



22/09/2016

Dear Islington Council,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Director of Village Underground, a multi arts venue in East London running live and electronic music, exhibitions and performance art.

The recent deaths related to Fabric have been terrible news, both on a basic human level, but also from the point of view of a venue operator and of our industry. It is important to investigate what happened and to learn any new lessons properly.

That said, I am also writing in support of Fabric as a globally renowned venue whose team is leading our industry in the UK. They continuously push for new best practice, for example the Holla Back campaign against harassment in bars and clubs, or their work to counter organized petty crime gangs stealing phones in venues. These kinds of initiatives piloted by Fabric filter down to the rest of the industry and make a real difference.

On the matter of drug and alcohol abuse and deaths in today's youth culture, Fabric also operate a tight ship run by an experienced and dedicated team. It is a sad fact that these tragedies occur, but I urge you to not respond by removing Fabric's license or by closing their business slowly through unviable licensing conditions.

Drugs and alcohol abuse are a fact of our society, blighting our schools, hospitals and prisons as well as nighttime venues. It is virtually impossible to stop drugs entering our country, our public institutions or our venues. No venue can stop people taking drugs before crossing the threshold and some people chose to attend with drugs well concealed privately on or within their person. To close well-run and safe venues will only serve to make the problem worse by driving people to unregulated and unsafe spaces. Such illegal places rarely have the trained staff, stringent policies, safe spaces, medics and other processes needed to protect vulnerable people. Again, Fabric has been an industry leader in demonstrating and disseminating these best practice measures.

On another level the loss of Fabric would be a blow to London's cultural life. For almost two decades Fabric has consistently sought out, developed and presented new artists, which has helped to cement London's reputation as one of the best cities in the world for music and creativity. One in seven albums sold globally is by a British artist, music tourism is worth



£10.7bn a year and 10.4m people were music tourists to the UK last year. Fabric is an artistic talent developer and presenter of the best electronic music on the planet, to lose this would be to our detriment, especially in the context of London having lost almost 50% of its music venues in the last seven years.

What is needed now is a renewed conversation around safeguarding vulnerable young people, involving licensing, venues, police, and medical services.

Again, I hope that you can work with Fabric's team to ensure their future while taking this opportunity to spark a conversation that can make our music and night life stronger, safer and better than ever.

Sincerely,



Director
Village Underground

Clubcommission Berlin e.V., Brückenstraße 1, D-10179 Berlin

To whom it may concern

Berlin, 23.08.2016

Islington Licencing / fabric club

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Berlin's club scene is connected and represented by Clubcommission e.V.. Our network supports music venues with industry-specific trainings, advisory services and networking. Our 170+ members belong to the club and event industry, represent a "music driven" nightlife scene. Fabric London, one of Europe's most progressive music venues, is well known in Germany and we would love to have such an outstanding club in Berlin.

We are very concerned that fabric is existentially endangered. We are familiar with fabric operations professionalism and diligence and we would strongly recommend to see the crisis as an opportunity to work professionally around safe environment and shaping standards in partnership with fabric, and to address the root causes of the problem of drug misuse.

Berlin started already 15 years ago working on policies and procedures in nightlife and collaborate closely, what turned out in a significant track record working with police and local authorities on solutions. In cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Health in Germany, we also launched BEST – an education program for health promotion in clubs, which is improving the health literacy of staff and management of clubs. It is a modular program according to the music scene and audience of the clubs, the issues are:

- Health expertise in the hospitality services
- Health literacy at the bar
- First aid, infection and OSH
- Consumption competence training
- New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)
- Chemsex

Clubcommission

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Steuernummer: 27/620/56100, Finanzamt Berlin-Mitte

A city like London can only remain vibrant with high quality of music clubs. The use of drugs is a challenge of society which needs to be faced, but not by potentially jeopardising the existence of this cultural and music hub. If you are interested in an exchange of experience, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Member of the Executive Board

Clubcommission

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Councillor Janet Burgess
Town Hall
Upper Street
London
N1 2UD

24 August 2016

Dear Councillor Burgess,

As you may be aware, fabric nightclub is currently closed pending a review of its licence. I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you and request a meeting to discuss this in further detail. We are offering individual briefings to all councillors who are not members of the licensing committee, as given the seriousness of the issues at hand, we would like to ensure that local elected representatives fully understand our operations and have an opportunity to ask questions about our procedures.

fabric has been in operation for nearly 17 years and is internationally regarded as a cultural institution and an incubator for emerging talent. Over the time we've been open, over 6 million people have come through our doors and we attract visitors from all over the world.

