

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 August 2016 16:30
To: Hart, Jan
Subject: RE: Official statement re fabric London

To Jan re Fabric.

Firstly, I am delighted to hear that the club has been all be it temporary . The whole management of the club has been one that we can do what we like and if anything happens it is not our fault. I used to work next door the Club at night and seen for myself first hand, how it is run it, it under staff and the main function of the security is to make sure as many people as they can get in the club not checking for drugs or anything else. Their view is what people do or take is their business not the clubs. The club is run with different act or DJ each performer or act is given carte blanche on what they do. From Thursday to Monday the club is run almost 24 hours a day putting a strain on staff and everyone in the area around the venue.

The management is either unwilling or does not care what problems are been created and is not taking action to deal with it. If it was and has been we would not be here and there would not be these latest death. They have been warn again and again and have failed to heed them.

I am not doing this out of bitterness or malice but for the safety of people who use the club and also the licencing objectives. They were made for a reason and the council has to act after so many incidents of loss of life. One death is one to many abut to have these in on place is not just bad just bad luck.

This club has to be closed under the licencing objectives, public safety and law and order. There can be not stronger reason why any club that is licenced should be closed. I feel that while it remains open there will be the danger of more deaths and more lives will be lost.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 August 2016 15:19
To: Licensing
Subject: Review of license for Fabric nightclub, EC1M 6HJ

To the licensing team -

I wish to point out some contraventions of the licensing regulations at Fabric nightclub in support of the review of the club's license.

I attended Fabric nightclub on Sunday 1 May until the early hours of Monday 2 May 2016 for the WYS night which took place at Fabric.

Firstly, arriving at 10pm I was surprised that the entry search and my ticket inspection was very perfunctory, and included only a glance by a security guard into my bag. The staff were so lackadaisical I could have just wandered in without needing to show a ticket. Equally, I

could have had a bag of illicit substances to sell inside and no-one would have challenged me.

I was subsequently also shocked at the lack of security and staff inside to monitor the dance floors. Some of the night clubbers were obviously the worse for wear - I do not believe through alcohol - and I think they should have been removed to a recovery room for their safety. One man in particular was showing obvious signs of either the use of the G drug (GHB) or opiates such as heroin, as he was almost asleep on his feet. At no time did I see these people either monitored for safety or challenged for drug abuse by Fabric staff.

At around 3.30 am on 2 May I decided to leave the club and tried to queue for my bag at the cloakroom. The situation was totally chaotic, with one woman alone having to manage the clubbers who were still being admitted to the venue and to also monitor the cloakroom queue for those who were leaving. She had no idea who was queueing for which queue, whether they were putting coats in or taking them out. The corridor was dangerously overcrowded, clubbers becoming angry and confused. Had an emergency occurred such as a fire or a crowd surge, I fear there would have been multiple loss of life.

I can only conclude that few of the staff on duty that night had received much training in the running of a nightclub or were interested in doing a good job; some of the staff were not even good at speaking English.

I regularly attend clubs in other boroughs such as Lambeth, Southwark and Westminster, where crowd control, security and queueing is strictly and efficiently controlled. Most importantly, if clubbers show any signs of being intoxicated with whatever substances they seem to either be not admitted or to be removed quickly to a place of safety for monitoring. Most of the clubs have a medic present for emergencies.

I had heard stories in the media and anecdotally about Fabric and possible dangers there, but to witness the flouting of regulations so blatantly was totally shocking to me.

I really do not see how the venue can be allowed to continue to be operated in this way.

Best regards

Licensing Act 2003**Representation from Camden and Islington Public Health on behalf of health bodies providing services in Islington concerning Fabric Nightclub, 77a Charterhouse Street, EC1M 6HJ**

I am submitting a representation in regards to the application under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 from the Metropolitan Police for a summary review of the Premises Licence at Fabric Nightclub. This representation is on behalf of Islington Council's Public Health department, which is a responsible authority.

