

CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY

Witness Statement
(CJ Act 1967 , s.9 MC Act 1980, ss.5A (3a) and 5B, MC Rules 1981 ,r. 70)

Statement Of: Nigel Leadbeater

Age: 'Over 18'

Occupation: Police Sergeant

This statement consisting of 3 pages each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Date: 5th May 2015

Signature

I am a Police Sergeant with the Cambridgeshire Constabulary, stationed at Parkside Police Station, Cambridge. I am the police business lead for licensing for Cambridge city and it is within this context that I make this statement of representation. This representation takes into account the Home Office Guidance on such matters (*Revised Guidance Issued Under Section 182 Of The Licensing Act 2003, March 2015*) which recognises the police as an “essential” source of “advice and information” and states the licensing authority, “...should accept all reasonable and proportionate representations by the police unless the authority has evidence that to do so would not be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives” (Home Office guidance section 9.12).

In addition to my role for licensing issues I am also involved with community and event policing within Cambridge and I am therefore familiar with the effects of alcohol related anti-social behaviour (ASB) and violent crime experienced in Cambridge especially in relation to the night-time economy.

I have considered the likely impact of a licensing variation for The Castle, 37 St Andrews Street, Cambridge, within the context of the guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the cumulative impact of a

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concentration of licensed premises in one area and how this application would impact upon the licensing objectives;

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- Prevention of Public Nuisance

Local licensing authorities are advised that where they are satisfied that when an area has been adopted as a cumulative impact area (CIA), the effect of the cumulative impact policy being in place would be to create a rebuttable presumption that any application for material variations would normally be refused. The Castle is located within the current CIA encompassing St Andrews Street.

Alcohol-related violent crime and ASB are issues that currently affect Cambridge City centre including St Andrews Street and in particular during the hours of the night-time economy. Notably, Cambridge, in contrast to the national trend of decreasing violent crime and has in fact seen a significant increase in the levels of violent crime recorded over the last year. Combinations of enforcement and preventative measures such as city centre dedicated policing at weekends are being utilised to try to combat this issue. Many of the problems being experienced during the night-time economy and the crimes and incidents that are being recorded have their roots in a culture of excess consumption of alcohol and/or anti-social congregation particularly during the dispersal phase of the night-time economy between 0200 – 0430hrs. The Castle in St Andrews Street is a location that has suffered from alcohol related and violent crime.

Concerns in relation to alcohol-related violence and ASB in the West Central Area remain high. On 24th April 2014, the West Central Area Committee recommended to the Police that street based ASB be adopted as a policing priority, the recommendation was accepted. St Andrews Street is a thoroughfare used by night-time revellers to travel to and from different locations.

Cambridge City Centre accounts for a significant percentage of overall ASB, alcohol related incidents and violent crime recorded within Cambridge City.

The availability of more alcohol in an area and during hours of the day already blighted by alcohol related ASB and violence would have a negative effect upon the area and would not contribute positively towards the licensing objectives regardless of how well-run the premises were. The premises would have the potential to become a magnet for intoxicated night-time revellers in search of more alcohol. The likelihood for conflict at such a location is an area of grave concern as is already seen at other nearby venues.

The government's strategy on community cohesion sets out indicators that signify a cohesive community, one of which is 'living safely and feeling safe'. Knowing that Cambridge City Centre suffers a disproportionate level of alcohol related violence and anti-social behaviour compared to the rest of Cambridge City I would argue that to enable the granting of a variation of licence to The Castle which is within an already identified CIA would work against this aim.

I consider this representation to be fully compliant with the March 2015 guidance issued by the Home Office (*Section 9.12*). I contend that this representation clearly illustrates the negative impact that the granting of a licence would have on the licensing objectives above. In line with the Home Office guidance I would urge the licensing authority to accept this representation as it is evidence-based, "reasonable" and "proportionate".