



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

**The Licensing Authority**

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**Your ref:**

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**Date:** 08/09/2021

**Police Licensing comments regarding Brent Council Review of: Arista Bar (aka Tamingo Club, 232 Church Lane, London NW9 8SN)**

I acknowledge receipt of an application for the review of under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003, for The Arista Bar/Tamingo Club, 232 Church Lane, London, NW9 8SN.

**On behalf of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, I wish to make a representation, as police believe the following objectives have been undermined, namely the Prevention of Crime & Disorder, the Prevention of Public Nuisance, as well as Public Safety.**

**Background on venue**

The venue sits at the end of a terrace of business premises, many of which have a number of residential premises above on Church Lane NW9. The bar/club has a basement area utilised for nightclub style activities and can also be rented for private hire. The venue was the subject of a previous review of the premises licence in July 2017. More robust conditions were added to the licence. One of the key issues raised in 2017 was the failure to provide copies of CCTV as per the license conditions.

**Details of issues**

Aside from the comprehensive information provided by the Council in their review document detailing licensing breaches, the venue has clearly risked the health and safety of the public when the venue was operating as a nightclub style environment during the Covid lockdown. The nature of a nightclub style venues is that is an environmental catalyst to spreading the infection- excitable crowds, close proximity, dance, sweat, people shouting into one another ears over the music (spittle/moisture from one person to another).

Crime Report 19219xx/20: victim reported her mobile phone was stolen whilst in the venue at 0400hrs @ 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The venue should not have been operating. Whilst some restrictions had been relaxed at this point, venues such as this should not have been open.

I tried to contact Mr Kathiravelu and ended up speaking to his wife in late September 2020, as we had heard various reports of the venue being open as a bar/club during lockdown. She stated her husband was not available but would be back later. I asked her about the venue being open during COVID, she was hesitant in responding to questions and I stated she should inform her husband that the venue should not be open in the capacity of a club environment and if there was any issues in understanding my request, she could get him to ring back.

PS STOKES 361NW had sent licensing police details of a local resident who had informed him in June 2021 that the venue had been regularly open until 0500-0600hrs some nights, way beyond its licensable hours. Add to this, that we did not enter Step 4 of the COVID protocols until 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021, allowing such nightclub style venues to operate, it was again a clear risk to public health and safety. Aside from this, many of the patrons leaving the venue still loiter in the area, smoking and drinking, disturbing the local residents.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021, Brent Council attended the venue and reported further COVID breaches.

The Council and Police have made numerous attempts to make the venue operators aware of their failings so they can rectify them. They have ignored not only licensing objectives and conditions of their premises licence, but also breached COVID regulations without care or concern. Given the management of the venue do not adhere to their numerous licensing conditions, it would be pointless to simply warn them and add further conditions for them to ignore. The previous review in July 2017 shows the venue is repeating the same failings. I support the revocation of the licence.

Should the venue be allowed to continue to operate, I doubt we will see an improvement regarding licensing breaches of late night operation and would ask that the licencing hours be significantly reduced and a detailed plan of how the venue would instigate an effective dispersal policy.

Yours Sincerely,

**Gary Norton 2965NW**  
**Licensing Constable – Brent Police**