



Licensing Sub Committee Hearing Panel

Date: Friday, 7 July 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Antechamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension

This is a **supplementary agenda** containing additional information about the business of the meeting that was not available when the agenda was published

Access to the Council Antechamber

Public access to the Council Antechamber is on Level 2 of the Town Hall Extension, using the lift or stairs in the lobby of the Mount Street entrance to the Extension.

There is no public access from any other entrances of the Extension.

Membership of the Licensing Sub Committee Hearing Panel

Councillors - Grimshaw, Andrews and Hewitson

Supplementary Agenda

4. **Summary Review of a Premises Licence - Vision, 58 Whitworth Street West, Manchester, M1 5WW** 3 - 110
Now contains additional information submitted by Vision's Designated Premises Supervisor and GMP.

Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the Committee Officer:

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This supplementary agenda was issued on **Tuesday, 4 July 2023** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension (Library Walk Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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YONGZHI SHAO (“Howard”) will say as follows:

1. I am a Director of YDS UK Trading Limited, which is the Premises Licence holder for Vision (nightclub) at Arch 58, Whitworth Street West, Manchester M1 5WW.
2. I am the owner of the business and I have operated licensed premises at this location since 2012.
3. I am a Personal Licence holder and the DPS of the premises.
4. Vision is a nightclub within an arch on Whitworth Street West. Looking from the street, on our left hand side is another bar called “Dogbowl” and in the arch to the right hand side is “Radio Cars” taxi company. Along the street past Dogbowl is Great Marlborough Street which runs through the arches to the rear of our properties. Beyond Great Marlborough Street is another licensed venue called “Gorilla” has temporarily closed due to the maintenance work. Across the road from us is the Ritz nightclub/live music venue. It is a very busy and vibrant area.
5. The layout of Vision can be seen on the plan attached to the Premises Licence. On the ground floor, there is a single entrance door and a double exit doorway. Once inside, there is a box office on the left hand side where customers pay to enter the nightclub. Beyond that, there are two nightclub trading rooms on the ground floor. We have the front room where the DJ is located and a further room at the rear, where there is a bar and booth/general seating area. There is a rear fire exit from this trading area to the area at the rear of Vision, which then runs onto great Marlborough St. Upstairs there is a further trading area, with a dance floor and booths/seating. This area is not always open unless we are busy.
6. Under our Premises Licence, we are entitled to open to trade seven days a week. We are permitted to sell alcohol until 3:30 AM on Fridays and Saturdays with the premises being closed to the public at 4:00 AM. The nightclub is generally only open at weekends and for some specific student nights during the week. The club generally attracts students and in particular international students.

7. We employ a SIA registered door team whenever Vision is open. The queue is managed with barriers and every customer is wanded with a metal detector on entry. This is a condition of our Premises Licence. Having been checked for metal objects, customers then pass through the front entry door to the box office, where they pay to enter.
8. As Vision has no private smoking area, we have a small smoking area on our frontage on Whitworth St West, which is enclosed by high solid barriers that we constructed specifically for this purpose. The smoking area barrier is put out and taken in each night when we close. This smoking area has a maximum capacity of 30 people and is managed by our door supervisors at all times. Any person wishing to smoke when the club is open must come out through the double exit doors and stand in the external smoking area. The area is within our barriers, so cannot be accessed from the street. Any person who does not wish to smoke in this area, must leave the exit barrier and is then wanded with a detector wand on re-entry.
9. Vision (previously known as Playground, Viva and ARCH) has operated since 2012 without any major incidents. I have always been personally involved in management of the premises and I consider that we operate a well-managed and safe venue. I employ a full time manager, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who is a Personal Licence holder and who has considerable experience of managing nightclubs for the last 20 years. He has previously been the manager at [REDACTED] and other city centre venues and has never had any issues with either LOOHT or GMP.
10. We also have a good door team and generally have 6 x SIA registered door supervisors on duty on busy weekend nights. It is a requirement of our licence that we employ one door supervisor per 100 customers. However, the capacity of the club is restricted to 300, therefore we employ around double the number of door supervisors that we are required to, under the condition of our licence.
11. Unfortunately, we have had two recent incidents at the premises, which have required police intervention.

12. On Sunday 2nd of April 2003, an incident occurred at the premises at 01:28 AM, when a male customer was slashed across the face with a sharp object. This incident followed a dispute about a booth booking and the victim was assaulted by another customer. On this occasion, our door supervisors immediately became involved to break up the dispute and first aid was provided to the victim. The incident was reported to GMP using Nightnet and we immediately closed down the venue. We provided immediate assistance to GMP regarding this assault and provided CCTV footage, in an attempt to identify the individual who was responsible.
13. Following this incident, GMP submitted a summary review application to Manchester City Council under the Licensing Act 2003. The application came before the Licencing Sub-committee at the Town Hall on Wednesday 5th April 2023. GMP sought to suspend the Vision Premises Licence at this hearing.
14. Following consideration of the incident and our response to it, the Committee decided not to suspend our licence. The Committee imposed an interim step as a temporary condition on the licence. This condition required all of our customers to be searched with a metal detector wand, in full view of CCTV cameras, on entering or re-entering the premises. Before this hearing, our licence condition required us to carry out random metal detector searches on customers.
15. Following the initial summary review hearing, we met with GMP and the licencing authority at Manchester Town Hall on Tuesday 18th April 2023. We discussed how the premises had been operating since the initial interim steps hearing and the likely outcome at the final review hearing. GMP were happy with how the premises had been operating since the interim steps hearing and PC Stuart Hammersley said he had been down to the club on a number of occasions to confirm that customers were being adequately searched on entry with metal detector wands.
16. We discussed the operation of the smoking area during this meeting and it was understood by all present that customers who were returning inside the club from the smoking area would not need to be searched with a

metal detector wand again and that this procedure was compliant with the new licence condition (“the premises” being the club including the smoking area). This was because they had already been searched on their initial entry to the premises and the smoking area had high walls and a doorman standing right next to it. A request was made at this meeting by PC Stuart Hammersley and Sam Evason (our new LOOHT officer) to seal up gaps in the smoking area barrier and increase the height, so that a weapon could not be passed through any gaps or over the top of the barriers into the smoking area. We agreed to do this and following the meeting, the smoking area barriers were extended in height and gaps between the barriers were filled. PC Stuart Hammersley visited the site the following week and confirmed that he was more than happy with all the changes made.

