

Arch – Hearing – Supporting Evidence

A full variation has been submitted to the police for the above venue. The main variation is the extension in hours on Friday and Saturday evenings, amending the capacity and using the external area for the sale of alcohol and regulated entertainment.

Even though there is a history of licensing breaches at this venue, I am not opposing the extension in hours or the use of the front garden for the sale of alcohol, but feel an update of the existing conditions is required to meet the licensing objectives and to make sure there are no further licensing complaints against the venue.

The licensing breaches at the venue are as follows:

Warning Letter – 26th of March 2022 – Failing to close hours before on Match Day

Warning Letter - 1st of January 2022 – Breach of license, using outside area past authorised time

Warning Letter – 19 May 2018 – Over crowding of a TEN on match Day

Warning Letter – 26 May 2018 – Over crowding of a TEN on match Day

Warning Letter – 11 Sep 2018 – Failing to provide CCTV and nine (9) other breaches of license

Copy of Hearing Decisions – 20th February 2019 – application withdrawn during hearing

Copies of the above are all attached.

DPS Mr Patel

On the 26th of March 2022 Mr Patel failed to close the pub one hour before kick off as detailed in his existing license. When I personally spoke to him about this he was unaware that the venue should have closed. This is very concerning. How did Mr Patel who has worked as the DPS for many years not know that he should be closing the venue? When I spoke to him it appeared that he had never read the conditions on his license.

Capacity and Noise complaints:-

As you can see from above there is a history of issues on match days, using the external area past the authorised time, going above the 499 allowed on a TEN on match days, failing to provide CCTV and numerous other breaches.

My main concern is the noise and ASB that could and has arisen from the use of the external garden and the constant breaches on event days at the stadium. Increasing the existing capacity (numbers which has already been agreed) is not a practical option. There has already been complaints and warning letters sent as detailed in the attached, so I don't consider this an option, especially when the police and council have already agreed to an extension in hours.

There has been no change to the layout of the venue, so I cannot see how or why the capacity can be increased, when the appropriate numbers have already been calculated and agreed.

Event Days at Wembley Stadium

This then moves onto the issues of televising football matches on event days at the stadium. Wembley is our national stadium and football on this day attracts a world-wide audience. We are all familiar with the grotesque scenes that occurred at the Euro Finals on the 11th of July 2021. Therefore we need to put adequate measures in place to make sure there is no repeat of these barbaric scenes.

Baroness Casey explained the following:-

A review into the disorder that tarnished the Euro 2020 final at Wembley has painted a terrifying picture in which fatalities and widespread injury were only narrowly avoided after authorities failed to plan for the "worst-case scenario" despite a series of warnings.

Led by Louise Casey, the Football Association-commissioned report examines the day of 11 July, when thousands of people without tickets tried to storm the national stadium to see England played Italy, and tens of thousands more created scenes of anarchic disorder on Olympic Way. The review describes what unfolded as a "national shame".

As you can see from this report, fatalities and widespread injury were narrowly avoided all of which was fuelled by alcohol induced ticket-less fans and described as a 'National shame'.

This is the reason police must insist on strict regulations on match days at the stadium. The televising of football matches on event days close to the stadium attracts ticketless fans. As you can see from the Casey report, ticketless fans were those responsible for storming our National stadium and rioting on Olympic Way. The Arch has a history of ignoring licensing conditions on event days, which is all documented above. Therefore every condition possible must be put in place for the prevention of crime and disorder.

I have also attached a statement from PC Paul Jennings who is our dedicated football officer for Wembley stadium and the London clubs. In his statement he details the challenging work of policing the stadium on football event days. He also goes on to explain in his experience the need for pubs to stop the serving of alcohol one hour prior to kick off and not televising the game.

PC Jennings explains that stopping the sale of alcohol one hour before the game makes fans leave the pubs and enter the stadium. Without this in place we are confronted with drunk football fans on the streets of Wembley, resulting in various crimes and assaults.

The entire borough of Brent is covered by a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) part of which prohibits the selling of alcohol to street drinkers. Football fans drinking on the streets of Wembley

form part of this order. Policing the PSPO on match days is a great strain to the police service. When this order is enforced on match days there is a drastic fall in crime and ASB, proving that alcohol is the major contributor to crime.

This impacts the volume of alcohol sold by off licenses but assists in lowering the crime and disorder. This is why the police need the public houses to play their part and assist the police, local authority and the NHS on match days at the stadium with strict rules on their licenses. Without the pubs and off licenses 'doing their part' on match days by controlling the alcohol consumption, it won't be possible for the police and local authority to maintain a peaceful match day experience for genuine football fans.

Previous Hearing – application withdraw during hearing.

Below is a copy of an almost identical variation submitted in February 2019:-

The application is for a variation for the licence as follows:

Extend the hours for regulated entertainment to 04:00hrs Thursday to Saturday.

Extend the hours for the sale & supply of alcohol to 03:30hrs Thursday to Saturday

Extend the opening hours to 04:30hrs Thursday to Saturday.

To change condition No. 9 – to extend the hour that the outside drinking area is in use to 00:30hrs.

To change Condition No. 15 – To extend the 'No Entry/Re-Entry' condition to 01:00hrs.

On major event days – to be able to sell and consume alcohol on the forecourt.

On major event days – the sale of alcohol to cease 1 hour before kick-off

Below is the decision of the committee:-

The sub-committee have listened carefully to the submissions made by all parties.

During the course of this hearing the Applicant has indicated his desire to withdraw his application for a variation. Accordingly, we dismiss his application.

We also take his opportunity to note that, on the evidence we had heard up until that point, we would have rejected the application in any event. The Applicant accepted that he had not engaged with the Responsible Authorities. We have concerns about the Applicant's level of competence in running a large hotel and bar and simply raise this so that it is recorded for any future applications.

As you can see, the committee would have refused the application even if the applicant hadn't withdraw it. This was due to the lack of co-operation from Mr Patel with the authorities. I have seen no improvement from Mr Patel in his running of the Arch

Summary:-

1. There is a long history of licensing breaches with Mr Patel as the DPS
2. The extension in hours requested has not been refused by either the police or council as it was previously, showing the police are supportive of business'
3. No evidence for an increase in capacity has been presented in an official capacity by the applicant, even though one which has been risk assessed already exists

4. Evidence from Baroness Casey report and PC Jennings clearly details how ticketless fans were responsible for the disorder at the Stadium and surrounding areas at the Euro finals, emphasising the need to stop the showing of football matches on event days.
5. A previous hearing shows that the sub-committee detailed how Mr Patel was not engaging with the authorities and were going to refuse the application.