told me that there was a fight outside the pub and there was someone laying on the ground. My partner called 999 asking for Police and Ambulance. I went out on to the balcony where I saw a group of between 12-20, males and females, sprawling across the pavement outside the pub. I saw the group throwing punches and glasses being smashed. I went back inside to contact the Council ASB team. A few minutes later, I returned to the balcony to see the disturbance was continuing and that the rope poles and barriers from the venue had been knocked over. I decided to start filming the scene using my mobile phone.

I saw a female shouting at a group of about 6 people who were squaring up to each other. I saw another group of about 6, males and females, pushing and throwing punches. The group spilled onto the main road causing cars to beep their horns and swerve out of the way to avoid hitting them. The disturbance continued for about 10-15 minutes. I noticed one of the rope poles from the venue was now in the main road. Staff started to clear the tables and chairs away while the disturbance continued around them. I saw a male wearing what appeared to be a chef's uniform come from the premises and grab a man by the neck from behind as he was walking away while the group as a whole continued to shout and threaten one another.

A short time later, Police arrived and the group scattered. [REDACTED] We went [REDACTED] to tell the Police officers what we had seen. As I was talking to one of the officers, a man I know as [REDACTED] saw us and shouted over 'oh, of course, look who it fucking is'. I know [REDACTED] as I have had several interactions with him during my time living here. I concluded that [REDACTED] assumed I had called Police and wasn't happy with my decision. I asked the officers if we could talk out of his view to avoid any further confrontation. The officers stated that needed to talk to the pub staff first.

Our flat [REDACTED] Islington Sports Bar and Grill. The [REDACTED] looks out onto Holloway Road. From the [REDACTED] I can see the pavement and outside space of the pub. Some of the seats are obstructed by the awning. The distance from [REDACTED] to the street is roughly 4-6 meters. On the evening of the fight, it was dark however the area was very well lit by street lights.

I exhibit the video clips I took using my mobile phone as DS/1, DS/2, DS/3 and DS/4. I have provided this footage to Police.

Witness Signature: .....

Signature Witnessed by Signature: .....

**RESTRICTED (when complete)**

MG11C

Continuation of Statement of:

Witness Signature: .... [REDACTED]

Signature Witnessed by Signature:.....

Page 2 of 2

99/12

**RESTRICTED (when complete)**

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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Age if under 18    Over 18 ..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18')    Occupation: Civil Servant .....

This statement (consisting of: .... 2 .... pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything in it which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: [REDACTED] .....

Date: 13 May 2021

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I am the above named person and I live at an address known to the police. This statement relates to the evening I witnessed a fight outside the Islington Sports bar and Grill, Holloway Road, N7.

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at approximately 21:30 hours, I was at home in my flat when I heard a loud argument between females outside in street. I looked outside and saw three women, two of which were arguing with the other. At first I ignored this as it is a regular occurrence and it began to quieten down. Shortly after there was another eruption of noise, this time I could hear male voices. I went back to the window and two males were squaring up to each other. These males were pushing each other heads together with their hands. There were approximately six other males surrounding the pair however only two were trying to break it up. They managed to break up the fight and it died down for short time. I continued to watch and the pair began fighting again. This time the pair fell into the parking bay next to the bus lane. One of the males was on top of the other. I could not see what was happening at this point as I began calling police. While speaking to them I could see the males still on the floor and other customers surrounding them. For the most part the crowd appeared to be egging the fight on however there were some trying to break it up. A passing moped rider then partially blocked the bus lane in what appeared to be a move to protect them from traffic. Once the pair had been separated, one of the males wandered into the bus lane and back into the bar. The women from the original disturbance then began shouting while getting their belongings together. Another scuffle broke out between some males and I could hear glasses smashing and the tables being knocked over. The two males then moved towards the junction of Jackson Road and Holloway Road while still pushing their heads together. The manager or

Signature: [REDACTED] ..... Signature witnessed by: .....

Continuation of Statement of .....

owner then arrived and began taking the table and chairs inside. The males then stop fighting and the situation began to calm down again. Police then arrived and spoke to the management



Signature:

2003(1)

..... Signature witnessed by:

.....

## WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

Statement of: Mark Gilchrist Police Inspector

Age if under 18: Over 18 *(if over 18 insert 'over 18')* Occupation: Police Inspector

This statement (consisting of 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Witness Signature:  Date: 1/7/21

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at around 0015hours I was on duty in full uniform in company with PS 235CN SHORTERS patrolling in a marked police vehicle. A call was circulated over the police radio to CAD 64/25MAY21 to the ISLINGTON SPORTS BAR AND GRILL on HOLLOWAY ROAD. Staff were concerned about a large group of people who were refusing to leave. I confirmed that the staff had instructed those present to leave. I was therefore satisfied that those inside were unlawfully on the premises.

I along with a number of officers entered the premises. The venue was in a state of disarray. The floor was covered in liquid which I believe to be spilt drinks. There was so much liquid on the floor that it was pooled in puddles and the wooden floor was very slippery. There were over twenty people gathered in groups around tables and a large amount of full and empty glasses on the tables. One of the tables was completely covered in glasses which were full, or partially full. I was very concerned that the basic housekeeping had not been managed effectively. The patrons were in the main highly intoxicated. They were slurring and spilling large quantities of liquid across the floor. I instructed the officers to remove the drinks, this was to provide a safer working environment and to enforce the closure of the premises. It was apparent that despite the staff wishing to close the premises, further drinks had only recently been provided. I spoke with staff, including a male who appeared intoxicated and who was identified as [REDACTED] I advised regarding security and housekeeping however [REDACTED] who I believe was the proprietor was not at all responsive. I exhibit my BWV of this incident as MAG/1

17:28 TU 1 JUN 21 MI  
Witness Signature: 

Signature Witnessed by Signature: .....

Page 1 of 1

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of PC Emma Dore..... URN: 

Age if under 18 Over 18 ..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Officer .....

This statement (consisting of: .... 1..... pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything in it which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: *EMM Dore* Date: 01/06/2021.....Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

On Tuesday 25th May 2021 at approximately 0015 Hours, I was on duty in full uniform assigned to a marked police vehicle, call sign CN20 Nights along with PC Justin 1114CN. We were made aware of a call for more units to Islington Sports Bar and Grill, 274 Holloway Road, N7 in relation to a large group of people in the bar refusing to leave after closing time. CAD 64/25MAY21 refers. Staff stated on the CAD that the group were smashing glasses and they were struggling to cope with them.

We made our way to the bar. On attendance, there were approximately 20 people in the bar. They all seemed to be very intoxicated and I could see several empty glasses and several full pint glasses of lager on the tables. The staff members in the bar stated they needed everyone to leave as it was now past their closing time. From the amount of full drinks on the tables in the bar, it appeared staff had continued to serve drinks even though the majority of people in the bar appeared drunk. There was also an officer safety risk with all the empty glasses left on the tables given how volatile and uncooperative the customers were being towards police.

When asked to leave, the customers in the bar were not cooperative. It took several police units to get them to leave the bar and took a significant amount of time before they eventually agreed to leave. There were no security staff at the venue to assist and only a few staff members on duty. It appears that staff had also continued to serve alcohol to intoxicated customers which hindered officers and staff being able to get them to leave when requested to do so.

I do have BWV of the incident which I exhibit as EMD/1. *EMM Dore*

Signature: *EMM Dore* Signature witnessed by: .....

**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)

URN

Statement of: Sergeant Alexander Shorters P229085 PS235CN

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation: Police officer.

This statement (consisting of one page) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

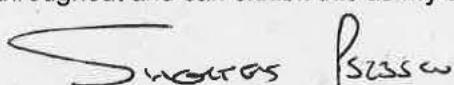
Signature: A. Shorters

Date: 31/05/2021

On TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 at approximately 0015hrs I was on duty in full uniform in a marked police vehicle. My call sign was the patrol sergeant for Islington and was on patrol with the duty Inspector, CN1N Inspector Mark GILCHRIST. A call was circulated via the radio, CAD 64/25MAY21, which was a call to the ISLINGTON SPORTS BAR&GRILL, HOLLOWAY ROAD. Staff had called as they were trying to close but had a group of approximately 40 'Irish Travellers' refusing to leave and smashing glasses. We were close to the venue so went directly to it and upon arrival was met by a member of staff who confirmed the above and stated the group had started arriving in ones and twos since approximately 1730hrs. Staff had originally called police at around 1800hrs on CAD 5805/24<sup>th</sup> but control did not circulate or dispatch units to it. The staff confirmed the group were refusing to leave and wanted police to assist.

I requested all available units to the location due to the number of persons in the bar and multiple units arrived shortly after. I entered the bar and, along with Insp GILCHRIST and other police units, requested the group leave. The bar was in a very messy state. Tables had been shoved out of the way, the floor was soaking wet and there was glass from where glasses had been broken. Staff did not want any formal action taken in relation to this. There were many, many empty glasses on the tables as well as multiple full pint glasses. There were approximately forty (40) male and females who were intoxicated and had Irish Accents. The one male, IC1, stocky build, approximately F600, short dark black seemed to be the head of the group and he was the most confrontational with officers. He was clearly intoxicated. He was unsteady on his feet. Slurring his speech and his breath smelt of intoxicating liquor. The rest of the group, although slightly argumentative, did eventually comply with officers requests to leave. Officers had to take drinks off the group as they wanted to finish the multiple drinks left and then the group slowly exited and dispersed. All were loud and had clearly been drinking for some time.

The staff confirmed the managers details to me as [REDACTED] Staff were concerned the group would retaliate after police left so police remained outside until the group had walked off. [REDACTED] M  
I created the intel report in relation to the call. Crimint NIRT00555301 refers. My BWV was recording throughout and can exhibit this as my exhibit AFS/01. I have not viewed the BWV prior to writing this statement.

  
31/05/21 1530hrs

Signature: A. Shorters

Signature Witnessed by:

Page 1 of 1

## WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

Statement of: PC Squirrell

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')      Occupation: Police officer

This statement (consisting of 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Witness Signature:

 269SCN

Date: 04/06/2021

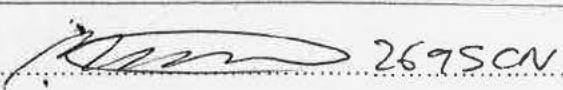
On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at approximately 0020 hours I was on mobile patrol with PC Leathley 2143CN. We were in an unmarked police vehicle call sign CN110 nights. I heard a call come out on the radio of a large group of adults at Islington Sports Bar and Grill on Holloway Road. CN1N and CN4N were first on scene and they called for more units. CAD 64/25MAY21 refers.

When I arrived on scene at the bar I noticed 20-30 adults in the bar. Staff explained that they were refusing to leave. A large majority of the adults were heavily intoxicated and they were clearly distressing the staff at the bar who were struggling to manage the situation. There were many glasses on the tables, some empty and many still full of beer. There were drinks spilt on the tables as well as on the floor causing a health and safety risk to everyone at the bar.

It took several police units to get the group of adults to leave the bar, they were uncooperative and hostile towards police. There were no security staff at the bar to help assist with their removal.

My exhibits from this incident include:

MLS/01 – Body Worn Video footage of the incident.