17. At the final review hearing before Manchester City Council’s Licencing Sub-committee on 28th April 2023, our Premises Licence was revised (in agreement with GMP) to replace condition 10 of the original licence. The Committee decision note states that “The Committee accepted that the premises had been proactive on the night in question by co-operating with and assisting the police in preserving the crime scene and in their efforts to identify and apprehend the offender. The staff had given first aid to the victim, contacted the Ambulance Service and had done everything possible on the night in the aftermath of the incident”. The decision notice also states that “the Committee heard from PC Isherwood and he and colleagues had been to the premises during the intervening period of the Summary Review and the hearing today; having viewed the search/wanding procedure, they were satisfied the searches were being conducted properly and in line with the modified condition”. The decision notice also states that the Committee accepted PC Isherwood’s opinion that the premises was “very well run”. I have included a copy of PC Isherwood’s statement confirming GMP’s satisfaction that the condition was being complied with at **Appendix A**. As is referred to below, I cannot understand why Rachel Chappell, Neighbourhood Compliance Officer at MCC now states in her representation that LOOH and GMP were unhappy with the club’s search procedures.

18. The new condition imposed on the licence at the final review hearing was the same as the interim step, which required all customers entering or re-entering the premises to be searched with a metal detector wand by a SIA registered door supervisor, in full view of a recording CCTV camera.
19. On Saturday 10th June 2023, Vision was operating as a normal Saturday night. It was an incredibly busy night in the city centre, as Manchester City had just won the Champions League that night and Parklife Festival had taken place in Heaton Park. Vision was not particularly full. I estimate that we had no more than 200 people present during the course of the night. As we were not particularly busy, the upstairs room had no more than 10 people in it all night, so we decided to close the upstairs around 02:00. From 02:00 onwards, we were only trading in the front room and the rear room on the ground floor.
20. [REDACTED] was not working that night as he was on holiday.
21. We had a full door team of six door supervisors, whose names and licence details can be seen on the attached sign in sheet at **Appendix B**.
22. At around 02:20, I was sitting in the office and I heard on the doorman radio that there was an incident happening in the back room. On the CCTV cameras, I could see our security staff go quickly to the rear room to try to deal with this. After about a minute, a doorman came into the office and asked if I could call the police for assistance, as there were two large groups arguing with each other and pushing each other around. He then returned to the back room to continue to deal with the incident.
23. I waited for a minute to see if the incident could be dealt with internally. However, I could see that the doorstaff had not returned to the front door, so I called 999. At the same time, I radioed through to our doorstaff to tell the DJ to stop playing music as I was closing the venue.
24. I tried a few times to get through to the police on 999 as the number would not connect. When I did manage to get through, I explained to the operator that there was a dispute in the rear room of the club and could the police please attend to assist our security staff. The operator said that

the police were very busy with other incidents in the city centre and would not be able to attend immediately. I stayed on the phone to the police for over 6 minutes explaining what was happening.

25. In this statement I will refer to Group 1 as the group with members wearing light blue tops on the CCTV. I will refer to group 2 as the individuals wearing white shirts. These individuals can clearly be seen on the CCTV footage. As Group 1 can be seen wearing light blue shirts/tops in the CCTV footage, we did wonder afterwards if they were Manchester City fans, but on reviewing the footage the colouring of their tops may be coincidental. None of the groups were wearing football tops.
26. Whilst I was on the 999 call, I could see on the CCTV that a group of males (Group 1) were escorted out of the front door of the premises by our security staff. I believe that two customers were also escorted out of the rear fire exit.
27. From watching the CCTV cameras, it is clear that when the first group (Group 1) walked out of the front door of Vision, they were not injured in any way (and were not carrying any weapons).
28. I did not realise at this point that the group who had been asked to leave (Group 1) had gone around the corner and had then returned to attempt to get back inside the club.
29. On exiting the premises at around 02:28, Group 1 can be seen on the CCTV trying to get back into the nightclub at 02:29. It is apparent that their entry was barred by our door supervisors. Group 1 can then be seen waiting in the street outside the barriers. On the CCTV a member of Group 1 can be seen putting on black gloves. Obviously, at this stage our door supervisors did not realise that Group 1 were waiting to fight Group 2. At some point, one of the members of the group in a black vest appears to tell the group to move away from the frontage of the club.
30. Having reviewed the CCTV footage, I can see that, as Group 2 exited our barriers, Group 1 ran at them and a fight starts in the street. When this happened, I was still on the call to the police and I was watching the fight

in the street on the CCTV in the office. I explained to the operator that there were now 2 groups fighting in the street and that we required an immediate police presence. I hung up the call when I saw a police car arrive on the CCTV. However, by the time the police arrived, the fight was already over and members of Group 1 had left the area.

31. We found out afterwards that a knife had been used and recovered in the street and that two individuals in Group 2 had been stabbed. It is clear that this stabbing happened outside in the street and not inside Vision nightclub, or inside our barriers. The CCTV clearly shows that the two individuals in Group 2 were not injured when they exited the venue. They can also be seen coming back over our barrier injured.

32. Have produced 8 x CCTV clips to show the sequence of events on the night. I would highlight the following footage:

FOOTAGE	GROUP	TIME	COMMENTS
CCTV1	1	02.04.50	6 x males enter (Group 1) blue shirts). All wanded.
CCTV2	1	02.28.21	6 x males leave back room (Group 1)
CCTV3	1	02.28.31	6 x males leave front door (Group 1) (no injuries)
CCTV4	1	02.28.37	6 x males leave club and come back (Group 1) (refused entry) at 02.29.16 (note: gloves on)
CCTV5	1	02.29.18	6 x males come back (Group 1) (refused entry)
CCTV6	2	02.31.01	2 x victims (Group 2) walk out of back room (no injuries)
CCTV7	2	02.31.20	2 x victims (Group 2) walk out of front room (no injuries)
CCTV8	1 & 2	02.31.31	Fight starts on street. 02.32.12 Group 2 victim 1 (injury to leg) 02.32.47 Group 2 victim 2 (shows injury to back)

33. Following this incident, our doorstaff gave first aid to the 2 x injured persons (Group 2). They were given first aid inside the Vision barriers and an ambulance was called by the doorstaff.

