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LICENSING ACT 2003

Licence: Review following Closure Order

Reference: 26025

12/09/2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am employed by the London Borough of Brent as a Licensing Enforcement Officer. I have been in this role since 23/05/2022. In this capacity I am authorised to exercise duties under the Licensing Act 2003.

On Wednesday 07/09/2022 London Borough of Brent Licensing received notification from The Metropolitan Police that a Closure Order had been issued on 02/09/2022 at Willesden Magistrates Court under Section 80 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 against Camelia Lounge, 36 Park Parade, NW10 4JE. This closure order has now triggered review hearing as Camelia Lounge has a Premises Licence number 144388 that was granted under the Licensing Act 2003 on 11/09/2006 by Brent Council, Licensing Authority for the area of the Borough of Brent. The holder of the Premises Licence since 11/09/2006 is shown as Mr. Gopal K Gupta. There has been no Designated Premises Supervisor in place since May 2019.

The Closure Order was issued for a period of 8 weeks from 19.00 hours on 02/09/2022 until 19.00 hours on 28/09/2022. This has now triggered a review hearing and The Metropolitan Police has submitted the evidence used for the Closure Order for use in the review hearing.

I have conducted a search on our Licensing record for Camelia Lounge, 36 Park Parade, NW10 4JE with two complaints recorded against the premises.

1. 22/03/2020 – Complaint by local resident about the premises breaching COVID restrictions.
2. 07/07/2019 – Complaint by local resident about noise and ASB outside Camelia Lounge.

Having read through the police evidence there appears to be a history of drugs and drug dealing associated with Camelia Lounge. Drug warrants executed by police at this premises over a period of 15 months indicates cannabis being dealt from this premises. On both occasions Class B cannabis drugs were found behind the serving counter in individual wraps ready for selling with larger cannabis blocks, scales, cash, cling film and a large knife. This would clearly indicate drug dealing from the premises.

The Home Office Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 gives clear guidance in relation to reviews arising in connection with crime.

Para 11.27 states - There is certain criminal activity that may arise in connection with licensed premises which should be treated particularly seriously. There is a long list of crimes related to the use of the licensed premises, one of which covers:

- for the sale and distribution of drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the laundering of the proceeds of drugs crime;

Para 11.28 states - It is envisaged that licensing authorities, the police, the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) and other law enforcement agencies, which are responsible authorities, will use the review procedures effectively to deter such activities and crime. Where reviews arise and the licensing authority determines that the crime prevention objective is being undermined through the premises being used to further crimes, it is expected that revocation of the licence – even in the first instance – should be seriously considered.

The view of the Licensing Authority is that Camilia Lounge has seriously undermined the Licensing Objective relating to the Prevention of Crime and Disorder. I respectfully ask the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee to consider REVOKING the premises licence for Camilia Lounge.

Yours sincerely

John McGann

John McGann
Licensing Officer
Regulatory Services