  
04/06/21  
ms

Witness Signature:

**PREMISES LICENCE**  
**LICENSING ACT 2003**

Premises licence number	LN/16074-300120	Date of original grant*	03 February 2016
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*\*An annual fee associated with this licence is to be paid on the anniversary of the original grant date.*

<b>Postal address of premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description</b>			
<b>ISLINGTON SPORTS BAR &amp; GRILL 274 – 276 HOLLOWAY ROAD</b>			
Post town	London	Post code	N7 6NE
Telephone number			

<b>Where the licence is time limited the dates</b> Not Applicable
--

<b>Licensable activities authorised by the licence</b> <b>Ground floor and basement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The provision of late night refreshment</li> <li>The sale by retail of alcohol</li> </ul>

<b>The times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities</b>																																																								
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<b>Gaming Machine Provision:</b> Not applicable
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**The opening hours of the premises:**

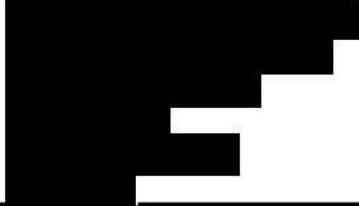
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Tuesday	10:00	to	00:30	the following day
Wednesday	10:00	to	00:30	the following day
Thursday	10:00	to	00:30	the following day
Friday	10:00	to	00:30	the following day
Saturday	10:00	to	00:30	the following day
Sunday	10:00	to	00:30	the following day

**Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and/or off supplies**

On and off supplies

**Name, (registered) address, telephone number and e-mail (where relevant) of holder of premises licence**

Welch Consultants Limited,

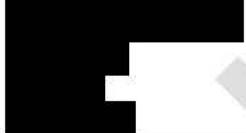


**Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable)**

07346797

**Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol**

Mr John Charles Phelan



**Personal licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol**



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Public Protection Division  
222 Upper Street  
London  
N1 1XR  
T: 020 7527 3031  
E: [licensing@islington.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@islington.gov.uk)

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Service Manager (Commercial)

---

Date of Issue

## **Annex 1 - Mandatory conditions**

1. No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence:
  - a) at a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, or
  - b) at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended.
2. Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.
3. All door supervisors shall be licensed by the Security Industry Authority.
4. The admission of children to the exhibition of a film shall be restricted in accordance with the recommendation of a film classification body as defined in the Video Recordings Act 1984 or Islington Council acting as the licensing authority where it has given notice in section 20(3) of the Licensing Act 2003.

There are further 'Mandatory conditions' applicable to licences authorising the supply of alcohol. A full list of the current mandatory conditions is available from the licensing pages on Islington's web site, [www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk). This list is subject to change by order of the Secretary of State and licensees and other responsible persons are advised to ensure they are aware of the latest conditions.

## **Annex 2 - Conditions consistent with the Operating Schedule**

1. Off sales shall not be permitted after 11pm
2. Sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises shall only be made when ancillary to the purchase of a main meal to take away, and only up to a maximum of four beers of 330ml or a single 750ml bottle of wine per order.
3. Regarding all off sales by way of delivery from telephone/internet orders, the following will be adhered to.
  - a) Couriers will be trained on relevant aspects of the Licensing Act 2003 including underage sales, sales to a person who is drunk, obtaining alcohol for a child or a person who is drunk and delivering alcohol to someone under the age of 18.
  - b) Any person taking an order for the supply of alcohol on behalf of the premises licence holder will inform all customers that proof of age by way of photographic driving licence, passport or a form of identification with the PASS hologram will be required before alcohol is supplied.
  - c) The licensee shall ensure that any delivery service employed to facilitate the delivery of alcohol, as an ancillary to a food order, has an adequate proof of age scheme in place, such as the Challenge 25 scheme, to be undertaken at the point of delivery to any customer.
4. In the event that any assault, serious crime or disorder is, or appears to have been, committed on the premises, the management will arrange upon becoming aware of it that:
  - (a) The police (and, where appropriate, the London Ambulance Service) are called without unreasonable delay
  - (b) Where staff consider it safe to do so, all reasonable measures are taken to apprehend any suspect pending the arrival of the police
  - (c) Where it is noted that police attendance will occur, any crime scene is preserved until the arrival of police, so as to enable a full forensic investigation to be carried out by the police
  - (d) Such other measures are taken, as far as is reasonably practicable, to fully protect the safety of all persons present on the premises.
5. An incident log shall be kept at the premises, and made available on request to the police or an authorised officer, which will record the following
  - (a) All crimes reported to the venue
  - (b) Any complaints received

- (c) Any incidents of disorder
- (d) Any faults in the CCTV system
- (e) Any visit known to (or brought to the attention of), the management, by a relevant authority or emergency service
- (f) Any and all ejections of patrons
- (g) Any and all seizures of drugs or offensive weapons
- (h) Any refusal of the sale of alcohol

6. The holder of the premises licence shall participate fully in the local pub watch scheme.
7. CCTV shall be installed, operated and maintained, at all times that the premises is open for licensable activities, so as to comply with the following criteria:
  - (a) The licensee will ensure that the system is checked every week to ensure that the system is working properly and that the date and time are correct. A record of these checks, showing the date and name of the person checking, shall be kept and made available to Police or authorised Council officers on request, subject to meeting the tests contained within the Data Protection Act 1998
  - (b) The Police must be informed if the licence holder becomes aware that said system will not be operating for longer than one day of business for any reason
  - (c) One camera will show a close-up of the entrance to the premises
  - (d) The system will provide full coverage of the publicly accessible interior of the premises (excluding the toilet areas), and any exterior part of the premises accessible to the public
  - (e) The system shall record in real time and recordings will be date and time stamped
  - (f) Recordings will be kept for a minimum of 31 days and downloaded footage will be provided free of charge to Police or authorised Council officers on request (subject to the Data Protection Act 1998) within 24 hours of any request
  - (g) At all times when the premises are open for licensable activities, there will be a person on the premises who can operate the system sufficiently to allow Police or authorised Council officers to view footage on request and to supply a copy of footage immediately to Police to assist with the immediate investigation of an offence
8. Staff shall carry out routine patrols to monitor customer behaviour and ensure all customer litter is removed. A member of staff shall be tasked with monitoring customer dispersal at closing time to encourage customers to leave quietly and not to loiter in the vicinity
9. The highway and public spaces in the vicinity of the premises shall be kept free of litter from the premises at all material times. All litter and sweepings shall be collected and stored in accordance with the approved refuse storage arrangements
10. Clear and prominent signage will be displayed on the premises advising patrons of the following:
  - (a) That CCTV is in operation
  - (b) That Challenge 25 Age Verification is in operation
  - (c) That thieves operate in the area and patrons should be vigilant, safeguard their belongings, and report any concerns to the venue management.
11. All exit routes shall be kept unobstructed, with non-slippery and even surfaces, free of trip hazards and clearly identified
12. Notices shall be prominently displayed at any area used for smoking requesting patrons to respect the needs of local residents and use the area quietly
13. Refuse must be placed into receptacles outside the premises at times that will minimise the disturbance to nearby properties
14. The premises will operate the Challenge 25 proof of age scheme. Only suitable forms of photographic identification, such as passport or UK driving licence, or holographically marked PASS scheme cards, will be accepted.
15. The licensee shall ensure that staff are trained about age restricted products and ensure that they sign to confirm that they have understood the training. The licensee shall keep records of training and instruction given to staff

16. All staff training records shall be kept readily available on the premises for inspection by the Licensing Authority and Police.
17. The licensee shall train and instruct the management and staff to prevent the admission of, and promote the orderly departure of:
  - a) Any persons who appear to be drunk or disorderly
  - b) Any persons displaying signs of other substance abuse
18. The front windows of the premises shall be clear and transparent, without any form of concealing film or curtain, so as to allow an unobstructed view of the interior from the street.
19. On days when Arsenal Football Club are playing at home:
  - a) There shall be a minimum of two SIA licenced security staff on duty at the premises from 4hrs before kick-off until closure. Said members of SIA staff shall be clearly identifiable, in every case wearing suitable high visibility clothing and with SIA accreditation clearly and openly displayed
  - b) There shall be no alcohol sales in glass containers at any time. All sales will be supplied in plastic receptacles, and any bottled drinks will be decanted into a suitable receptacle.
  - c) A risk assessment shall be undertaken by the management for every upcoming matchday to consider the need for an uplift in SIA provision and any other measure deemed relevant. Said assessment will take account of any advice offered by the police and security company engaged in relation to that particular game, as well as the licensees own knowledge of the profile of any persons likely to attend the venue during that matchday. Said assessment will be recorded in a suitable log and made available to the police and local authority upon reasonable request.
  - d) There shall be a minimum of one personal licence holder on duty at the premises whilst open for licensable activities.
  - e) The venue may not open before midday on the date of any Football League Designated Football Match played within the boundaries of the M25 unless otherwise agreed with the Metropolitan Police Licensing Team, Metropolitan Police Football Unit, and Local Authority.
20. A register shall be maintained recording all SIA door supervisors employed at the premises. This register shall include, in clear and legible text:
  - a) Full name
  - b) SIA badge number
  - c) Agency worked for
  - d) Shift start date and time
  - e) Shift finish date and time.
21. Staff shall carry out routine patrols to monitor customer behavior and a member of staff shall be tasked with monitoring customer dispersal at closing time to encourage customers to leave quietly and not to loiter in the vicinity.
22. The total number of persons (to include customers, staff, performers etc.), on the premises shall not in any circumstances exceed the number determined on the current fire risk assessment. This figure may be amended with the approval of the London Fire Brigade. On match days and any other days when the management anticipate approaching capacity a suitable clicker or other monitoring system shall be employed to ensure compliance.
23. Staff engaged in alcohol sales shall be trained in the promotion of the licensing objectives.
24. Noise or vibration must not emanate from the premises so as to cause a nuisance to nearby properties.
25. The sound insulation properties of the premises must be maintained and kept in good order.
26. Prominent, clear and legible notices must be displayed at all exits requesting the public to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and the area quietly.