34. On the same night, we immediately provided CCTV footage of the incident to GMP CID. The same day (Sunday) at 22:36, [REDACTED] e-mailed an incident report to Stuart Hammersley at GMP. This can be seen at **Appendix C**.
35. We also obtained statements from members of our staff and doorstaff about the incident and these can be seen at **Appendix D**.
36. On 12 June 2023, GMP submitted a new application for a summary review of our Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003. We discussed the incident with our Solicitor, [REDACTED] and explained what could be seen on the CCTV. We were certain that a knife had not been brought into Vision on the night and that a knife injury had not been caused inside Vision.
37. On 14 June 2023, we attended a summary review hearing before the Licensing Sub-Committee. [REDACTED] and I attended the hearing in person, but our Solicitor attended remotely as he was abroad at a conference at the time.
38. At the hearing, GMP sought the suspension of our Premises Licence as an interim step.
39. We had discussed the hearing with our Solicitor beforehand and he advised us that, as this was the second summary review application in 3 months and another serious incident, the Committee were highly likely to suspend the licence to protect the public, until the full facts were known. We therefore agreed that we would not oppose the suspension of the licence at the hearing, but we wished to make it clear to the Committee that there was no evidence that a knife had been brought into the premises or that a knife had been used to assault anybody inside. This was because we had viewed the CCTV relating to the incident and knew that nobody had been stabbed inside the venue. We therefore agreed that we would not oppose GMP's request for a suspension of the Premises Licence at the hearing. However, we stated that by agreeing to the

suspension, this did not mean we accepted the facts as presented by GMP, but rather we wanted to ensure public safety until the facts were known.

40. At the hearing, the Committee decided to suspend the licence with immediate effect. Suspension was not opposed by Vision as previously agreed and communicated to GMP.

41. The club has been closed since 15th June 2023.

42. We met with GMP and Rachel Chappell (Neighbourhood Compliance Officer) at Vision on Wednesday 21st June 2023, to view the CCTV footage and to explain what happened on the night.

43. Of course, I understand that the Sub-committee will be concerned about two incidents having taken place at Vision in such a short period of time.

44. I can assure the Committee that metal detector wands were being used to search all customers on the night of this incident and we are confident that no customer came into Vision with a knife. It is clear from the CCTV that Group 1 left the area and we believe that they may have gone round the corner to Great Marlborough Street to obtain a weapon from a car parked in the tunnel. On the CCTV footage, one of the members of Group 1 can be seen putting gloves on prior to the fight taking place. On entry to Vision, members of Group 1 and 2 were searched with metal detector wands, in full view of CCTV, which is a requirement of the licence condition that the Committee imposed on our licence at the hearing on 28th April 2023.

45. It is apparent from the CCTV footage that no assault with a knife took place inside the premises on 11th June 2023, as no customer was showing any signs of injuries when they left. This was therefore a serious assault in the street.

46. Prior to the incident, our door supervisors thought that everything had calmed down and were not aware that Group 1 were waiting for Group 2 outside the club, so that they could assault them.

47. On Thursday 29th June 2023, we were provided with representations in relation to this review by the Council's licensing team. I would like to respond to these representations:

RACHEL CHAPPELL (LICENSING & OUT OF HOURS COMPLIANCE TEAM)

- Rachel Chappell refers to the new Condition 10 that was imposed on the Premises Licence by the Committee at the hearing on 28th April 2023. She states that “the management were challenged about the condition on several occasions and LOOH asked that patrons should be searched on re-entry to the premises from the external smoking area, due to the low barriers.....This was raised twice by LOOH and GMP”. I dispute this. It was always understood by all parties that the search condition did not require customers standing in the smoking area to be searched again with metal detector wands when coming back inside the club. This is not the wording of the condition, as customers in the smoking area had not left the premises. We had previously been asked by LOOH to extend the barrier height around the smoking area and had agreed to this. We met with GMP and LOOH at Manchester Town Hall on Tuesday 18th April 2023 and this issue wasn't raised as a concern. Stuart Hammersley said that he was satisfied with the search procedures at the club since the original summary review hearing. At the final review hearing on 28th April 2023, PC Isherwood lodged a statement that stated “since the interim steps hearing, GMP officers have observed the security staff utilising the knife wands on all customers in the queue and is satisfied that the condition is being complied with effectively and all customers are being searched”. I dispute that either LOOH or GMP have asked us to search customers returning inside the club from the smoking area on any occasion. It was clearly understood by us, LOOH and GMP that the searching condition did not apply to customers returning from the smoking area, as they were still on “the premises” and were not re-entering the premises, which would have required them to be searched again. If this was such a major concern then I feel sure that Rachel Chappell would have documented this in a meeting note or an e-mail to us, asking us to revise our search procedures. Rachel also

states that [REDACTED], the General Manager was dismissive to herself and very negative/argumentative. [REDACTED] strongly disagrees with this statement and has at no point ever been dismissive to any LOOH member or GMP (and actually has an outstanding relationship with all other members of LOOH and GMP). He did raise some questions and disagree with some statements made by Ms Chappell by offering another perspective or option to her requests, but at no point was he rude or declined to follow any requests made by LOOH.

- Rachel Chappell states that during a meeting on 21st June 2023 at the premises, the incident book had not been completed with details of the incident on Sunday 11th June 2023. We acknowledge that it is good practice to keep a record of incidents at the club, although this is not a licence condition. At 22:36 on Sunday 11th June 2023, [REDACTED] e-mailed Stuart Hammersley at GMP full details about the incident (see **Appendix C**). This is a full account of the incident which has been printed and inserted into the incident book.
- Rachel Chappell states that body worn cameras were not activated by doorstaff during the incident on 11th June 2023. This is condition 5 of our Premises Licence, which states “when on duty at least one door supervisor working inside and at least one door supervisor working outside should utilise a body worn camera. This should be activated whenever staff are involved with incidents of violence/disorder/ejections/vulnerable persons.” At least 2 door supervisors were wearing cameras on 11th June 2023. As these cameras cannot record all the time (it would soon use up all the memory card) they have to be turned on by the door supervisors. We always tell the door supervisors that this is a condition of our Premises Licence that they must comply with it. It is correct to say that when we checked the body worn cameras, there was no footage saved for that date. I can only imagine that when the incident started, the door supervisors were too busy trying to de-escalate the incident that they did not think to activate the cameras. I appreciate that this is strictly a breach of the licence condition, but

we can only tell the door supervisors to comply with the condition as we cannot activate the body worn cameras for them.