Following the tragic deaths of two of our patrons recently, the Metropolitan Police have submitted an application for a Summary Review of our licence. We are due to go before the licencing committee on 6th September. We are deeply concerned that the outcome of this hearing will be closure.

The safety of our customers is our number one priority. fabric works closely with the police and the licensing authority in adopting the most effective known techniques to reduce harm and prevent drug-related crime on our premises and we continue to look at new ways we can improve our processes. We have a zero tolerance to drugs on the premises. However, we recognise that illegal drugs are a particular issue on the club scene which many venues like ours have challenges in addressing. We also know there are always areas where we can improve, and we are undertaking a thorough independent review of the lessons we can learn.

Building on our strong track record of working closely with the licensing authority and the Police, we are also in the process of meeting with the relevant authorities to discuss how we can implement best practice when it comes to managing illegal drugs and ensure the safety of our patrons.

Clubs are a central part of the night time economy and London's music and creative industry, as acknowledged by the Mayor of London, and they are in real danger of extinction. Managing drug use is a complex and ongoing challenge for London's clubs and I would be very grateful for the opportunity to brief you on how we currently operate as well as what changes we may be able to make to ensure we are implementing best practice given the tragedy of recent events. Please let me know if you would be available to meet to discuss this further prior to the 6th September.



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Yours sincerely,



Director



Dear Madam/Sir,

Fabric Nightclub license review

I understand that the council is undertaking a review of the license of Fabric Nightclub and that you have called for responses or views from residents of the borough and others who may be affected.

I am writing to urge you to renew the license (or lift its suspension) and I will use my own experience to explain why.

I am a 52 year old male and had not been to a nightclub for over 20 years until I and my 56 year old partner went to Fabric a month or so ago to celebrate a friends birthday. Not being regular club-goers we were naturally a little bit apprehensive about going thinking that we would look out of place and feel uncomfortable.

However, I am pleased to say that there was no reason for our concerns.

Security

When we arrived the security staff, although being very thorough and diligent in checking that banned items were not entering the club, were very courteous and professional and also helped us in navigating to the particular room where our friends were. Throughout the evening the security staff maintained a visible, but discreet presence and were happy to point me in the right direction, for example when I needed to go to the toilet or to find the exit when it was time to leave.

On the evening I was there I also saw security staff assisting a man with obvious mobility problems to access the club and when necessary to move around. This is not what you might expect from the stereotypical image of "bouncers".

Looking back on my younger days when I often went clubbing the security staff at Fabric were in a class of their own. Always polite and helpful.

One of the things that stood out for me was the presence of paramedics in the club. This was something new to me and certainly didn't happen in the old days. I could see the paramedics patrolling the club to see if anybody looked like they may need assistance. I pleased to say that on my visit I did not see them called into action.

Staffing

In addition to the security staff I was also very impressed by the other staff such as the reception staff and all of the bar staff that I engaged with. Again all were helpful and courteous. As you can imagine many of these staff were young and I suspect were second jobbers or students who rely on

their income from Fabric to make ends meet. It would be a shame if these young people were to lose out if the club were to close.

Economic factors

London is, rightly, a world renowned city and people from all over the country and the world visit every year. One of the attractions is the varied and active nightlife.

It was clear from talking to people we met, that many of the people at the club had come to London specifically to visit Fabric. That brings in not just revenue for Fabric but also the wider London economy. All the pubs around the venue were doing a roaring trade and that is unlikely to be the case in Farringdon at the weekend were the club to close.

On the day when I read that Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, is advertising for a night tsar it would seem perverse and against what appear to go against the Mayor's aim of boosting this sector, if Fabric, one of the leading lights in the night time economy and a specific draw for visitors to London, were to close.

If Fabric were to close it would mean not only the loss of the many jobs of the people employed directly but also those employed in the surrounding entertainment and ancillary businesses that either directly or indirectly benefit from Fabric's customers.