We support the Metropolitan Police's request for a review and consider this premises poses a significant and high level of risk in terms of public safety and crime and disorder. We believe that evidence of recent events at the venue do not show due regard to the responsibilities of a licenced premises and believe that this venue poses a serious and significant ongoing risk to those using the premise.

The grounds for the representation are:

- Public safety
- Crime and disorder

The relevant policies in Islington's Licensing Policy

- Policy 17: Drugs and licensed premises

Reasons for representation

There have been a number of health related events at Fabric Nightclub that raise serious concerns around the public safety of the venue.

During the summer of 2016 there have been two deaths in a six week period – one death on the 26th June 2016 and one on Saturday 6th August. Evidence indicates both these deaths are associated with use of MDMA. In both cases it appears individuals have: been able to carry drugs into the venue, take these drugs in the venue and buy and consume drugs within the venue. All these actions cause significant concern about this venue.

The apparent ease of class A drug purchasing, and taking at this venue is unacceptable and as such there is a clear and significant risk to public safety. There appears to be a disregard for the responsibilities related to being a licenced premises under the public safety objective of the Licensing Act. The possession and supply of class A drugs is illegal, thus the activity has been occurring within this club also raises concerns around the ability of this club to uphold the crime and disorder objective of the Licensing Act.

From MPS intelligence reports, we are also aware of a number of other very serious incidents that are linked to the club. In total we are aware of another seven serious incidents where patrons of Fabric have taken MDMA and as a result have been admitted to hospital and survived – these events have all occurred since 2011. We are also aware of four further individuals who have taken MDMA, become ill within the club and subsequently died as a result of the drugs they have taken – these deaths have occurred since 2012.

Nationally there is limited data availability on the total number of deaths as a result of ecstasy. The National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths (NPSAD) is a surveillance programme that reports information on drug related deaths. The statistics reported by the programme shows the number of

deaths reported in a year, in England, where a substance was implicated in the death. The latest year for which data is available is 2013. The surveillance programme identified 50 deaths where ecstasy was implicated in a death (either sole or in combination with other substance). This was similar to 2012 when there was a total of 57 deaths where ecstasy was implicated in a death (either sole or in combination with other substance).

Based on data available from NPSAD, the six deaths that have occurred in Fabric since January 2012 appears high for one venue.

Recommendation

Public Health have significant concerns about the tragic events linked to the use of MDMA at Fabric nightclub – this is not a one off event, six deaths within a 4.5 year period in addition to a number serious health related events is unacceptable. Evidence shows that class A drugs appear to be readily available and used within this venue – this is illegal, poses significant risk to health (including risk of further deaths), and shows a disregard to the responsibilities of a licensed premises as stated within the licensing act.

Based on the evidence available Islington Public Health Department recommend that:

- The license held by Fabric nightclub is permanently revoked

Licensing Act 2003- Representation from the Licensing Authority

Application: Fabric 77a Charterhouse St London EC1

This is a representation submitted on behalf of the Licensing Authority following the Police application for an expedited review of the premises licence.

The grounds for the representation are:

- Public Nuisance
- Public Safety
- Crime and Disorder

Licensing Policy Considerations

- *Licensing Policy 9 & 10* *Standards of Management – Operating Schedule*
- *Licensing Policy 17* *Dance venues and drugs*

December 2014 Review Application

The Licensing Committee undertook a review of Fabric's licence on 18th December 2014. The review was triggered by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and the council, acting as the Licensing Authority, submitted a representation supporting the application.

The Review was initiated after discussions with Fabric over a long period of time concerning the need to address the risk to public safety associated with deaths and serious illness of patrons who had used Class A drugs. At this time, 4 deaths had occurred since 2011. The MPS submitted evidence that indicated that patrons had used and acquired drugs in the club.