- Rachel Chappell says that Nitenet was not used on the night of 11th June 2023. This is condition 2 of our Premises Licence which states “NiteNet radio to be used effectively”. NiteNet does not have signal inside Vision as it is within a railway arch. The head doorman on the front who carries the NiteNet radio responded to the initial issue inside and so was unable to use his NiteNet radio. Instead, a doorman made me aware of the issue over our internal radio system and I called 999. The incident was called in to the police by a 999 call and therefore we did not think that it was necessary to make a further call on NiteNet. Nitenet is used on a regular basis at Vision to inform other venues about any issues at the club and to call for assistance when required. It is only used when there is a reason to use it, not as a general radio chat between venues.
- Rachel Chappell states that the CCTV at the premises was still of poor quality, despite management agreeing to update the internal CCTV cameras at the last review hearing. After the review, we replaced 8 cameras at the club to improve the quality of the CCTV footage and added another six cameras to increase coverage throughout the venue, including the rear exit that had been requested by PC Stuart Hammersley. As we explained to GMP/LOOH on site at the premises, due to the low roof on the ground floor, it is difficult to get a full image of all trading areas, as the head height is low and customers standing up obscure the view of the CCTV cameras mounted on the side walls. I disagree that the CCTV footage on the night was in any way in breach of the CCTV conditions, which requires CCTV images to record “clear images permitting the identification of individuals”. On the CCTV footage that we have provided to GMP, the individuals involved can all be identified on entering and exiting the premises. I accept that the initial argument in the rear room where the dispute started cannot be clearly seen on the CCTV, due to individuals standing in front of the booth and obscuring the area. Due to the layout of the premises, it would be impossible to get a clear shot of all areas of

the club whilst it is trading. I do not agree that the CCTV condition was being breached.

- Rachel Chappell states that the large-scale violent disorder on the street on 11th June 2023, happened because there was “no communication within the security team to separate the two groups who ended up meeting to the front of the premises”. I dispute that the door team were responsible for what happened on the night. It is clear from the CCTV that the door team prevented Group 1 from getting back inside the club and barred their entry. At this point, I was already on the telephone to the police requesting urgent police attendance. It appeared to door team that, after the first group were ejected the situation had calmed down and the door supervisors did not know that Group 1 were waiting to confront Group 2. Had they known that a fight was about to start, they would have held Group 2 inside the venue.
- Rachel Chappell states that there have been approximately 8 noise complaints about the premises over the past 12 months. We have at no point been made aware on email or in person about these eight complaints. If we had, we would have dealt with them at the time of the complaints. We were made aware by Signe Johansen, our previous licencing officer (who had managed our venue up until recently), that there had been three complaints about Vision over the last eighteen months. These were immediately dealt with and rectified. These three complaints were:
 - 1) September 2022 – Noise complaint from residents opposite Vision (the Locks) due to too many speakers being placed in the front room during Freshers’ week, which was rectified as soon as we were made aware of the issue. The speakers were removed resulting in the sound levels decreasing. This was monitored by Signe and she was happy with the resulting outcome.
 - 2) November 2022– Licencing Officer for Out of hours officer Adel made us aware that the residence behind the venue had complained about noise leakage when the fire exit was left open by

a customer. This was dealt with by the club putting a doorman at the rear exit to the club room to stop any customers accidentally leaving through the rear exit and leaving the door open. We also added another CCTV camera, to make sure that the rear exit was covered at all times so we could see when it was opened. Signe and Adel were happy with the new procedures and no further complaints were made.

3) May 2023 – Sam our new licencing officer made us aware that there had been a complaint from the residents of the Locks (the building opposite the venue entrance), from noise made by a group of people leaving the venue. We have not been made aware of which event this related to, but our agreed dispersal policy is that customers are told to leave quietly at the end of the night and the doorstaff make sure that dispersal takes place to move any customers “hanging around” the front away and down the street or into taxis.

- These are the only official complaints we have been made aware of. If we had been made aware of any other noise complaints, they would have been dealt with just as quickly, as we want to keep a good relationship with our neighbours.

We had a great working relationship with Signe and she visited the site on a regular basis. If there were any noise issues these would have been discussed and a suitable solution put in place immediately. This relationship will be the same with any licencing officer especially our new case officer Sam and we will always work proactively with them.

As required by our licence, we have provided the residents of the Locks (the building opposite our entrance) with a phone number and email address should their residents have any issues with the nightclub at any time. This information is on their notice board and available from their concierge. We have not to the date been contacted by any resident regarding any direct issue.

- Rachel Chappell refers to a Prohibition Notice issued in the summer of 2022, when a reduced capacity of 300 was imposed on the venue after a visit from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue. This was because the fire service assessed that the independent fire risk assessment figures we had sent to them were incorrect. Once assessed, the original capacity was re-instated. GMFR were happy otherwise that the venue stating that it was well run, and no other issues were raised. I am not sure what relevance this now has to the licence review. It's an attempt to say that we are non-compliant operators, but this is not the case.

MACINTOSH VILLAGE RESIDENTS

- The representation from the Macintosh Village Residents states that Vision is responsible for crime, litter, broken glass, antisocial behaviour and antisocial driving in the area. Whitworth Street West is a very busy area and the objector states that "the above cannot directly be attributed wholly to Vision". I do not agree that we are responsible for these issues in the area. I am not sure why they say we have "attracted patrons of questionable morals" – the club is very popular with university students and international students. These are not people of questionable morals.
- The objector states that the rear door of Vision is often left open, disturbing residents with bass and noise. Whilst I accept that the door may have been opened on an odd occasion, the rear door is certainly not left open regularly. We even installed a CCTV camera to cover this door to alert us when it is opened.

48. I understand that Alan Isherwood of **GMP** will be making a statement for the purposes of the review hearing. As at Monday 3rd July 2023, I have not yet received this statement. As the review hearing is now only 4 days away, I intend to serve my statement and evidence. If there are any additional points I need to make when I have read the statement from GMP, I will serve a new statement. However, I make it clear that GMP was previously happy with our search procedures having visited the site on at the hearing on 28th April 2023, PC Isherwood told the Committee that the club was "very well run" (see Appendix A for details). I cannot see how

GMP is now seeking the revocation of our Premises Licence based on this new incident.

49. Vision nightclub is my only business and my livelihood. The hospitality industry and especially nightclubs have been severely impacted by Covid closures followed by the recession and cost of living crisis. Most weekends we only get 50-60 people in the venue. After Covid, I sold my house and took a big loan from the bank to support the business. I have 2 children to feed, one is 6 years old and one is 9 years old. A lot of our staff have families to feed as well, such as our manager [REDACTED], who has just had a baby born in January this year. I can't imagine how my family could survive if the club can't reopen. As DPS I take my job roll very seriously. The club opens at 23:00, but I will always be there from 18:00 to check everything in the venue is correct. Before the doors open, I have meeting with the head doorman and the supervisor to go through everything with them.