I hope that my experience and general observations will be helpful to you in making your decision. Naturally my wish is for Fabric to continue to be the legendary club that attracts hundreds of thousands of people to London and Islington in particular.

Should you wish to contact me please do so either at the above address or via email.

Yours faithfully

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To whom it may concern,

I have worked for Fabric for over 4 years. As such I am in the one of the best positions to inform you on how well it is managed and why it is important that it stays open.

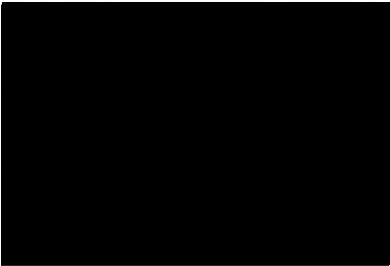
I work at Fabric to support myself while studying at university and while I have been undertaking unpaid internships necessary to gain the experience to work in my desired field. London is an amazing place to work and study with many great opportunities but it is also extremely expensive to live here. Working at Fabric during the weekends has allowed me to do so. But I don't work for Fabric only out of necessity. I work for Fabric because of the way it is managed.

I would describe the manner in which Fabric is run as strict but fair. For example, we have weekly stock takes where the stock is measured to 2 decimal places and everything is accounted for. This something that does not get done in other venues. The place gets cleaned meticulously top to bottom every night. This also does not get done in other places. The door staff are rigorous in their searches to the point where it is one of the most complained about things by customers (online and onsite). "I felt violated after entering and being felt up" is something I have heard a lot but unfortunately there is no way for security to do a full body search without actually touching you in those places and those places are where certain people choose to hide their drugs. Those of us who do not to take drugs must put up with these searches in order to go on a night out and Fabric will put up with the complaints from customers because it knows the searches are more important.

At Fabric there is a system and it gets followed. Staff are trained to know what to look out for and what to do. If somebody is unwell they are found and a medic or trained staff member is by their side within seconds. If you have had too much to drink you won't get served/you won't be let in and a medic will look after you. If we see that there might be a disagreement developing between customers, we are there to defuse it. Customers are made aware of possible phone theft through flyers, staff t-shirts or by staff themselves (I have had to remind a number of people that were careless with their possessions). Cards and IDs are checked every time to prevent card theft. If we have suspicions about anybody whether it is to do with theft or possession of illicit substances or something else they get taken upstairs, questioned, searched (if appropriate) and reported.

In other aspects Fabric has been the best employer that I have had. They have always paid me on time, supported me whenever I have needed it and taught me a lot about how to run a successful business and be a great team leader. For the staff who want to work in this industry as their main occupation and who may not have left school with the best qualifications, Fabric has also provided them with the opportunity for them to gain the formal qualifications necessary.

The deaths of the young people are horrible but I know that the staff at Fabric did everything in their power to try to prevent them and would have done more if it was possible. They do not want this to happen ever. Not only because they care about their business but mainly because they care about the people. That is why the Fabric team actively works with Professor Fiona Measham and her charity The Loop, which aims to educate people about drug use, prevent it and the unnecessary deaths it causes.



August 24, 2016

Re: Review of Fabric's license

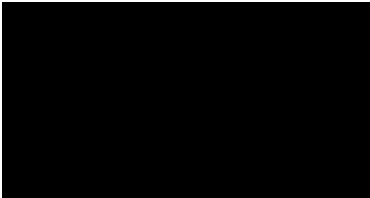
Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing in regards to the temporary suspension and current review of Fabric's license. Over the past six years I have regularly attended events at Fabric – all without incident – and the present situation has me deeply concerned. Fabric is one of the very few venues that consistently puts on high-quality events by demonstrating unparalleled professionalism, management, and dedication to providing a safe, comfortable, and no-nonsense atmosphere for all of its patrons, regardless of their sex, sexual preference, race, etc. This fact, combined with Fabric's commitment to pushing a forward-thinking music policy, has earned it national and international recognition. Indeed, it is not uncommon to meet people in Fabric who travel from abroad specifically to attend their events. Thus, it can be said that Fabric is a direct contributor to tourism in the UK. Furthermore, with the recent opening of the Night Tube, Fabric will become more accessible as patrons are able to both arrive and, more importantly, leave at any given time; as a result, Fabric can be expected to provide even more stimulus to London's vibrant nighttime economy.

