

London Borough of Brent

Decision of the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee (B) following a hearing on 25 October 2017 at Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FJ

NOTICE OF DECISION

PREMISES

Savannah Lounge

4 Lancelot Parade
Lancelot Road
Wembley
HA0 2AJ

1. Members of the Sub-Committee

Councillors Allie (Chair), Long and Ahmed

2. The Application

Representations against interim steps imposed after an Expedited Review on the 20 October 2017.

3. Representation

David Dadds represented the Licence Holder, Mansuckh Shamji Vekaria, who was also present.

PC Sullivan represented the Metropolitan Police.

4. The Hearing

PC Sullivan set out the background to the matter. On the 7 and 8 October 2017 an incident took place which resulted in serious injury. Police were called c.02:45 to a large disturbance. From the investigation it was apparent patrons had been ejected from a nearby venue, Masti's. At a similar time some patrons at Savannah Lounge exited the premises and a large scale fight took place. Weapons, including belts and a pick axe were used. So far 2 people have been arrested.

After an expedited review on the 20 October 2017 the hours had been reduced.

Since that date further investigations had taken place. At present, no evidence had been found to link intoxication to the incident. A full hearing to take place on the 3 November.

Mr Dadds for the Licence Holder set out that he was seeking an amendment to the interim steps. It was submitted that, now the investigation had started, the picture was clearer. The position, it was submitted, now seemed that the victim appeared to have been the aggressor. This was new information which must be taken into account.

Mr Dadds explained that there was an agreed position between the licence holder and the police that a modification of the interim steps can take place and the licensing objectives be upheld.

The hours proposed were: Licensable activities to cease 02:00 and the premises to close at 02:30am

In support of the agreement Mr Dadds referred to the s.182 Guidance and that the police are the main source of information with regard to crime and disorder.

PC Sullivan concurred that new information has now come to light, although emphasised that the investigation was still ongoing. It was correct that the premises had previously opened until 02:30, and there had been no issues during this time. On the basis of the new information, the application was not opposed.

Councillor Long questioned the use of the ID scanner – it was clarified that it was in use for events only and not day to day operating hours. The relevant staff that are using the scanner have been trained. The Licence Holder gave an assurance that SIA officers would wear high visibility clothing.

5. Determination of the Application

The sub-committee determined the application in accordance the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003. Further the sub-committee considered the matter with a view to promoting the licensing objectives, namely:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm.

In making its decision the sub-committee also had regard to the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 and Brent's licensing policy. In addition, the sub-committee took account of its obligations under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The sub-committee were mindful of the need to reach a decision that was necessary, proportionate, and justified on the evidence before them.

6. Decision

The sub-committee has listened carefully to the submissions made by both parties.

Whilst this was clearly a very serious incident, we have taken on board that this is an ongoing investigation. We also note that new information has come to light since the expedited review.

At this stage, the sub-committee are satisfied that a variation of the operating hours, as agreed between the police and licence holder, will uphold the licencing objectives.

The application will be granted.

Dated: 25 October 2017