27. The licensee shall appoint a noise consultant registered with the Institute of Acoustics or Association of Noise Consultants to prepare a scheme of sound insulation and noise control measures, which may include the installation of a noise I limiting device, to prevent persons in the neighborhood from being unreasonably disturbed by noise of music from the premises.
28. The scheme shall be submitted for approval by the Council, and the approved scheme fully implemented to the satisfaction of the Council and the licensee notified in writing accordingly, prior to the premises being used for regulated entertainment.
29. Upon completion of the above survey, the premises Licence shall include the maximum sound levels permitted at the premises to the satisfaction of the Pollution Team. The maximum sound levels quoted on the premises Licence shall replace the above condition.
30. All amplified voices and music played within the premises shall be subject to the control of an entertainment noise control system. All pre-recorded music played through the in-house music system shall be controlled by an automatic electronic noise limiting device which restricts the sound system output to below pre-set threshold levels. All music from live bands, or DJs utilising their own amplification equipment, shall be controlled by a continual music noise level monitoring device which cuts the power supply to the sound system if a pre-set threshold is exceeded.
31. The entertainment noise control system shall be monitored, checked and calibrated as necessary, so that the levels approved by the Council, are not exceeded.
32. The entertainment noise control system shall be located in a secure, lockable cupboard or similar location. It is to be independent of control by persons other than the licensee. Access to the entertainment noise control system is to be restricted to the Licensee or a designated manager.
33. In the event of any changes to the position of the speakers and distribution of sound, the limiter shall be recalibrated and the new calibration certificate shall be sent to the Licensing team for file.
34. Doors and windows to the premises will be kept closed, so far as practicable, at all times when noise generating entertainment is taking place i.e. live and recorded music.
35. No collections of waste or recycling materials (including bottles) from the premises shall take place between (23.00) and (08.00) on the following day.
36. No deliveries to the premises shall take place between (23.00) and (08.00) on the following day.
37. Any outside furniture shall be rendered unusable from 23.00 hours until the commencement of the next day's trading
38. The contact telephone number for the premises Licence holder/designated premises supervisor/duty manager shall be displayed inside the premises or immediately outside the premises such that it is clearly visible from outside without the need to enter the premises.
39. Noise and/or Odour from any flue used for the dispersal of cooking smells serving the building shall not cause nuisance to the occupants of any properties in the vicinity.
40. In the event of a noise complaint substantiated by authorised officers, the licensee shall reduce all levels of amplified sound until such works are carried out to contain

- sound and re-assess sound levels at the premises to the satisfaction of the Pollution Team.
42. The licensee shall develop a Noise Management and Dispersal Policy to control noise coming from the venue, including people noise, and to control noise from customers either congregating outside or leaving the area.
43. The Noise Management and Dispersal Policy shall be agreed with the Council's Licensing Authority and be reviewed and revised periodically or after incidences to ensure that public nuisance is prevented from recurring.

**Annex 3 - Conditions attached after a hearing by the licensing authority**

Not applicable

**Annex 4 – Plans**

Reference Number: 0041SBG

Licence

**Licensing Authority Representation  
Licensing Act 2003 – Premises Licence Review**

**Premises: ISLINGTON SPORTS BAR AND GRILL  
274-276 HOLLOWAY ROAD, N7 6NE**

**Licensee: Welch Consultants Limited  
Premises Licence number: LN/16074-300120**

**Applicant: Metropolitan Police Service**

I am submitting a representation on behalf of the Licensing Authority in support of the application for a Premises Licence Review submitted by the Metropolitan Police Service. This representation relates to the prevention of crime and disorder, promotion of public safety and prevention of public nuisance licensing objectives.

**Background**

The licensed premises is on the ground floor of the property, with residential properties above. The premises have been licensed since prior to the Licensing Act 2003, although ownership, activities and the trading name have changed on a number of occasions.

The current licence holder, Welch Consultants Limited has held the premises licence since 19 November 2018, when the Transfer of the licence was successfully granted.

An application to vary the Designated premises Supervisor (DPS) was made at the same time and [REDACTED] became the DPS.

At the time of the transfer the premises was licensed as a restaurant and take away, with conditions relating to alcohol only being provided with substantial meals.

On 18 March 2019, an application was granted to vary the DPS to [REDACTED]. The premises licence was still subject to conditions relating to operation as a restaurant.

On 2 October 2019, Mr John Charles Phelan was made the DPS on the premises licence.

The premises is licensed for the sale by retail of alcohol on and off the premises from 10am to midnight each day.

**The review application**

This review application presents the recent history at the premises, citing offences involving violence and intoxication of customers and staff, non-compliance with covid 19 restrictions and non-compliance with the premises licence conditions.

The Licensing Authority served a Coronavirus Improvement Notice on the licensees dated 29/4/21, for contravening the restriction regulations by allowing customers to stand drinking in the seating area and in areas adjacent to the premises on 23/4/21.

The management also attended a meeting on 29/4/21 with the Council's Service Director Jan Hart with Police and Licensing officers to discuss the persistent non-compliance with covid regulations. They also discussed amending the premises licence to add additional conditions for match and event days and to remove any conditions no longer relevant.

These conditions had been suggested and given to the licensees in a meeting on 22/4/20 with the Service Director and Police, after the events documented on the FA Cup Final day and after the Licensing Authority had served a Prohibition Notice on the licensees for contravention of Covid 19 lockdown restrictions on 7/4/20.

On 8/5/21, Licensing and Police attended a meeting at the premises to work through suitable conditions for the licence suggested by Police. To date no applications to vary conditions on the licence has been made.

The Timeline of Events provided with the application raises serious concerns about the management of these premises, the safety of the public and staff, the high levels of anti-social behaviour and intoxication.

There have been frequent attempts by the Licensing Authority and Police to deal with the serious issues at the premises, including several meetings between the Police, Council and licensees. The Licensing Service is concerned that without robust measures in place, including competent and able management, further serious incidents will occur.

#### **Licensing Policy considerations:**

The following Policies, determined by the Licensing Authority as being appropriate to promote the licensing objectives, are relevant to this application:

#### **Licensing Policy 8 - Management Standards**

#### **Licensing Policy 14 - Alcohol Induced Crime, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour**

#### **Licensing Policy 21 - Public Nuisance**

#### **Licensing Policy 22 - Noise Associated with Licensable Activities**

#### **Licensing Policy 29 - Review of Licensed Premises**

#### **Standards of Management:**

When assessing the licensee's ability to demonstrate a commitment to high standards of management the Licensing Authority will take into account whether the applicant or licensee:

- can demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of best practice
- has sought advice from the responsible authorities
- has implemented any advice that been given by the responsible authorities
- is able to understand verbal and written advice and legal requirements
- can demonstrate knowledge of the licensing objectives, relevant parts of the Licensing Policy and their responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003
- is able to run their businesses lawfully and in accordance with good business practices
- can demonstrate a track record of compliance with legal requirements

Where there is a history of non-compliance associated with the management of the premises, the Licensing Authority is unlikely to permit premises to continue to operate without further restrictions on review, unless there is evidence of significant improvement in management standards.

The Licensing Authority is committed to promoting high standards of management in all licenced premises and expects licensees to demonstrate this through their management practices. Experience indicates that where these requirements are not adhered to, the licensing objectives are likely to be undermined.

### **Review of Licensed Premises**

The Licensing Authority will apply the full range of powers available to it when a review of a premise licence becomes necessary, including:

- Restricting hours of operation
- Removing licensable activities from the premises licence
- Imposing additional conditions
- Require the removal of a designated premises supervisor
- Suspending a licence
- Revoking a licence.
- The Licensing Authority believes that the promotion of the licensing objectives are best achieved in an atmosphere of mutual co-operation between all stakeholders. Reviews are therefore mainly reserved for circumstances where early warnings of concerns and the need for improvement have gone unheeded by the management of the licensed premises.

### **Suggested conditions**

The Licensing Authority supports the recommendations put forward by the Metropolitan Police.

### **Recommendation**

The Licensing Authority has submitted this representation, having considered all the evidence presented by the Metropolitan Police and having reviewed the Licensing Service's records. It is recommended that the Licensing Committee consider the full options available under Section 52 of the Licensing Act. If the Committee are minded to modify the conditions of the licence, it is recommended that the suggested additional conditions presented in the application be given consideration.

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28/06/2021

Licensing Team  
Public Protection Division  
London Borough of Islington  
222 Upper Street  
London  
N1 1XR

30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Licensing Committee,

I am writing in relation to the current review of Islington Sports Bar and Grill's premises licence.

I note the Police have made a representation setting out how the premises fails to meet three out of the four Licensing Objectives set by the Council and has a long history of non-compliance with the terms of its licence. Clearly, a premises should only be allowed to retain a licence if this is compatible with meeting all Licensing Objectives. It is also worth noting that the venue is in one of Islington Council's Cumulative Impact Areas, which means the test should be even more stringent given the cumulative impact of the many other licensed premises in the local area.

In their representation against the venue, the Police state they have "significant concern around the operation in general and in particular the management/involvement of [REDACTED]". They present a long but non-exhaustive list of serious contraventions by the licensee of both the terms of its licence and in some cases the law, and add "Police have had countless interactions with the venue (i.e. via phone and email) beyond those listed in this submission". These contraventions include illegally serving people for many hours when clearly overly intoxicated, ignoring COVID regulations in the height of the pandemic, opening outside of licensed hours and failing to control violent fights.

This is all set against the backdrop of a pandemic in which all rule-abiding venues have made great sacrifices in restricting their operations and incurred costs to keep patrons and residents safe. However, Islington Sports Bar and Grill has chosen to ignore the rules and unfairly taken business from legitimate, well-managed venues in Islington. No doubt this has made them popular with their patrons who may not like restrictions on their drinking imposed by other venues, but it puts the safety of residents and the wider community at risk, is illegal and is not acceptable.

In summary, this is a venue that is chronically mismanaged, and has been since the licensee took over from the restaurant that was there previously. The Police state they have had several meetings with the co-owner and DPS of the venue to discuss their concerns and try to resolve the many issues with the mismanagement of the venue. However, the venue representatives refused to engage and "even questioned the mandatory conditions as stipulated in Annex 1 on the license". This demonstrates the licensee's contempt for the rules and, along with their many contraventions, demonstrates that they can be predicted to continue ignoring any conditions given to them.

With this in mind, I would like the Committee to consider whether the imposition of new conditions is likely to lead to a change in behaviour of the licensee or if something more robust is required, such

as revoking the premises licence. Given their long history of non-compliance, it would seem that allowing them to continue to operate sends them a message that all their contraventions are going unpunished – what incentive will they have to follow any new rules in future? And what consequences will they face when they inevitably ignore these new conditions? This very issue was raised last time the license was reviewed in May 2019, and the evidence of continued non-compliance speaks for itself.

I also note that, were the Committee to allow the venue to retain its licence in some form, that the Police recommend [REDACTED] be excluded from management at the venue, and not employed or involved in the operation in any capacity. [REDACTED] is certainly unfit to be involved in the management of a licensed venue – as well as getting heavily intoxicated and swearing at police as recorded in their representation, he also regularly shouts profanities and homophobic abuse at me and others as we enter and leave the front door of my home, as well as spitting at me in the street. However, I would like to understand how the Committees believe the Police's suggestion could work in practice, given he is not currently the DPS, but a co-owner of the business. Does the Committee have the power to force him to give up his stake in the operation, or ban him from entering the premises? If not, I don't understand what impact this recommendation will have. Again, what would be the punishment for inevitable future contravention?

Furthermore, during the timeline of gross violations set out by the Police and Licensing Team, the premises had a Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS), [REDACTED]. Given that the DPS is the person who has day-to-day responsibility for the licensed business, and he has overseen this terrible practice, I'd like to understand if he will be able to retain his role at the premises and his personal licence. And if so, how can this be justified given he has manifestly failed in his responsibilities? This matter is not directly addressed in the representation made by the Police.

Being a neighbour of this exceptionally mismanaged premises has been very challenging. Given the venue's management have clearly and consistently demonstrated their inability and unwillingness to follow conditions in their licence, I don't see how Islington's Licensing Objectives to be achieved if they are allowed to continue operating, even with additional conditions. The management of this venue have been given many, many chances to improve their behaviour and have rejected all of them. This has been going on for over two years and they will continue causing problems for the neighbourhood and community as long as they are allowed to operate. I request that the Committee takes action in line with their stated Licensing Objectives and sends a clear message that repeated violations will not be tolerated, which is best achieved by revoking the premises licence from this problematic non-compliant venue.