I am aware that the main point in question is whether Fabric is able to provide a safe environment for those who visit its premises. From my own experiences, I feel that Fabric takes this point extremely seriously and has implemented a number of important measures to ensure that this is the case. Firstly, the door staff check that those who enter are of legal age and in a friendly, non-aggressive, and non-inebriated state of mind. Secondly, everyone who does enter the venue has to undergo a comprehensive search for weapons and illegal substances, the latter of which Fabric openly states that it has a zero-tolerance attitude towards. Finally, once inside, Fabric's security team is constantly monitoring the various rooms and, I believe, paying particular attention to consumption of illegal substances, thievery, and sexual harassment. Moreover, the friendly, open-minded demeanour of the security staff makes them each to approach should a problem arise. In addition, Fabric freely dispenses water during the night and their on-hand medical team is a testament to how strongly they care about the well being of those who enter its doors.

Fabric's professional and unwavering commitment to maintaining a safe and comfortable atmosphere sets it apart from other venues across the globe, and London will be at a great loss should it close. I truly do hope that a mutually agreeable and long-lasting resolution to the problems at hand can be found.

Yours faithfully,



24th August 2016

Goldie / [REDACTED] MBE

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

I [REDACTED] MBE, known as Goldie, would like to offer my full and unwavering support to Fabric nightclub in light of this recent situation.

Fabric has been instrumental in nurturing the United Kingdom's creative community since the day it opened. Artists that have had their first 'break' at Fabric have gone on to conquer on the world stage and in turn helped the UK to be seen as an innovator for the arts.

I have been performing at Fabric since its inception and I have seen it go from strength to strength, my record label Metalheadz has hosted nights there- as I travel around the world Fabric is always a topic of conversation that comes up, it is indeed something that attracts people to this country from overseas.

From my point of view Fabric is no different from the Tate Modern, a beacon of the arts, a jewel in our creative crown.

Recently Fabric has been described by District Judge Allison in a court judgement as a "beacon of best practice" in terms of safety inside the venue and through my experience I can attest to this.

The mayor of London has acknowledged the importance of clubs as a central part of London's night time economy, Fabric is central to this- from the staff it employs to the people it serves.

From my point of view losing an institution such as Fabric is simply not an option, the resolution should be the authorities working alongside Fabric to help avoid any further tragedies.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]



To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED], and for the last five years Fabric has been the biggest part of my Adult life. I joined the company after dropping out of collage to help take care of my mother who was terminally ill. Leaving me with only G.C.S.E's as formal qualifications. Fabric gave me the opportunity develop my skills, they supported me through my Mother's death and even contributed money to her funeral. They saw potential in me when most other employers did not. Over the years Fabric has paid for my development, I have completed a number of courses and have attained enough experience and qualifications to exceed in professional life. Having started as a glass collector I am now part of the operation team. None of this would have been possible if it was not for the good management and internal progression in place at the club.

It saddens me that fabric could possibly have its license revoked, because every weekend the whole team from the management all the way down to the fire marshals and glass collectors work there hardest to create a safe environment where customers can have fun and enjoy the great DJ's that play at fabric. To get an idea how much fabric care about their customers one of the first courses I was sent on to complete was the first person on scene medic course. Not only me but a few staff, as well as that every weekend there is two to three experienced medics on site to deal with any medical situation that may arise.

When I was a glass collector and bartender it was drilled into my team and myself that we should refuse service to customers who have had too much to drink but also to keep a look out of anyone who may be feeling the effects of taking to many substances. If anyone was to encounter such a person, management and medics were to be informed, medics would arrive and take the customer to the medic room and give them the upmost care until they had sobered up. When I first started fabric I couldn't believe the lengths fabric went to, to ensure the safety of all its customers. I have been to nightclubs where if you are too wasted you are simply thrown out and left to fend for yourself. Not only do fabric look out for its customers, we warn customers about taking drugs and the dangers that comes with it by handing out flyers in our Que. Customers who do end up in the medic room get a talking to and strongly advised not to take any illegal substances anywhere.