50. I understand that public safety is a licencing objective and a priority, but I do not accept that we were responsible for what happened on Sunday 11th June 2023. I'm obviously very relieved that nobody was seriously hurt. I honestly believe that all of our customers were adequately searched by our door team. I do not believe that any customer came inside Vision with a weapon. As soon as the dispute escalated inside, I asked for the music to be turned off and decided to close the venue. Our doorstaff prevented the assailants from re-entering the venue. I called the police and we gave first aid to the injured parties. Unfortunately a small group of individuals spoiled the night for everyone else by getting into a dispute.

51. I am in the process of reviewing what other steps (if any) we could have taken at the club to prevent a recurrence of this incident. I will present these proposals to the Committee at the review hearing on Friday.

52. However, I do not agree with Rachel Chappell that these incidents demonstrate a failure in management and lack of control of running the venue.

53. I do not believe it is necessary to suspend or revoke our Premises Licence in order to promote the licensing objectives. I am willing to work with

GMP and LOOH to review this incident and to implement any additional steps that may be required to prevent a recurrence of this sort of incident in the future.



.....YONGZHI SHAO (“HOWARD”)

Date: 3rd July 2023

WITNESS STATEMENT

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

URN [] [] [] []

Statement of: Alan Isherwood

Age if under 18: 18+ (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Constable

This statement (consisting of 2 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 anything in it, which I know to be false.

Signature: [Redacted] Date: 20/4/23

Check box if witness evidence is visually recorded [] (supply witness details on last page)

I am Police Constable 17659 Isherwood of the Greater Manchester Police, Licensing Officer for the City of Manchester Division, currently based in the Licensing Team at Manchester Town Hall Extension.

Part of my remit as licensing officer is to oversee all the licensed premises on the City of Manchester Division. The objective of the role is to promote and maintain the 4 licensing objectives at licensed premises, those being the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm.

Vision

The premises are situated on Whitworth Street West in the city centre of Manchester. The premises licence was issued on 18/12/2012. The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) is YDS UK Trading Limited, and the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) is Yongzhi Shao who has held this position since 2019.

Incident

At 0128 hours on Sunday 2nd April 2023 GMP received a telephone call from a person who stated that a male had been stabbed at the premises.

Police officers attended at the premises and established that a male had been slashed across the face with a knife inside the premises and the offender had left the scene. The victim was being treated by ambulance staff and had sustained a large laceration to his left cheek.

It was established that the victim had been involved in a verbal dispute with a group of males who had sat at their pre booked booth and were refusing to vacate it. This dispute has escalated, and the offender has produced a knife and slashed the victim across his face.

The victim staggered a few paces away from the booth and then fell to the ground and staff went over to assist him.

The offender and his associates have then quickly walked out of the premises and ran off and enquiries are being made to identify them.

The victim was taken to hospital by the ambulance, and he has needed 30 stitches, in order to close the wound.

Signature: [Redacted] Signature witnessed by: [Redacted]



RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11

Page 2 of 3

A report of crime for a Section 18 Wounding with Intent has been submitted, a potential offender has been identified and enquiries are ongoing.

Interim Steps Hearing

On Monday 3rd April 2023 I applied for a Summary Review of the premises licence and the certificate was signed by Superintendent Spurgeon. The interim steps hearing was held on Wednesday 5th April 2023 where GMP asked for a suspension of the premises licence.

After deliberation committee decided that a suspension was not proportionate and agreed that an extra condition regarding searching customers using knife wands should be added to the licence as the interim measure.

Conclusion

Since the interim steps hearing GMP officers have observed the security staff utilising the knife wands on all the customers in the queue and are satisfied that the condition is being complied with effectively and all customers are being searched.

GMP realise that the committee will make their own decision as to what needs to happen to the Premises Licence, but we would ask that the condition handed down at the Interim Steps hearing is considered as the full review decision, as we believe that this is proportionate and has been seen to be effective.

The condition is as follows:

Every customer entering or re-entering the premises will be searched with a metal detector wand by an SIA registered door supervisor and this is to be carried out in full view of recordable CCTV camera(s). Any person in possession of a weapon will be refused entry and the police will be called. Any person refusing to be searched or not passing a search will be refused entry. Notices stating that every customer will be searched with a metal detector wand will be displayed prominently at the entrance to the premises.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

2006/07 (1)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

From: Premises Licensing <Premises.Licensing@manchester.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 May 2023 12:37
To: [REDACTED] alan.isherwood
Cc: GMP Licensing
Subject: Notification of hearing decision re 286965/PW5: Summary Review of Premises Licence: Vision, Arch 58, Whitworth Street West, Manchester, M1 5WW - 28/04/2023

Categories: Filed to ND
FilingIndicator: -1

2 May 2023

Ref: LBJ286965

Dear Sir / Madam

The Licensing Act 2003 (Summary Review of Premises licences) Regulations 2007

Notice of hearing decision: Summary Review of Premises Licence

Following the Licensing Sub-committee hearing on 28/04/2023, I write to formally advise you of the sub-committee's decision regarding:

Vision
Arch 58
Whitworth Street West
Manchester
M1 5WW

Decision

To modify the premises licence pursuant to s53D(3)(a) of the Licensing Act 2003 by replacing Condition 10 as follows:

10. Every customer entering or re-entering the premises will be searched with a metal detector wand by an SIA registered door supervisor and this is to be carried out in full view of recordable CCTV camera(s). Any person in possession of a weapon will be refused entry and the police will be called. Any person refusing to be searched or not passing a search will be refused entry. Notices stating that every customer will be searched with a metal detector wand will be displayed prominently at the entrance to the premises.

Interim Steps Decision:

Interim steps to remain in place as provided for by s53D(4)(a)

Reasons

The Committee considered the documentation in relation to this matter, the representations on behalf of the Chief Officer of GMP made by PC Alan Isherwood and the representations made by

Vision and their representative, [REDACTED]. They noted there had been no other representations.

The Committee accepted the premises had been proactive on the night in question by co-operating with and assisting the police in preserving the crime scene and in their efforts to identify and apprehend the offender. The staff had given first aid to the victim, contacted the Ambulance Service and had done everything possible on the night in the aftermath of the incident.

The Committee heard from PC Isherwood that he and colleagues had been to the premises during the intervening period of the Summary Review and the hearing today; having viewed the search/wanding procedure, they were satisfied the searches were being conducted properly and in line with the modified condition. They noted subsequent to this temporary condition being imposed there had not been any knives or weapons recovered and the venue had gone to the extent of preventing people with metal hair pins entering the venue as they were aware these too could be used as weapons.