Many thanks for taking the time to consider this representation.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Dear Licensing Committee,

I am writing in relation to the review of the following licence:

Islington Sports Bar and Grill, 274 Holloway Road, N7 6NE  
LN/16074-300120

I am a neighbour of the premises within a residential property. I have noted the representation given by Islington Police Licensing Team and the timeline of non-compliance demonstrated in recent months but add that this issue is not a recent one. The premises has been a nuisance and non-compliant since the licensee took over the management. Within this representation, the Police state the view that the “venue management do not have proper control (either in general operation, or when incidents such as the ones highlighted above occur)” and “concerns that with the imminent further easing of the lockdown rules the premises will continue to generate incidents of crime and disorder”.

The management have consistently not adhered to their current licencing conditions or national COVID regulations around social distancing and that given specifically to licenced venues. It is chronically mismanaged, does not met the Licensing Objectives set by the Council and, within the current climate, has put local residents at increased risk of COVID-19, as well as taking a business advantage over those businesses who have continued to stringently follow the rules. Due to the incidents identified in the Police representation, the attitude of the management and abuse directed towards local residents, I have not felt safe living near this venue over the last year and the continued operation is detrimental to the local community. The timeline records the significant number of times the Police have met with the venue with no changes in management or behaviour.

Given the management have not been able to adhere to their current licencing conditions and their attitude towards Police or Council intervention, they have demonstrated that adding additional conditions will not result in any positive changes for the community, and instead the Committee should consider revoking the licence.

If these conditions are implemented, I would like to see the following questions answered:

- What consequences will the licensee face when any single one of these conditions are broken?
- How will the Council monitor compliance with these conditions? The Council cannot continue to rely on reports from local residents or Police intervention as this is not appropriate use of Police capacity, and this will possibly put local residents at risk to further abuse.
- How will this be communicated to local businesses and residents to demonstrate that breaking COVID regulations and licencing conditions will not be tolerated, if this venue is allowed to continue to operate in such a way?

Yours faithfully



# **ISLINGTON**

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## **COMMUNITY SPORTS ACADEMY**

**ADDRESS: 20 Hazellville Road, London, N19 3LP**

**WEBSITE: [www.islingtonboxingclub.org](http://www.islingtonboxingclub.org) EMAIL: [islingtonboxingclub@hotmail.com](mailto:islingtonboxingclub@hotmail.com) TELEPHONE: [REDACTED]**

**ISLINGTON BOXING CLUB IS AFFILIATED TO ENGLAND BOXING, LONDON BOXING and ESSEX BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

**HON. PRESIDENT: Mr. John Murphy**

**CEO: Mr. Lenny Hagland CLUB MANAGER: Mr. Reggie Hagland**

**HON. VICE PRESIDENTS: Mr. Bert Busby, Mr. George Mothersole, Mr. Alan Bignall, Mr. Gerard Smith, Mr. Patrick Berryman, Mr. Phil Parsons, Mr. Gerry McGovern, Mr. Peter Mara, Mr. Tim Witherspoon (Former WBA & WBC World Heavyweight Champion) & Mr. Richie Woodhall (Former WBC World Super-Middleweight Champion).**

**HON. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mick Doherty HON. VICE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Alex Howard HON. SECRETARY: Mr. Lenny Hagland**

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

### **To Whom it may Concern**

I am writing in support of the Islington Sports Bar and Grill, 274 Holloway Road, London N7 6NE for the reissuing of their public house licence.

Since the bar first opened, the owners have always been extremely supportive of Islington Community Sports Academy/Islington Boxing Club who are a registered Charity (Charity number 1146888). Upon opening, the management of the bar organised a fund-raising event in our favour, which raised much needed funding for the Charity. They have on a regular basis (pre Covid-19 Pandemic) hosted and allowed us to hold our Prize Giving Events on their premises with no additional cost to the Charity, they also provide the buffet for the evening at their cost. We have also held our Committee meetings on site, where a section of the bar has been cordoned off for us and snacks provided, again at no additional cost to the Charity.

Many of our members make use of the bar when there are televised boxing events, they feel that they can watch the event in a calm, relaxed, friendly and safe atmosphere. I have personally used the bar on numerous occasions, especially when Arsenal are playing at home or they are televised. I feel safe in the knowledge that there is a high level of security on the doors to ensure that persons deemed troublesome are not permitted entry. Although as in the majority of Public Houses, lowlifes do on occasion try to gain access and bring the bar into disrepute. I have never personally witnessed any disturbances whilst being on the premises, nor to my knowledge have any of my close family and friends.

I feel it is quite vindictive to attempt to withdraw their licence after they have worked tirelessly to keep the bar going with all restrictions met. It has been a very difficult period of time for them and obviously at stages all clientele being required to use the limited space outside the bar due to restrictions. This will have caused a possible nuisance, which has now been eradicated due to the restrictions being lifted and the bar now being able to use inside their premises.

Yours faithfully

  
Lenny Hagland  
CEO, Islington Boxing Club

23 JUN 2021

20<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Licensing Team

Public Protection Division

222 Upper Street

London

N1 1XR

To Whom it may concern,

It with great surprise that I came across a notice attached to a lamp post outside my local bar in Holloway Road, Islington Sports Bar & Grill indicating that the police have asked the local council to hold a review of the licence of this particular establishment..

I have been frequenting this bar ever since it has opened & have always found it to be a friendly, welcoming, extremely well run place to visit. Even when the recent COVID restrictions were lifted to allow pubs to open up outside, only a few pubs in the borough did so. Islington Sports Bar & Grill was one of those who did, even though I very much doubt that it was financially viable. However in doing so it provided myself & many others the opportunity to have some social interaction, a pleasure that had been absent from our lives after months of isolation in lockdown. I certainly welcomed that decision despite the fact that bar has very little outside space available. It demonstrated the importance of the bar to the local community.

I was then astounded when within a matter of days when pubs reopened inside that Islington Council revoked Islington Sports Bar & Grill's pavement licence. Surely this was a misconceived decision as Government advice was encouraging mixing outside. It also seemed very unfair that once we received some sunshine that this facility was no longer available to its patrons, however it was when we endured wind & rain in the 5 weeks

before!

On this notice displayed outside the bar it is stated the reason for the review relates to the licensing objectives of

- Crime & Disorder
- Public Safety
- Prevention of Public Nuisance

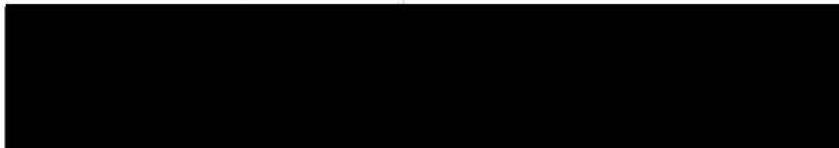
Regarding Crime & Disorder I have never seen or experienced any instances of this in all my time in this establishment, indeed if it was evident then it would not be a place that I would be frequenting.

Regarding Public Safety, I can categorically state that I always feel secure in this bar & that COVID regulations are adhered to and security of patrons is always paramount .

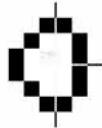
Regarding Public Nuisance, I cannot see the relevance of this being mentioned as I have never witnessed any evidence of it at this establishment.

Indeed John, Mick, Alex & all the team should be commended on the service they provide to the local community.

Yours Sincerely



Cc Islington Sports Bar & Grill

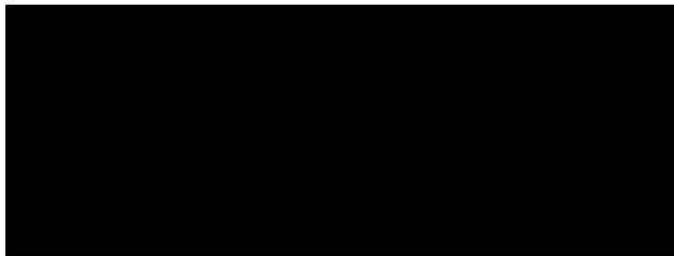


24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Islington Sports Bar & Grill Licence Review**

To Whom it may concern,

On 24/25 May 2021 I was in the Islington Sports Bar and Grill having a drink with a few friends, at this there where a few people from the Irish travelling community in attendance and they were very boisterous. During this time there were a few heated words between the staff and these customers, but I wasn't quite sure what it was about. At approximately just after midnight police attended the bar in response to a call from the staff. When they arrived I was aware the co-owner was there and we were in conversation. As far as I was aware there had been no violence or trouble inside the bar. As police were assisting the staff to eject the customers, the co-owner was in conversation with a police officer. In my opinion the officer did not assess the situation very well and was being quite hostile on arrival and was dismissive of the efforts of the bar staff. All the time I was in the bar myself, the staff and the co-owner were trying to keep the atmosphere civil as the travelling community customers were being obnoxious. I, myself was the brunt of some racist 'banter'. I will categorically state that the staff/co-owner were doing their utmost to curtail the situation and I thought the staff were correct in seeking the assistance of the police to remove the customers. If I can assist any further, please do not hesitate to call me as an independent witness/customer.

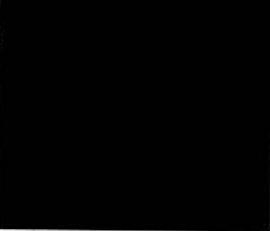


23 JUN 2021

Islington Sports Bar and Grill  
274 Holloway Road

To : Licencing Team  
Public Protection Division  
222 Upper Street  
London, N1 1XR

From:



Sir / Madam,

I am the above named person, and live at the address above, I am also the Caretaker for The Ramsay Scout Centre, 319 Holloway Road, London, N7 9FU, and have held this position since April 2016.

Prior to this I was employed as a Police Officer for 29 years, specialising in Public Order, Counter Terrorism and CCTV. I am also a qualified Health and Safety Union Branch representative.

I live and work directly opposite The Islington Sports Bar and Grill.

I have seen many customers utilise the premises, always adhering to the licencing hours, never causing any un-necessary noise, or damage, and have seen well organised football fans on many football event days, with a large capacity of customers, and a compliant quantities of employed security officials, regulating the numbers within.

I have watched this local business grow, and make vast improvements to their establishment, in order to expand their clientele within the local community.

Re-decoration, soundproofing, refurbished the toilets, established a clean and effective kitchen (which produces high quality food), and given employment to local people.

I have a care for the young people using The Ramsay Scout Centre, and not once have I ever had to warn them about The Islington Sports Bar and Grill, nor any unscrupulous persons within, and if any young person was fearful of their safety, I would recommend them to go there for help and a safe place to be.

I have only seen police there in numbers, as they were escorting a load of visiting football fans and that was the premises which were solely used to contain the football fans for a short refreshment.

I cannot understand the justification of reviewing their licence, as there seems no evidence to say so, as I find it a friendly place, showing a variety of differing sports on different large television screens, it is a clean venue with friendly staff and really good food.



Regards





30 JUL 2021

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

Licensing Team  
Public Protection Division  
222 Upper Street  
London  
N1 1XR

Dear Sirs

**Re: Islington Sports Bar**

Islington Sports Bar is a very welcoming, Covid-safe and well run pub. Mask wearing, hand sanitising and social distancing is meticulously enforced, unlike any other pub I have visited in London.