The MPS requested that various conditions were amended or added to Fabric's Premises Licence. These conditions were designed to reduce the supply of drugs into the premises by strengthening security on entry and, through this and other means, promoting a zero tolerance to drugs. Fabric was in agreement with some proposals but not all and the Licensing Sub-Committee resolved to amend the licence (see Appendix 8 of the Committee report)

Fabric appealed the decision and during the intervening period some further agreements were made, however there was no agreement on two fundamental conditions suggested by the MPS. These were the use of dogs to detect drugs in the queue and the use of ID scanners to support the banning of patrons who attempt to bring drugs into the club and assist in the detection of dealers.

December 2015 Appeal Decision

The appeal was heard at Highbury Magistrates Court In December 2015. Whilst the Judge stated that she felt the council had not made an incorrect decisions in the time that they had to hear the application, she overturned the decision to impose the conditions relating to the use of drugs detection dogs and ID scanners. The reasons for not agreeing the conditions are summarised below:-

Drug detection dogs

- Unfair to those registering as false positives (drugs indicated but can't be found on search) to be refused entry - may already have purchased ticket or be split form their group
- Not all drugs would be detected especially if hidden on the body
- Drugs will be taken in the queue before entry with possible consequences as they take larger quantities in a shorter period of time
- People may not join the queue when they see dogs so drugs that would have been seized are not and stay in circulation – this could be significant amounts
- Dogs are not regulated to any standard unlike police dogs
- Those taking drugs outside don't have the benefit of the medical room if things go wrong

ID Scanners

- Primarily useful for situations with violence or underage admission and these are not problems at Fabric
- Police could only able to give one example of when it would have been useful to have ID scanning
- It could undermine the licensing objectives
- Limited value and minimum benefit if installed - they are meant for small venues or ones with a steady entry flow

The conditions added by the Judge after discussion with the police, council and Fabric were

- 3 SIA security to be located in smoking area
- 2 'plain cloths' SIA security to be roaming the club with 1 located in the smoking area
- Train staff on recognising signs of drug taking and detection in club

- Improve signage and website information to stress 'zero tolerance drug policy'
- Random searches to be undertaken when people go in and come out of the smoking area
- Improve lighting to the smoking area to a level agreed with the police

Licensing Authority Concerns - August 2016

The Summary Review has been initiated following the tragic deaths of two more young people. The circumstances of these deaths is similar in fact to most of those in the past in that drugs have been taken into the club by the individuals but then a further purchase has been made inside the premises and consumed.

The MPS submission also includes statements from officers of the MPS who visited the club covertly on 2nd July. The evidence that they present illustrates that drugs are available in the club and that staff and security are not managing even the visible use and availability.

The previous review sought to add conditions to Fabric's licence so that the search and entry procedures would do all they could to prevent the supply of drugs into the premises, and that within the premises, security and staff would be equipped to recognise and act if they encountered drug use, supply or those suffering after use. It is clear from the statements produced by the MPS by their officers and associates of the deceased as part of this review that serious breaches of the licence conditions are occurring which allow the supply and use of drugs in the club. This covert information is important in that the conditions are ones that can and are easily complied with when overt inspections are undertaken.

The conditions being breached are:

- Capacity – condition 30 – MPS officers identified that no checks were in place to ensure that the set capacities are adhered to. There was an admission by staff that they are not actively controlling numbers in the various areas and there is no means of verifying this. During the appeal process, a linked condition requiring that capacity records are kept was removed as these controls were imbedded in Fabric's operating procedures.
- Security requirements – condition 35 – various statements detail the availability and consumption of drugs in instances where security staff were in close proximity
- Smoking area requirements – conditions 48 and 52 – MPS officers observed people being let into the smoking area from outside the premises, saw no

evidence of random searches and were approached by others seeking to obtain drugs.

- Search regime – condition 9 – search regimes were not vigorous and did not include personal possessions such as wallets or bags where concealment may take place. The metal detection search arches did not appear to be operational.

Recommendation

The Licensing Authority concurs with the MPS that serious risk to public safety is posed by the club in its current operation and that unless a substantial review of operation can deliver change, revocation of the licence is the only acceptable option.

Janice Gibbons
Service Manager
Islington Council

24 August 2016