PC Isherwood confirmed there had been no further incidents and the Committee accepted his opinion that the premises was 'very well run'. They also noted PC Isherwood opined the interim steps condition was sufficient and proportionate and was requesting the same be made a permanent condition to promote the licensing objective of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The Committee noted prior to the incident the condition on the premises licence was for random searches only which was effectively at the discretion of the premises:

10. There shall be a random search policy, and a notice to that effect shall be displayed at the entrance to the premises

They accepted the venue's explanation that a 'Knife Arch' would be prohibitive in that a knife arch would slow the admission process down and prolong queuing given only one person could enter at a time and may have to 'reverse and re-enter' causing delays. They also accepted the venue currently, could 'wand' three people at any one-time minimising queues/waiting time and most importantly, the 'wanding' had been effective in preventing any person entering with a weapon or anything capable of being used as a weapon. Given the above and the history of the club i.e. in its twelve years of operation there had been no incidents of this nature, their actions on the night and the effectiveness of the Interim Steps modified condition, the Committee considered it was proportionate and appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objective of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder to implement the interim Steps condition as a permanent condition and modified the licence (condition 10, Annex 2) accordingly as follows: -

10. Every customer entering or re-entering the premises will be searched with a metal detector wand by an SIA registered door supervisor and this is to be carried out in full view of recordable CCTV camera(s). Any person in possession of a weapon will be refused entry and the police will be called. Any person refusing to be searched or not passing a search will be refused entry. Notices stating that every customer will be searched with a metal detector wand will be displayed prominently at the entrance to the premises.

And this would now be mandatory as opposed to discretionary.

You have a right of appeal against the decision. Any appeal must be made to Manchester City Magistrates' Court, Crown Square, Manchester, M60 1PR (tel 0161 830 4200) and must be commenced within the period of 21 days beginning with the day on which you were notified by the licensing authority of the decision, as provided for in Section 181 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The decision of the Licensing Sub-committee will not have effect until the end of the period allowed for appeal, or until any appeal is disposed of. Any interim steps taken will remain in force over these periods.

Should you require any further information, please contact the undersigned on.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted Signature]

Premises Licensing Team

Premises Licensing
Growth and Development
Manchester City Council
Level 1 Town Hall Extension
Albert Square
PO Box 532
M60 2LA
Email: premises.licensing@manchester.gov.uk
Web: www.manchester.gov.uk/licensing

Tell us how we're doing with our [online feedback form](#)

Manchester City Council has introduced a Women's Night Time Safety Charter:

[The charter | Women's Night-time Safety Charter | Manchester City Council](#)

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APPENDIX B

Surname		First Name		Date:	SAT	10/6/23
Surname		First Name			Time Start	Time Finish
				Floor Manager		
				Dispense Manager		
				Dispense Manager		
				[REDACTED]	22:00	04:45
					22:00	04:45
					23:00	06:00
					23:00	03:35
					22:30	07:30
					21:00	04:00

7-7
7-



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 June 2023 19:01
To: [REDACTED] Howard Shao
Subject: Fwd: Incident outside Vision 02:30 11/6/23

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Here you go:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 June 2023 22:26
To: Stuart Hammersley <Stuart.Hammersley@gmp.police.uk>
Cc: Howard Shao <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Incident outside Vision 02:30 11/6/23

Caution: This email came from outside GMP. Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognise the sender's e-mail address and know the content is safe.

Hi

Sorry for the delay but it appears we had an incident on Sunday morning 02:30

Just a heads up, i'm afraid I wasn't there but have spoken with Howard and had a quick look on cctv. From what Howard has told me there was two large groups in the club who where getting in each other faces, one of our Security asked Howard to contact the police because they where concerned that if the large groups started fighting they would loose control. Howard has called the police and stayed on the phone until officers arrived. The groups where asked to leave by security and have under their own steam run out of the club and towards dog bowl (2:29). About one minute later you see them return and try to get back into the venue only to be stopped by security, they then wait outside by the smoking area on the road.

At this time Howard has decided to close the night as he wasn't happy with what was going on.

At 2:30 the other group that they were an issue in the club, left without a security escort, through the front door and where met by the guys who where waiting for them outside. They then proceeded to be a fight between both groups. From what Howard has been told one person involved in the fight on the street was stabbed in the back and was then treated by our security the other people involved have continued to fight and then run off in multiple directions. The security on the front

door tried there best to separate the guys fighting but where unable to effectively stop the fight as there was to many people where involved. A marked police unit has then arrived.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

T: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]

Vision Nightclub
58 Whitworth Street West
Manchester, M1 5WW

<image001.jpg>

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YDS UK Trading Ltd T/A Vision Nightclub, 58 Whitworth St West, Manchester, M1 5WW

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[For emergencies only call 999, or 101 if it's a less urgent matter.](#)

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- Twitter: www.twitter.com/gmpolice
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/gtrmanchesterpolic
- Flickr: www.flickr.com/gmpolice1
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/gmpolice
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Thank you for your co-operation.

APPENDIX D

Saturday 10th (Vision Night (club))

Door Supervisor [REDACTED]

(Incident Report)

On Saturday 10th roughly 02:²⁵~~45~~
 I [REDACTED] received a radio call
 to tell me of an argument in
 room (2) I ran into room (2)
 where I seen IC3 male who I
 recognise as a regular at vision
 arguing with ~~an~~ IC3 female, I
 split them up moved the male
 into room (1) to find out what
 had happened on doing this a
 fight broke out in room (2), I've
 ran back in fight was stopped
 males was escorted out of
 venue, a short while later
 a fight broke out outside,
 I seen one male ontop of another
 fighting I ran over and pulled
 him off, couple minutes later
 IC3 male jumped our barrier
 saying hes hurt his leg can
 we help so a member of staff
 helped with first aid, then

another ICS male ran into our venue saying hes hurt his back bleeding saying he thought he got hit with something or stabbed but no bat or knife was seen by anybody either way we helped the male with first aid and called ambulance and paramedics arrived with police roughly 02:40 and took both mates who been assaulted away.

[Redacted]

Door Supervisor

[Redacted]

13:07



< 293



Found in [redacted] Inbox



Howard Shao

14/06/2023

To: [redacted]

Fwd: Vison night club 10/06/23

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [redacted]

[redacted]

Date: Mon, 12 Jun 2023 at 04:03

Subject: Vison night club 10/06/23

To: <[redacted]>

[redacted]

[redacted] Door staff at Vison

I got the code red over the radio and went into the back room where several people were fighting I was mostly in the back room splitting up fights I saw a group of the men run out the front door but I stayed inside to deescalate the situation inside then after going outside I then was told there was 2 people hurt but witnesses non of that



Re: Body Worn Footage

13:07



2 Messages

< 293

On the 10 -6-23 a fight t...