Islington Sports Bar & Grill should be held-up as a template to all customer facing businesses, as one of excellent work practice and customer safety. They should be applauded for their work and commitment.

As a patron of the pub, I have witnessed visits from Islington licensing team very frequently. This is in fact so commonplace, that it appears to me, to have crossed the line into harassment.

Why has this premises had its pavement licence removed during a health emergency? Government and scientific advice is clear- we are encouraged to mix and socialise outdoors, for the safety of everyone.

This pub and its customers are suffering as a result of a seemingly toxic culture of bullying and unnecessary visits from licensing and police authorities. There is undoubtedly a heavy-handed, bureaucratic approach to these visits. It's there for all to see first-hand and ruins the experience as a customer.

The victims here are the staff, the operators and also us, the customers. We have all had a hellish year; we need to support local businesses such as this one, allow them to recover huge financial losses, and ultimately allow them to flourish, once more.

Islington Sports Bar & Grill is a young business which has been unable to open its doors (at least, not fully) for well over a year, due to Covid restrictions. I can only imagine how prohibitive and stressful the overhead costs have been to the owners during this time. They have managed to keep things going when so many others have folded. This business needs help from the council, with support and encouragement. Whereas, on the contrary, it simply receives a string of deliberately onerous demands and energy-sapping restrictions. Why is this business being victimised unlike any other in the area? In fact, most shops and bars that sell alcohol in Islington do not even challenge the numerous customers that enter without a mask.

Until recently, I lived in Islington and still have a family home within the borough. I have frequented bars, restaurants and pubs over many years and have never experienced a member of the council's licensing team visit whilst I'm on site. In stark contrast, Islington Sports Bar receives intimidating visits almost every time I am there. Why are they being put out to dry? Never has there been any instance of trouble or problem when I am there, and the suggestion that the pub is "a public nuisance" is absolute tripe. I visit the pub with my partner, and we are made to feel part of the fabric and very much at home. An independent, small business, that attracts sports-loving people to the area, should be rewarded, not killed off!

The landlord Michael Doherty is the most welcoming, charming and community-minded man. He opened the doors of the bar to train healthcare professionals to administer coronavirus tests; how many other bars and pubs offered this support to the community, during the height of the pandemic?

Furthermore, Islington Sports Bar, has been a haven for sports loving local people to enjoy watching Arsenal FC. I would question why the relevant authorities have not subjected any other local pub to a review of licence? I urge you to help them; not ruin them and their business.

There seems to be a desire to 'cancel' this type of bar - a traditional bar for working class men and women to enjoy sport and socialise. Many of these people would often be home alone, without this type of place in the community. It is a home from home for so many, and integral to its patrons' good mental health. This bar allows local people to socialise and avoid loneliness at home. These places are becoming fewer and fewer, with pubs closing each week, leaving their patrons with nowhere to go.

I urge you to assist and look after hubs of the community, such as Islington Sports Bar. The review of the premises' licence, should in my mind, find in favour of the operators and take into account the points I have addressed in this letter.

Please feel free to contact me, should you have any further questions. I look forward to receiving your speedy response to my questions raised in this letter.

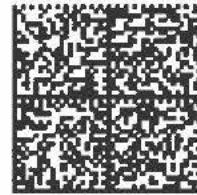
Yours sincerely

30 JUL 2021

Licensing Team  
Public Protection Division  
222 Upper Street.  
London  
N1 1XR.

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S  
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# **ISLINGTON**

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## **COMMUNITY SPORTS ACADEMY**

**ADDRESS: 20 Hazellville Road, London, N19 3LP**

**WEBSITE: [www.islingtonboxingclub.org](http://www.islingtonboxingclub.org) EMAIL: [islingtonboxingclub@hotmail.com](mailto:islingtonboxingclub@hotmail.com) TELEPHONE: 07920 280 230 / 07786 080 885**

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**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021**

### **To Whom it may Concern**

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Since the bar first opened, the owners have always been extremely supportive of Islington Community Sports Academy/Islington Boxing Club who are a registered Charity (Charity number 1146888). Upon opening, the management of the bar organised a fund-raising event in our favour, which raised much needed funding for the Charity. They have on a regular basis (pre Covid-19 Pandemic) hosted and allowed us to hold our Prize Giving Events on their premises with no additional cost to the Charity, they also provide the buffet for the evening at their cost. We have also held our Committee meetings on site, where a section of the bar has been cordoned off for us and snacks provided, again at no additional cost to the Charity.

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I feel it is quite vindictive to attempt to withdraw their licence after they have worked tirelessly to keep the bar going with all restrictions met. It has been a very difficult period of time for them and obviously at stages all clients being required to use the limited space outside the bar due to restrictions. This will have caused a possible nuisance, which has now been eradicated due to the restrictions being lifted and the bar now being able to use inside their premises.

Yours faithfully,



Alcohol and Entertainment Licences,  
Islington Council,  
222 Upper Street,  
London N1 1XR



Via email only: [licensing@islington.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@islington.gov.uk)

28<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**RE: Notice of Application for Review of a Premises Licence— Islington Sports Bar**

To whom it may concern,

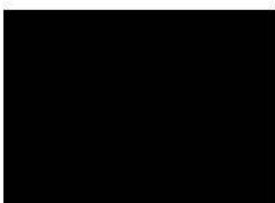
In what has been a turbulent year for the hospitality industry at large, I was incredibly dismayed to learn that the above application has been made in relation to a bar that I have been a regular customer in since its foundation. I have spent a long time trying to capture in words what a great place the Sports Bar is and what it means to me and to the community it serves and represents, and I hope that the below manages to do some justice to it.

As young woman, I take my personal safety in pubs and bars very seriously. I have had countless bad experiences in other bars in the area, but I can assure you that at no point have I ever felt so much as slightly concerned or ill at ease when drinking in the Sports Bar. Everyone at the bar, from the management down to the staff, has always made me feel welcomed and entirely safe when I have been there. The staff and ownership regularly go above and beyond what could reasonably be expected of them, for example by insisting on booking and paying for my taxis home whenever I am out late by myself. It is a rare privilege to be able to leave my house in the evening to go to a bar where I know with certainty that I will be treated with respect and kindness and be shown the utmost care and diligence with regards to my own safety and peace of mind.

Like all bars in the immediate vicinity of the Emirates, the Sports Bar attracts a spirited fan base on Arsenal match days. The atmosphere in the bar on big occasions is lively and passionate, but it saddens me to hear that this is misconstrued as anything other than a credit to the bar, which always remains well managed and under control. I have witnessed first-hand how John and the staff deal with any excessive noise swiftly, professionally, and efficiently. I have seen how rival fans come together to drink and enjoy their day out. I cannot understand how taking away the licence of the bar would serve the interests of preventing public nuisance; it would simply be to take away a place where sports fans can come together to support their teams and each other, and to move them along to some of the other non-independent bars along the high street.

In the relatively short period of time that the Islington Sports Bar has existed, it has already become a firm pillar of its local community. From its patronage of local charities, to showcasing local artists' work, the Sports Bar consistently shows itself to care deeply about the community and the people it serves. To take away their licence would mean to deprive myself and so many others in the area of somewhere that feels like home.

Yours faithfully,



07 JUL 2021

26 June, 2021,

Cllr. Ms. Kaya Comer-Schwarz,  
Leader of Islington Council  
222 Upper STREET,  
London,  
NW1 1XR,

CC: 1. Ms. Lingzi ROBERTS-EGAN  
Islington Council Chief Executive

2. Mr. Keith Townsend  
Corporate Director  
Environment

3. Mr. Stephen Biggs  
Director,  
Community Wealth Building

4. The Management  
The licencing Team  
Public Protection Division  
222 Upper STREET  
London,  
NW1 1XR.

Dear Ms. Kaya Camer-Schwartz,

Re: The Management  
the Licensing Team  
Public Protection Division  
222 Queen Street,  
London, W1 1XR,

I was totally shocked and amazed to learn that the Management Team of the Licensing Team of the Public Protection Division decided arbitrarily, prior to any public consultation, to rescind the permission/licence of the Shingston Sports Bar & Grill to use its foot space as it had requested before its socio-commercial benefit of all its local patrons and the thorough clientele.

I wish to stress as a matter of Public Record that I and my fellow community residents are appalled at this decision in such a high handed manner, to deprive our community of which the Shingston Sports Bar & Gr. N. is an integral part of the one venue where we can socialize in total protection and communal harmony so that offered by Mr. Nick Doherty and the Management Team of one highly esteemed sports bar & grill which provides an all inclusive amiable environment.

It is important that you should know that the Shingston Sports Bar & Grill in far much more than an impersonal up-market, yuppie watering hole as it has all the characteristics of a traditional English Pub which caters for the community needs.

As far as we are concerned everyone is welcomed, one and good community, Neighbors Team which is a direct result of Mr. Doherty's friendly and amiable management processes

31  
I, for one, have found Mr. Doherty and his goodly wife, Mary, to be people of the highest moral repute and full of willingness to help those in need of succour as was wont in my case.

Loneliness, depression and despair resulting from Covid-19 very nearly drove me to contemplate suicide but thanks to Mr Doherty I was able to overcome these negative thoughts. I am proud to call Mr Doherty a friend, say, family. I found sitting out with friends very soul uplifting and was able in that environment to put my troubles away and to look forward to a brighter future.

I must add that Mr. Doherty, without asking, provided the Pub as a venue, free of charge for me to stage my first ever Community Arts exhibition. He conducted all the publicity at no cost to me. We are in the process of encouraging the Pub to become a venue for local Poets throughout Islington to give public recitations of their poems on a regular basis.

The Pub has always adhered to all the Covid-19 restrictions and I have never witnessed any anti-social behaviours which could remotely be regarded as threatening regarding the permits and/or licences for the Pub to conduct its legitimate business on the facecourt, which per all intents and purposes is an extension of the Pub. The facecourt should be viewed as an integral part & asset of the Pub.

In conclusion, I find the attitude of the Officers of the Licensing Team towards the Islington Sports Bar + Grill and its staff bordering on victimization, extreme heavy-handedness in preventing the community access to one of its most successful venues. It has this bar should serve as the model for all bars in Islington and be praised for its inspiring example.

Yours sincerely  
Peace & Love

23 JUN 2021

22nd June 2021

To Licensing Team, Public Protection Division

I run the Euro Cafe next door to Islington Sports Bar and Grill along with my wife [REDACTED] we have always had a very good neighbourly relationship with the manager John, Mick, Alex and all the bar staff at this bar. We sometimes take in deliveries for the bar when they are not yet open and likewise they do the very same for us when we close in the afternoon. They are indeed good neighbours.

It has been brought to my attention that their premises licence is to be reviewed by the council in the coming weeks on the grounds of crime and disorder, public safety and public nuisance. This I find to be unbelievable as I in all my time as a neighbour have never witnessed any instances that would provoke such a review on any of these grounds. I have always seen this bar run in a very organised manner fully obiding by recent COVID regulations. These are very difficult times for us in the hospitality sector, we have endured months of closure followed by restrictions which curtail our trade and potential earnings, whilst we are still liable for rent on our premises. Since opening and spending a significant amount on refurbishing their premises the sports bar has had no amount of luck prior to recent COVID closures, they were shut for 3 months the summer before last to carry out soundproofing as instructed by the council. It seems very unjust that more restrictions may be placed upon this business as a result of this council review.