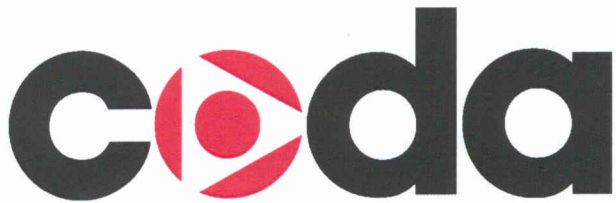
The security work relentlessly to catch people taking and more importantly selling drugs, I have often heard my friends who come to fabric describe the security a militant. Fabric does not stand for drug taking and that is if anyone is ever found to be dealing or taking drugs they are taken to search room searched and police called.

I don't know where you will find another nightclub that takes so much care about their customers and there staff.

At fabric, the whole team feels like one big family. I have been lucky enough to meet some the best people in my life and made friends that would last a lifetime. I have learned, laughed, loved during my time at fabric. I have overcome depression with the help of fabric and I could never be more thankful.

Losing fabric would be like London losing Big Ben. Unthinkable. I urge you to do all in your powers to keep fabric open to the world.

Regards, [REDACTED]



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24th August 2016

Dear Sir/ Madam

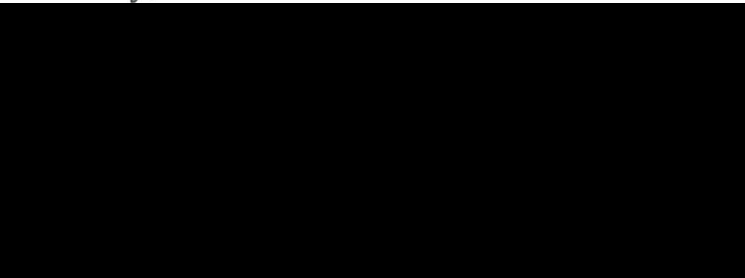
Coda agency is a music booking agency, which looks after some of the most popular musicians in the world, ranging from Indie to Pop to Dance music and more. We have worked with Fabric for 16th Years, since it opened and being able to have our artists play there is truly special. Fabric isn't just any club, it is one of the best nightclubs in the world, and our artists love to play there.

Fabric is renowned throughout the industry for its friendly atmosphere and professional operation. Something Coda see first-hand on every visit. The staff and security are always exceptionally organised inside and outside of the club hours. They work their hardest to provide a safe environment for all their customers with a thorough door search for every single person who enters.

It is essential that Fabric remains open, its potential closure would be a massive cultural loss for the city of London. We fly in artists to play there from all over the world, attracting crowds locally and globally. It is one of the last remaining true clubs in London and it needs to be protected.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Sincerely,





Date: 19/08/2016

Ref: Fabric Nightclub Licence

To whom it may concern.

In light of the recent news that Fabric's Licence is now under review, Egg LDN would like to show our support for Fabric to keep its licence. Islington is a unique London borough, in being able to boast two of the UK's most iconic live music venues with both Egg LDN & Fabric. This is something Islington should be very proud of.

Figures released by the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (ALMR), show that UK nightclub numbers have halved in the last decade: from 3,144 in 2005 to only 1,733 by 2015. London is world renowned for having a varied rich & diverse nightlife culture, something that needs to be encouraged protected and celebrated. Our newly elected Mayor, Sadiq Khan, recently said;

"I don't want young and creative Londoners abandoning our city to head to Amsterdam, to Berlin, to Prague where clubs are supported and allowed to flourish. I want them to be able to celebrate what they love in the city that they love, rather than punish them or force their activities underground or abroad"

In this current climate of uncertainty in the Nightclub Industry, it is imperative that all interested parties work together; Venues, Police, Councils & Licensing Authorities. Ensuring the safety of London clubbers, whilst also encouraging the continued legacy of quality venues in Islington, must be our paramount concern.

Egg LDN believes that if we can all work together, to produce a manifesto that leads to a safer clubbing environment, it will not only benefit London as a whole but Islington in particular. The creation of a 'Club Watch' system, similar to the current successful 'Pub Watch', could be one step in achieving that goal.

Egg LDN has always worked in harmony with other Islington venues, alongside close cooperation with the Council & Police Authorities, to ensure the continued operation of safe & high quality venues in the borough. This close working relationship is something we will work tirelessly to encourage & continue.

Thank you for your time and patience, in considering our support of Fabric's Licence.

Kind Regards,


General Manager – Egg LDN

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