----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2023 at 22:35

Subject: On the 10 -6-23 a fight took place in side of vision .

To: <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED]

I was on the entrance of vision 10-6-23 when a fight take place in side,don't know what caused the fight or how it started but for I witness is what take place outside.

A large group of young men come out of the venue and was really angry they went up the road and returned and tried to force there way back inside but I stand my ground and hold the barriers they wanted to come back in but i refused to let them back in .

Shortly after the other group comes out side and they had one big fight in the street after when it quiet down one lad comes up to me and say he got stabbed to called an ambulance after trying to do so two police officer came and ask what happened I explain and let them know that a guy got stab.

Sent from my iPhone



Re: Body Worn Footage

Saturday 10th (Vision Night (Club))

Door Supervisor [REDACTED]

(Incident Report)

On Saturday 10th roughly 02:25
I [REDACTED] received a radio call
to tell me of an argument in
room (2) I ran into room (2)
where I seen IC3 male who I
recognise as a regular at vision
arguing with a IC3 female, I
split them up moved the male
into room (1) to find out what
had happened on doing this a
fight broke out in room (2), I've
ran back in fight was stopped
males was escorted out of
venue, a short while later
a fight broke out outside.

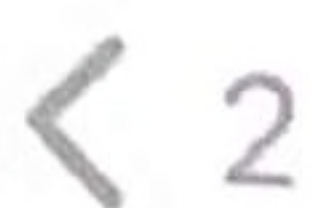
I seen one male ontop of another
fighting I ran over and pulled
him off, couple minutes later
IC3 male jumped our barrier
saying hes hurt his leg can
we help so a member of staff
helped with first aid, then

another 103 male ran into
 our venue saying hes hurt
 his back bleeding saying he
 thought he got hit with something
 or stabbed but no bat or knife
 was seen by anybody either
 way we helped the male with
 first aid and called ambulance
 and paramedics arrived with
 police roughly 02:40 and
 took both mates who been
 assaulted away.

[Redacted]

Door Supervisor

[Redacted]



Howard VISION



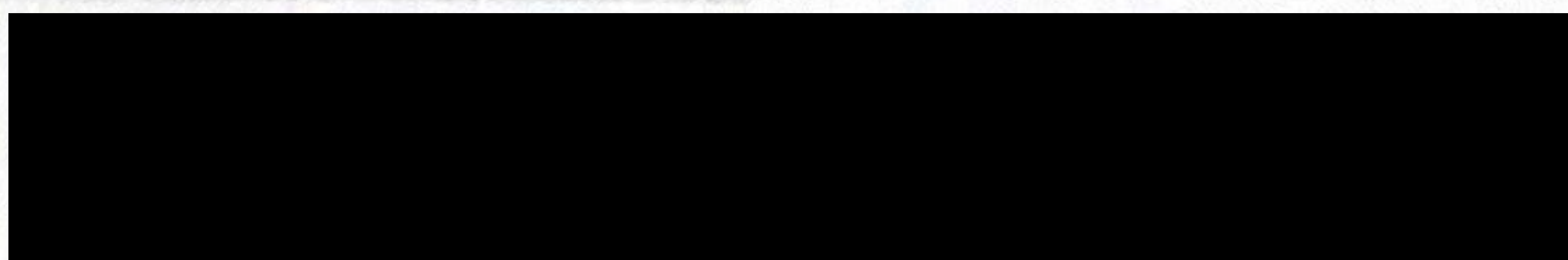
2 UNRE Today ,SAGES

➔ Forwarded

I arrived at the booths where there was a argument/altercation between 2 booths and the dancefloor crowd. Not long into it punching and pushing begun also people getting involved who who wernt involved in the initional argument. I tryed to get in the way and get out as meny people as i could aswel as shouting for police and radioing for GMP as it was escalating and there was alot of people involved.. i remaind in the club getting all the customers outside the venue and closing the night down. I arrived at the front door to find out there was a 2nd fight in the street.

12:46

[Redacted] statement 12:47



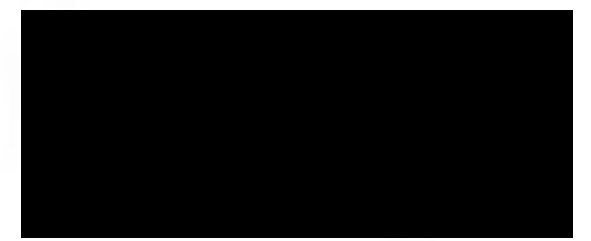
Message input field



12:54



< Howard VISION on 14/06/2023, 18:14 All Media



Incidents report

Date. 11-06-2023 Time around 2am to 3am

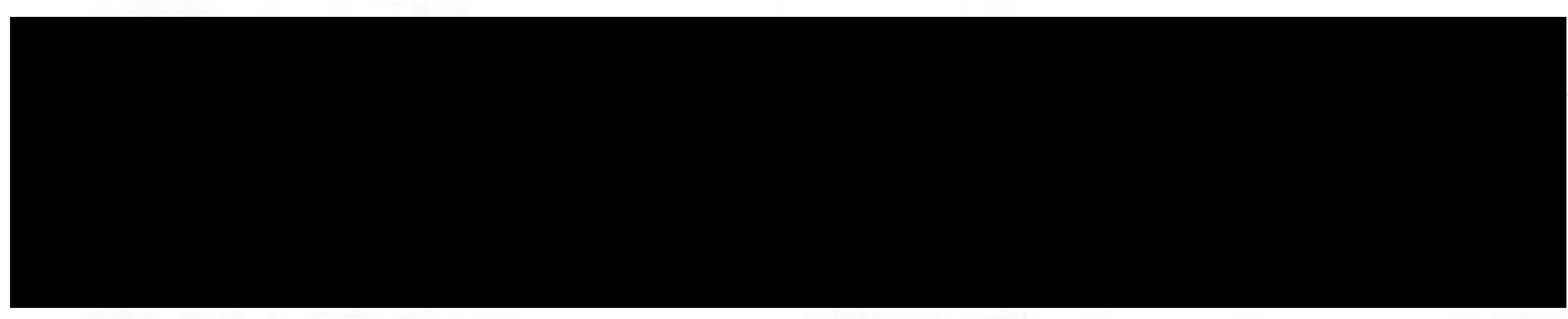
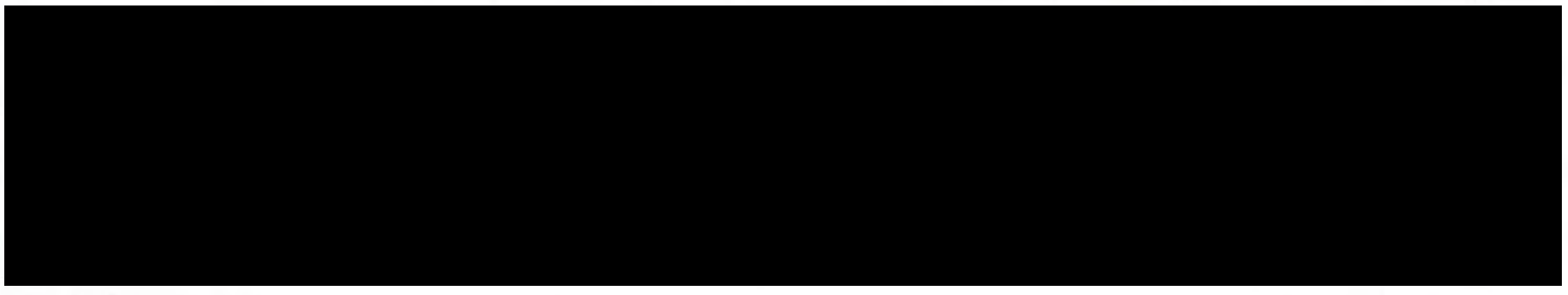
Job role security.