In the last few weeks their pavement licence was revoked, we fully understand how vital this facility is to business in the summer months. I hope that the Licensing team will take note of the many supporters of the sports bar and not place further restrictions on their ability to survive these very difficult times. They are good people and deserve a chance to make a success of their business, this community would be a poorer place without their presence.

Yours Faithfully  
[REDACTED]



09/06/2021

Dear Sirs,

**RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE  
ISLINGTON SPORTS BAR 274 HOLLOWAY ROAD**

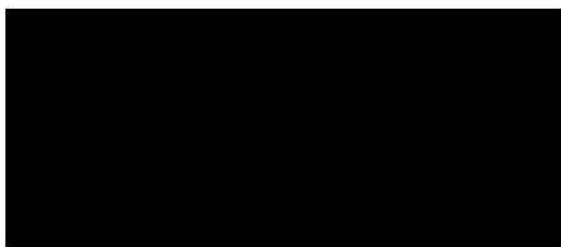
I refer to the above which has been posted on a lamp post near the Premises.

I both reside near the location and frequent the above Premises. On no occasion have I witnessed anything which I would consider:

- a) Was an issue to Public Safety
- b) To be a Public Nuisance
- c) To be a Criminal or Disorderly activity

Moreover, as a person who lives on their own it has been a difficult time during the past year or so. However, when it has been able to do so, the Islington Sports Bar has been one of the few places open where I could meet up legally with friends who are in a similar position to myself and thus help us to have some normality in our lives.

Yours faithfully



Date 22/6/21

Re Islington Sports Bar  
274 Holloway Road  
N76NE  
License Review

Dear Sir/Madam

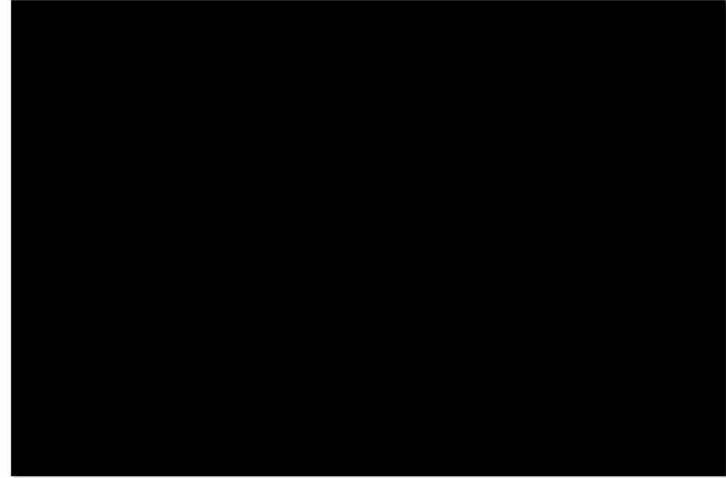
I am writing to praise the Islington Sports Bar and Grill which provides the area with a friendly and welcoming establishment which caters for a very diverse clientele. It is a favourite for many of the local pensioners, male and female who enjoy food and refreshments whilst following the many different sports that the bar shows daily on its many screens. It is also a popular meeting point for the match going Arsenal fans on a regular basis. The food supplied by the Islington is very popular throughout the day, with a varied and competitively priced menu. Since it opened it has had to deal with many issues including the pandemic but has always come back strong and made their customers the number one priority. I have always enjoyed the welcome and service supplied by this establishment and believe it has become a very important part of the neighbourhood and I speak as one of many who believe it deserves the chance to get on its feet again and continue to serve the community young and old and provide the service that they already do professionally.

I hope you will look with favour for The Islington Bar and Grill to continue with its licence in its current form as I believe it is an excellent asset to Holloway Road and the wider community.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

RE =  
ISLINGTON  
SPORTS BAR

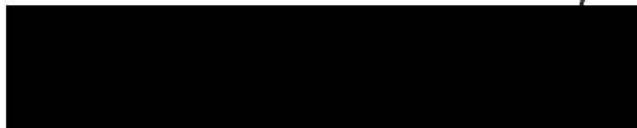


To

LICKING TEAM

I BEEN GOING TO THE  
ISLINGTON SPORTS BAR SINCE IT  
OPENED AND FOUND IT VERY  
WELL RUN A VERY PROFESSIONAL  
ESTABLISHMENT. I HAVE NEVER  
SEEN ANY TROUBLE AND AN  
ALL ROUND RELAXING ATMOSPHERE  
ALSO THE STAFF I FOUND VERY  
HELPFUL AND CATER FOR ALL  
CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS  
THIS SPORTS BAR IS A MUST  
FOR THE AREA FOR NICE DRINKS  
AND GREAT PUB FOOD

THANKYOU



**LICENSING NOTICE**  
**ISLINGTON SPORTS BAR**

I have seen the sign outside the Islington Sports Bar and would like to make the following comments:

Firstly, I have frequented the Bar many times since it opened after lockdown and I have always found it friendly and welcoming. Indeed, I have spent many a happy time with the people who work and go there.

Secondly, as a vulnerable person living alone, I have found the rules applied in the Bar made me feel a lot safer than many other establishments I have gone into.

Lastly, I am not aware of any of the instances that have been highlighted in the notice.

Regards,



# **ISLINGTON**

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## **COMMUNITY SPORTS ACADEMY**

**ADDRESS: 20 Hazellville Road, London, N19 3LP**

**WEBSITE: [www.islingtonboxingclub.org](http://www.islingtonboxingclub.org) EMAIL: [islingtonboxingclub@hotmail.com](mailto:islingtonboxingclub@hotmail.com) TELEPHONE: 07920 280 230 / 07786 080 885**

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I am writing in support of the Islington Sports Bar and Grill, 274 Holloway Road, London N7 6NE for the reissuing of their public house licence.

Since the bar first opened, the owners have always been extremely supportive of Islington Community Sports Academy/Islington Boxing Club who are a registered Charity (Charity number 1146888). Upon opening, the management of the bar organised a fund-raising event in our favour, which raised much needed funding for the Charity. They have on a regular basis (pre Covid-19 Pandemic) hosted and allowed us to hold our Prize Giving Events on their premises with no additional cost to the Charity, they also provide the buffet for the evening at their cost. We have also held our Committee meetings on site, where a section of the bar has been cordoned off for us and snacks provided, again at no additional cost to the Charity.

Many of our members make use of the bar when there are televised boxing events, they feel that they can watch the event in a calm, relaxed, friendly and safe atmosphere. I have personally used the bar on numerous occasions, especially when Arsenal are playing at home or they are televised. I feel safe in the knowledge that there is a high level of security on the doors to ensure that persons deemed troublesome are not permitted entry. Although as in the majority of Public Houses, lowlifes do on occasion try to gain access and bring the bar into disrepute. I have never personally witnessed any disturbances whilst being on the premises, nor to my knowledge have any of my close family and friends.

I feel it is quite vindictive to attempt to withdraw their licence after they have worked tirelessly to keep the bar going with all restrictions met. It has been a very difficult period of time for them and obviously at stages all clients being required to use the limited space outside the bar due to restrictions. This will have caused a possible nuisance, which has now been eradicated due to the restrictions being lifted and the bar now being able to use inside their premises.

**Yours faithfully,**



## **Supporting reps**

**1**

Dear Sir/Madam

>>

>> I am hugely disappointed to hear the licence for the Islington Sports Bar could be revoked.

>>

>> It is one place where the older generation can meet in safety and enjoy the camaraderie of the staff. We have so few outlets and have suffered enormously since the Pandemic started. It is a place that we feel we are cared about.

>>

>> Please please don't take their licence. We depend on them for our mental health.

>>

>> Kind regards

**2**

To whom it may concern:

Since it opened, I have been a regular customer of The Islington Sports and Grill bar in the Holloway Road. I live near Arnos Grove underground station, and it is really easy for me to get to and from this bar by public transport. I enjoy, like many people, being able to watch live sports in the company of other enthusiasts. I am extremely concerned to see that the license for the bar is under review. I cannot see how this could be the case.

I note that the review is due to concerns under three separate headings, and I would like to comment on them in that order. The first is Crime and Disorder. I have been drinking in bars around the Islington area for at least 40 years and have experienced situations during that time which could be filed under crime and disorder as a heading, but I can assure you that I have never seen anything like that in the Sports bar. I am 62 years of age, and cautious about the kind of places I go into, as a matter of personal safety, so I am really surprised to see this bar, which I feel completely safe in ,is being investigated under this rubric.

Obviously it is notoriously difficult to prove a negative, as there are no specific instances of crime or disorder not in fact taking place that I can point to, but all I can say is that there has never, in my many, many visits to this bar, been any occasion when I was aware of anything even approximating to instances of crime or disorder.

The second heading for investigation is Public Safety. As I implied earlier, safety is something I take seriously. I spent thirty three years as a secondary teacher in Islington, in a boys school, so am well used to keeping a weather eye open for things taking place which could be putting people into a position where public safety was in danger of being compromised. In school corridors, in the playground, on the sports field, on public transport, on journeys away, both at home and abroad. It gets so that you can sense trouble is going to happen, and there have been bars in Islington I have

been in when I adjudged it better to leave as there was the threat of violence or some unpleasant occurrence in the offing. I have never felt like that in the Sports bar. Let me be clear. I find it inconceivable that this bar is in trouble for threats to public safety.

Perhaps, however, the meaning of this concern being raised is to do with the response to the pandemic and the question of adherence to government regulations. If that is the case, I can assure you that when I have been able to visit when social distancing measures of varying stringency have been in force, all I can say is that I have been impressed by the way the bar has gone about ensuring the safety of the customers. My wife is in an extremely at risk category, and I am her carer. She has had to be shielding and I would not put her at risk by going anywhere that was not serious with regard to following all the guidelines.

The third heading is to do with public nuisance. . Again, I see no reason at all to criticise this establishment with regard to this.I had occasion to sit outside when only outside drinking and eating were allowed and felt the organisation of the outdoor space and the table arrangements were very well handled and could not be construed by any reasonable person as a nuisance. Indoors, both under regulations of this covid emergency and prior to their introduction, I never felt there was the slightest public nuisance . As I said, I worked in Islington for years and love to go to this bar, where I meet ex students, their parents, their grandparents, their children, their friends etc. The atmosphere is very friendly and due to the fact that tv sports form such a large part of the raison d'etre of the bar and its appeal, there is often cheering and intermittent bursts of noise generated by the fact that all the people there are caught up in the excitement of the struggle on the pitch being televised all around them, but how this could be thought of as a nuisance is beyond me. You might as well close the Emirates Stadium due to noise generated by the match. Why is this bar being targeted?

To sum up, this bar is friendly, safe and extremely well managed. It would be a real blow to my social life and my 40 plus years of feeling at home in Islington.I ask you to not do anything that would make it more difficult for me to come here, to meet friends and make new friends, to renew old acquaintances and to enjoy sport in the big screen in a great atmosphere. This bar is safe, friendly, completely non threatening and managed by John and his staff with admirable professionalism. Please do not do anything to put the continued existence of this fine bar in jeopardy.

3

Dear Sir/Madam

I'm emailing to support Islington Sports Bar and Grill. I dont belive it should be closed.

I am a BIG BIG fan of football and I go there everytime I want to watch the match. The peple there are nice funny and I feel welcome.

They have very nice food and not expensive. I am regluar and I will be very sad and heartbreak if you close down.

I dont understand why you want to close a nice and community place. For me and people like me - this place is my fun place. Please do not close these peple are my family.

4

Dear sirs

I have recently heard some concerning news that their is a review of Islington bar and grills licence.

I have been a patron of this pleasant bar since it opened both on match days and also to see close friends or go for something to eat. I have always found it a safe enjoyable atmosphere and the owners friendly.

The bar has been a real addition to the community which has seen its pubs and bars decrease over recent years. I hope you will take my email into account and this excellent bar can continue to thrive as I look forward to continue to meet with friends there in the near future.

Kind regards

5

I understand that there is to be a review the licensing of the Islington sports bar

I have attended this bar along with children and my grandchildren . Aand the staff have always made us fell at home . There has never been any trouble or rowdy behaviour. It is a pillar of the community , they have raised money for charity on many occasions .

6

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm a resident of Islington and my favourite pub is Islington Sports Bar and Grill.

For many years I have been a regular vistor and never had a problem with the place or the people. Everybody is respectful and they make me and my friends comfortable and welcome every visit.

I spent a lot of time there watching football and socialising with my friends. They have really good food and big TVs. The energy is wonderful when the match is on.

I want to beg you not to close this place... You would damage the community spirit and breaking a lot of friendship. I feel safe in this pub, please consider again!

7

Dear Sir/Madam

> I have been going to Islington sports bar since it opened a few years ago, usually prior to Arsenal home games.

> I have always found it to be a very well run establishment with professional and courteous staff . Personally I have never even seen an argument in there let alone trouble, there always seems to be a relaxed friendly atmosphere .

> I think the Holloway area needs more bars like this not less .

> Regards

8

Hi,

I'm writing on behalf of she wore ltd, which is an Arsenal based social media company, see links below.

We are customers of the Islington Bar and Grill whose management and staff always treat customers with courtesy and great service.

We were shocked that the table service was removed, especially due to current civil climate and are even more shocked with the current witch hunt against the pub and owners who are always the 1st to offer to host charity nights for Islington based charities.

This is a friendly bar with a family feel that has been a breath of fresh air to those local who have been isolating.

Please stop any action against them

Dear Sirs

I am writing regarding the review of the premises of Islington Sports Bar and Grill.

On a recent visit, my attention was drawn to a sign on a lamp post outside which accused the premises of numerous offences which in my opinion are complete fallacies.

I have been attending the premises for more than two years at an array of football, personal and work functions. At all times both myself and the people I am with have been treated with complete respect and I have never felt in danger, never mind never witnessing any of the apparently false and potentially libellous claims that have been made against this establishment. In fact, I would imagine you do not have a single person who has ever been to this establishment who is willing to substantiate the claims made.

I have been in prehospital care for 15+ Years, both domestically and globally. I have built ambulance services in the UK and as far afield as Africa. I have always made time to attend the Islington sports bar and grill due to the atmosphere and fantastic staff.

Further to this I have entertained both NHS Clients and private equity professionals including visiting professionals from Dubai, the management team have always ensured my guests and I have always been taken care of.

As an observation, I have witnessed an overzealous police attitude. This was evidenced on an evening I went outside the venue and the police officers present made me feel concerned as their bullying attitude towards the customers of the venue is very unpleasant. This as a customer is very daunting as from my opinion it was not needed and on occasions, it looked as if this was targeted.

Should you need any further information, I can be contacted at

Dear Sir/Madam

I understand you are reviewing the licence of Islington Sports and Grill Bar and I would like to offer my opinion.

When the covid restrictions were lifted I went in various pubs/bars in the area and this establishment was the one which adhered to the rules most of all. Temperature check at door , insistence on wearing masks, table service only and antibacterial hand wash easily available so my conclusion was it was a well run establishment.

Further to that the management and staff have always been friendly and I've never seen one second of trouble in there.

Therefore I would like to register my support for them to keep their licence and remain open.

11

Dear licensing team,

I was shocked to hear that the licence for the Islington bar and grill is under threat. I have used the bar, not only when attending football matches but for most events that I attend in London. I have always experienced a real fun, positive atmosphere here and I think this all generates from the wonderful staff there from the bar staff through to the security who make everyone feel safe and comfortable. It's great to see staff making sure people have taxis, specially people who could be seen as vulnerable. It shows great awareness of customer needs and responsibility to your customers. Mr Doherty should be commended for that. Also, in the shadow of The Emirates, with its billionaire owners and millionaire footballers lies a real working class community which Mr Doherty holds close to his heart. Only a few months ago an Arsenal regular from the community passed away and that day bar had started a fund raising page that within days reached £5000 for the gentleman's widow and family. It was amazing how many people were reached so quickly! This couldn't of happened without the Islington bar and Grill and Mr Doherty's standing in the local community.

For me it's an easy decision to make and that would be to award the bar with its licence,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, I really hope it gives you food for thought,

Yours faithfully,

██████████

12

I would just like to say a few words in support of the Islington sports bar & grill keeping it's license. I have been frequenting this premises for the last three years on match day's & non match day's as i live in the area & in that time i have never seen any incidents of trouble before or after the match considering the close proximity to the stadium i think this is an exceptional record, I'm sure some of the other pubs & bars surrounding the stadium can't say the same.

The manager & bar staff are very welcoming & friendly & i would feel this very unjust if they were to lose their livelihoods especially in the current climate with the lockdowns due to the Corona virus.

I do hope you take these comments into consideration when deciding the outcome of the application from the local police.

Yours faithfully

13

Good evening,

I have been informed there is currently an application to remove the licence for "Islington sports bar and grill"

I am shocked and appalled by this. Not only have I met some fantastic people I have made some great friends. I have personally suffered with mental health and going to the establishment has been absolutely key to me helping myself.

I along with others from every background strongly stand with "Islington sports bar and grill"

Thank you for your time and I ask you to please keep the establishment going for me and the rest of the community that travel far and wide to visit.

Kindest regards

[REDACTED]

14

I understand and there has been an application by yourselves or another party to revoke the licence of the ISLINGTON BAR AND GRILL N7.

I can only say that the times I've been in there it has been very good natured especially on football match days, I found the food to be very good and a very diverse local and london-based crowd. Can you please consider this email as I feel this is very unjust because I enjoy going to this establishment many occasions.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

15

Regarding the license review of Islington Sports Bar, I am currently employed as a member of the bar staff. I hope that the licensing team will take us staff into consideration, when making their decision.

I am also an Islington resident and customer of the bar in my leisure time. I have always enjoyed the diverse custom and community feel to this pub.

16

This pub is a great stopping point on the way home from work. It's friendly and have a good laugh in there. I also come there weekend with my wife to watch the sport. It would be a shame to the locals for this lovely pub to close.

17

Hello Islington Council,

I write in support of the Islington Sports Bar in its upcoming licensing review.

The bar provides an important service to the local community. The clue is in its name - it's a Sports bar. Not everyone is able to afford Sky or BT but is able to watch sport in the Islington Sports Bar that cannot be watched at home. With its numerous TVs, every sport is available which is not the case in other local bars as you cannot guarantee that any given sport (other than the major events) will be shown, especially minor sports. Thus the loss of the Islington Sports Bar would harm the local community.

I also fail to see how the objections listed (prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, and prevention of a public nuisance) are valid. I have never experienced any of these issues whenever I have visited the bar.

The hospitality industry has suffered more than most during the current Covid pandemic. Many bars have been (and others still may be) forced to close permanently. With this in mind, it's important that the Council support its local businesses and not aid their demise.

I look forward to the Council making the correct decision by dismissing any objections to the licence.

18

My name is [REDACTED] I am a professional boxing coach, I am originally from Ireland. I moved to the UK in August 2015 to become a coach at Islington Boxing Club (Archway). Islington BC is one of the most well-known clubs in the country and that's not only for their turn over off champions boxers it's the work they do for the community and getting kids off the streets and a place to grow. The event's organizer who I've seen work endlessly on fundraisers and shows for the gym is a man named Michael Docherty. When I heard Michael was opening a Sportsbar on Hollaway Road I was delighted because there is nowhere like that around the area that can show multiple sports at the same time as a lot of sports clash times. Michael Alex and John run the bar and I personally knew there were going to do a great job and truth be told the first time I ever went in there was with my two daughters and my partner because I knew it would be kid friendly and good vibes. From then on iv been to many nights out there for sports, fundraisers, birthday parties etc etc I even celebrated getting engaged to my fiancé there and I can honestly say I haven't seen any problems. I spent a lot of nights in west end in all these so called "high end" or "posh" bars and all iv seen is trouble. I personally think it's a pub that needs locals while the sports aren't on and if there is trouble their people won't go simple as. But there's not! I've seen every race, religion kids' teenagers' adults OAPs walk in that bar and have a great time. I support Islington Sports Bar and Grill, they have followed all Covid 19 rules the bar is safe friendly and I will continue to enjoy myself there as will my friends and family.

Yours sincerely

19

Dear sir/madam

May I say the above venue and all its staff has been a breath off fresh air for me and my friends, family and colleagues that has frequented the place.

I've never seen any sort off bother to have taken place in this place and I'm utterly surprised to know that this licence is up for review due to absurd allegations.

On every occasion I've eaten, drank and socialised in this bar I've been treated with the utmost respect as a member of the public.

I ask that this request be heard and seen and for people to realise that this bar is the most loveliest and friendliest place I've ever visited.

Thank you for listening and taking my comments on board,

Kind Regards

20

Dear Sir/Madam,

I [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] have been to the Islington Sports Bar on a few occasions before Covid-19 broke out in 2020 and more recently in May 2021.

In my opinion the Islington Sports Bar is pleasant place to eat or drink and is a well-run establishment. I have never witnessed any trouble or disorder inside the sports bar, but there is usually a police presence either directly outside or nearby if they are needed.

Yours Faithfully

21

To whom it may concern

I understand there is to be a review of the licence of the Islington Bar and Grill on Holloway road .

I am a retired Shipbroker a former member of the Baltic Exchange and have no criminal record and have lived locally most of my life .

I am stunned however sadly not shocked that the Police might seek a review because of their longstanding unwarranted prejudice against one of the Owners of this establishment however my experience with this establishment is in marked contrast to the picture painted by them .

This Bar is a local community hub with a diverse clientele and committed to serving the community with good food and ale at price they can afford .

I frequently take my son in there ,he is 10 years old and Autistic ,his needs are such that he attends the Bridge special school in Islington and requires hands on assistance 24/7 .

I would never endanger my son and as a rule he doesn't like Pubs however he loves it in the Bar, is made welcome and the staff are nice to him ,he even likes the food which is surprising as Autistic children are renowned fussy eaters , and my son is no exception.

I have noticed on many an occasion, other special needs adults in there too, they must feel safe as they wouldn't enter a hostile environment .

I am therefore more than confidant that the Police are overreacting when they say the Bar is a threat to public order or is a nuisance .

This last year or so has been hard for everyone and the council should be glad that Bars like this can reopen and should do everything in their powers to help local business owners not, hinder them.

I also think that with the amount of real crime in Islington crime the Police would have better things to do than spy on the Bar from the CCTV cameras across the road looking for any infractions however they have led a concerted and prolonged campaign of harassment of one of the owners of the bar dating back over 30 years so nothing surprises me on that account.

If Islington Council remove the licence from this establishment, it would be a great loss to the local community which is already staved of decent low-cost establishments .

I can be contacted at any time for further reference.

Yours sincerely

22

To Whom It May Concern

I have recently become aware that a review has been launched for Islington Sports Bar and Grill with a view to closing the establishment.

I am writing as a very concerned young black lady living in the Borough about the review you are conducting to Islington Sports Bar and Grill.

As a woman of colour, there are not many places where my friends and I can gather in Islington without looking out of place or feeling intimidated. However when we regularly attend here we find everyone very welcoming. They even accommodated a late request for us to celebrate Eritrean Independence Day in May this year.

This bar is the most friendly bar in Islington for black women to attend and is one of the few that welcome us and do not treat us differently or make us stand out. It is why there are so many groups gathering there.

I do not understand why you are looking to close down a place like this which is friendly and encourages diversity whilst you let so many dangerous and unwelcoming places stay open without a thought for young black women.

Kind regards,

23

To whom it may concern

I write to you as I have recently been informed that the Islington sports bar and grill is under review to have its license removed.

As someone who has lived in the local area for most of his life, I can attest that finding somewhere as friendly and welcoming as the Islington sports bar is now nigh on impossible with the continuing closure of the boroughs public houses.

I frequent the Islington sports bar not only on match days with my son, who loves the staff the atmosphere generated, but during the week to catch up with friends over meals and have even used it on occasion as a venue for informal work meetings. As a senior mechanical project manager, I have no issue in inviting clients to sit down and discuss future projects over an informal drink.

I would also note that there are no other bars like this in the area that focus on sports with multiple TVs that cover a wide variety of sports, that i can only assume came at great cost to install to the management team.

I have however witnessed what I can only describe as harassment to the landlord with constant visits from enforcing officers and police for reasons I can only describe as a vendetta against him.

In summation I believe I would struggle to find anywhere as friendly in the area and am at a loss to why the Islington sports bar and its patrons are being threatened in such a manner.

kind regards

24

#### Islington Sports Bar and Grill Licence Review

Dear Sirs,

It has been brought to my attention that the police have applied to review the licence of my local bar, Islington Sports Bar and Grill. I personally cannot see any justification for any review of a professionally operated establishment that can boast a record of no arrests on the premises in a period of nearly 3 years of operating. Therefore, the allegation of breaching the licensing objective of crime and disorder is somewhat laughable!

The allegation of breaching the licensing objective of public safety is equally laughable as it was in fact the council themselves that revoked the pavement licence for tables and chairs outside a few weeks ago. All this at a time that we are being encouraged to socialise outdoors to minimise the risk of spreading coronavirus – where is the sense in that???? Surely the pavement licence was in fact for the benefit of public safety!!!!

The allegation of breaching the licensing objective of public nuisance is again laughable, in no way do the staff or indeed the customers of this bar cause public nuisance, it is in fact the police/council officials that are the nuisance constantly harassing this compliant bar, especially on Arsenal match days – I wonder how many others licensed premises must encounter as many visits/inspections by officials on such a regular basis??? One does wonder if there is a hidden agenda behind this course of action?

In summary I would hope and expect that this lovely bar should be allowed to operate under its current licence without having to endure more draconian restrictions/regulations which will no doubt hinder its ability to trade at a profit.

Yours Faithfully

25

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Islington Sports Bar, 274 Holloway Road, London, N7 6NE

I write in defence of the above premises and the review of their Premises License.

I will start by saying The Islington Sports Bar is, and has always been, a well run establishment. I have been a patron of the bar since it first opened. The extensive refurbishment and the friendly and attentive staff make this a great place to frequent, both on match days and also at other times.

My family and I have enjoyed both drinks and meals at the bar and have been impressed with the quality and affordability of both.

I find it hard to believe that anyone would object to the bar's alcohol licence based on 'crime and disorder, public nuisance and public disorder'. Neither I, nor my family and friends have ever experienced any of these occurrences while drinking or dining there. I certainly would not take my young family to any establishment such as described in the objection notice.

The bar functions as both a community hub and match day meeting place. In spite of its popularity on such days, I have never seen, nor experienced, any criminality or anti social behaviour. In fact it is a testament to the staff and owners that it has become a popular destination for many young families on match days because of its safe, accommodating environment. I, for one, would not take young children to a place where they might be at risk.

As the committee is fully aware, the number of local bars and clubs catering for Arsenal fans on match days has dwindled in recent years. Both the economy and the pandemic have seen many close for good. The tradition of meeting and cheering on the local team is, as a result, becoming a thing of the past.

To object to The Islington Sports Bar's license based on (what I feel are) unfounded accusations, would be just another nail in the coffin for Arsenal fans and their association with Islington.

There are many parts of the Islington borough where I would not fear to venture due to criminality. Knife and gun crime are rampant in many areas, especially within the youth demographic. Unlike these no-go areas, the Islington Sports Bar offers a well run, enjoyable and (above all) safe environment in which to support the local team.

Ask anyone in and around Islington what their views on the Sports Bar are and they will all speak in its favour. I cannot imagine anyone objecting to its continued operation, especially not based upon such extraordinary, extreme accusations such as criminality.

I will be happy to attend any hearing to give my views in person.

In conclusion I would say that the Islington Sports Bar is a well run, family friendly, safe place where genuine Arsenal fans and local residents can enjoy food and drink served by helpful, accommodating employees.

I hope the objections brought by the Police are dismissed and the license renewed.

26

Good afternoon,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm emailing because of the upsetting news, Islington Sports Bar and Grill is closing. Please dont do this!!!

This Pub let me and my friends meet, eat, watch football and the best news its local!

Since before coronavirus, i used to go to enjoy myself there and when lockdown happen, me and my friends missed it so so much. Corona make a lot of businesses close i dont want to see my pub close to.

The staff are good people and the customer service is great! We make jokes and laugh all the time. they are my friend.

Please dont close Islington, its speical place to me.

27

Dear Council

This letter is about your review of Islington Sports Bar and Grill.

I do not understand how you can say the things you have as they are NOT TRUE. Although I live in Chelsea, my friends and I often chose to meet there because it has such a friendly atmosphere and crowd. I am a single black woman and have never once felt uncomfortable in all the times I have been there.

The staff and clients there are always friendly customer focused.

I work in a senior position in the NHS and am willing to go and vouch in person for the place if need be.

Please do not close down one of my favourite safe spaces.

Regards

28

Dear Sir/Madam

I've been made aware that there is an apparent licensing review at the Islington Sports Bar and Grill, Holloway Road, N7 6NE ?

I would like to take this opportunity in expressing my views and question why this would be.

I am an Advanced Paramedic Practitioner with over 30yrs in the industry working within the Emergency/Air Ambulance, A&E, GP's and Emergency out of hrs.

Myself and other professional work colleagues have visited these premises on a number of occasions when government rules have allowed.

We have always found it to be clean, very friendly and more importantly IPC aware through the current situation we all find ourselves. In-fact on one occasion I remember, the elastic broke on a face mask and a new sealed mask was presented straight away. This obviously impressed us greatly due to our working profession.

Although the premises is a sports bar and grill the staff have always managed to keep a balance on volume of screens etc to be courteous to those who are just visiting for a drink and or meal.

Next month I am being presented at a formal ceremony the Commendation Award and Medal for bravery whilst saving someone's life.

As I can only attend the ceremony with one family member

I had asked the staff at the Bar and Grill if it would possible that a few family members and colleagues would be allowed to attend for a small celebration.

I chose here because I have always felt it safe, clean and somewhere I have confidence in taking friends.

I am shocked that the premises is under license review and cannot think why.

Kindest regards

29

I have attended this bar on numerous occasions with my partner and my family and I can honestly say it is a very friendly bar , I have never in all my times of being there ever witnessed any trouble or rowdy behaviour and tend to go there on many more occasions. Fell this act by the police is most definitely uncalled for

30

I often go to this pub for arsenal home games. We are always well welcomed and we'll received. Great bar staff and management and really relaxed atmosphere.

Kind regards,

31

Dear sir/madam

I'm writing with regards to a licensing review notice I saw in a lamp post and felt the need to give my opinion on it, as someone who uses the majority of pubs in the Holloway area the Islington sports bar and grill is by far the friendliest, and importantly in these unprecedented times the most Covid compliant, other establishments have gone no where near the effort this bar has gone to in order to give people a warm, friendly and safe experience. The food and drink on offer is excellent and very affordable and unlike other establishments has kept all prices the same which I find amazing considering the struggles of late. I would hope to think you will favour the Islington sports bar and grill to remain operating as it's a great asset to the Holloway Road

Best wishes

32

My name is [REDACTED] I am an upstanding member of my community I wish to write a small email about the Islington bar and grill Holloway Rd. I have frequently used this bar for social meeting and to watch sports including football matches and boxing the staff have always been friendly and I have always enjoyed my time there . In recent times I have dined in there with my wife and children this bar is an asset to the community in my opinion and I hope it will be there for a long time well done to them its a well run and organised bar ....thank you for your time

This e-mail is intended for the addressee only. If you have received it in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from your computer. Please be aware that information in this email may be confidential, legally privileged and/or copyright protected.

33

To Licensing Dept,

I am [REDACTED], head of security at Islington Sports Bar & Grill for the last 2 years. I am a 3-time Olympian for Great Britain and an ambassador for Youth Charter for Sport. My role in the bar entails ensuring our customers' safety & well being whilst on the premises & leaving the said premises. I understand that the premises licence is under review regarding the licensing objectives of crime & disorder, public safety & public nuisance. I personally take that as a stain on my character as in 2 years of service at the bar I have not had the need to require police assistance to resolve any of these objectives.

I have been involved in the security industry on & off for 37 years and I can assure you that if there was any truth in any of the allegations against the bar, I would not be associated with this establishment in any space or form.

Regarding security on Arsenal home match days, if you wish to contact the Arsenal football liaison officers, I think you will find that they are more than happy with the way we operate security at this establishment on match days. I run the same format at the Broadway Bar in Chelsea (another football bar) and in 5 years' service with a larger capacity of 400-500 on match days I have never encountered any incidents of note. The main Chelsea FC liaison/licensing officer [REDACTED] (as we know him) would be more than happy to verify this.

We also operate security at these premises at ticketed events such as Q & A sessions and private parties. We feel we are working with a well-managed establishment & have a good working relationship with the management, staff & customers alike and hope to continue to do so. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me, I am happy to assist in any way.

Yours Sincerely

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Dear sir/madam...

i understand that there has been allegations against Islington sports bar and grill ...as a frequent user of this public house, i have never witnessed any examples of anti social behaviour, crime or any of the other allegations listed. I feel the services they provide are an asset to the local community.

Kind regards

**Suggested conditions put forward by Responsible Authorities in response to the application for review:**

**Conditions proposed by the Metropolitan Police**

1. Being negotiated at time of this report draft