I saw customer's was running towards exit door and i look towards the directions where people's was running from.

And i ran towards the directions and i saw two groups having altercation and I got inbetween the middle of both groups and I ask both groups to stop the argument.

I walked three people out the backroom through the fire exit door so they can go their own separate way, I don't know or saw anything afterwards

This is my best knowledge of the incidents.



From: Yongzhi Shao [REDACTED]
 Subject: Fwd [REDACTED]
 Date: 21 June 2023 at 12:56
 To: [REDACTED]

HS

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Yongzhi Shao [REDACTED]
 Date: Thu, 15 Jun 2023 at 13:43
 Subject: Fwd [REDACTED]
 To: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
 Date: Thu, 15 Jun 2023 at 13:40
 Subject: [REDACTED]
 To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] door supervisor [REDACTED]

Incident Report at Vision night club

Date 11 July 2023

Time between 2am to 3am

Around 2am on 11 July 2023,

I saw customers running towards the exit door which is the front door, i looked towards the direction where people were running from and i quickly ran towards the direction and made a radio call for back up in case of any issues. I got there and saw two groups of guys having altercation and also saw one of my team mate already in between trying to stop both groups from the argument. I quickly joined him and managed to escort/walk some of the people from group 1 outside through the front door to separate them in case of further arguments in the club. I then quickly ran back inside the club to escort the second group from the back door.

By the time I got to there table, I saw them running towards the front door. At that time, the music was already off / light's already on and people were already making there way out peacefully. So I followed the second group , all of a sudden, I heard a man say "they think we are f words, man not having it," while they were rushing/running outside the door by then I was already behind them, then I got outside all I saw was group 1 and group 2 fighting outside the club, and I managed to separate them as the best I can, then I was also confused as the fight was in the middle of the main road, I then walked back to the front of the club, by then group 1, had already cleared from the road. I then saw one of the customer from the second group 2 came running towards me saying I think I got stabbed and i asked him where, and he said outside, by then his already bleeding, then the staff took him inside..

I didn't see anyone stabbed/with a stabbed wound inside the club, i only saw a guy with white a T-shirt running back to club from outside the venue saying I think I've have been stabbed!!

This is my best knowledge of the incidents.

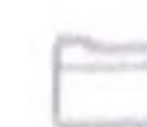
13:07



< 293



Found in [redacted] Inbox



Howard Shao

14/06/2023

To: [redacted] >

Fwd: Vison night club 10/06/23

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [redacted]
[redacted]

Date: Mon, 12 Jun 2023 at 04:03

Subject: Vison night club 10/06/23

To: [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] Door staff at Vison

I got the code red over the radio and went into the back room where several people were fighting I was mostly in the back room splitting up fights I saw a group of the men run out the front door but I stayed inside to deescalate the situation inside then after going outside I then was told there was 2 people hurt but witnesses non of that



Re: Body Worn Footage

13:07



2 Messages

< 293

On the 10 -6-23 a fight t...



----- Forwarded message -----

From: [Redacted]

Date: Wed, 14 Jun 2023 at 22:35

Subject: On the 10 -6-23 a fight took place in side of vision .

To: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

I was on the entrance of vision 10-6-23 when a fight take place in side,don't know what caused the fight or how it started but for I witness is what take place outside.

A large group of young men come out of the venue and was really angry they went up the road and returned and tried to force there way back inside but I stand my ground and hold the barriers they wanted to come back in but i refused to let them back in .

Shortly after the other group comes out side and they had one big fight in the street after when it quiet down one lad comes up to me and say he got stabbed to called an ambulance after trying to do so two police officer came and ask what happened I explain and let them know that a guy got stab.

Sent from my iPhone



Re: Body Worn Footage

Surname		First Name	Date:	Time Start	Time Finish
			SATURDAY		10/8/23
			Floor Manager		
			Dispense Manager		
			Dispense Manager		
				2200	04:45
				2200	04:45
				23:00	06:00
				23:00	03:35
				22:30	07:30
				23:00	04:00

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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IN THE MANCHESTER CITY TOWN HALL

BETWEEN:

**THE CHIEF CONSTABLE
OF GREATER
MANCHESTER POLICE**

APPLICANT

AND

VISION

RESPONDENT

– INDEX TO BUNDLE
OF DOCUMENTS

No <u>Applicant's</u>	<u>Evidence</u>	DOCUMENT	PAGE No
– 1	Witness statement of PC Isherwood date 03/07/2023		1-4
2	Summary Review Certificate signed by Superintendent Spurgeon		5-8
3	Summary Review application signed by PC Isherwood		9-12

RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11

Page 1 of 4

WITNESS STATEMENT

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

URN

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Statement of: **Alan Isherwood**

Age if under 18: 18+ (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Constable

This statement (consisting of 4 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 anything in it, which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: A Isherwood..... Date: 3rd July 2023Check box if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on last page)

I am Police Constable 17659 Isherwood of the Greater Manchester Police, Licensing Officer for the City of Manchester Division, currently based in the Licensing Team at Manchester Town Hall Extension.

Part of my remit as licensing officer is to oversee all the licensed premises on the City of Manchester Division. The objective of the role is to promote and maintain the 4 licensing objectives at licensed premises, those being the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm.

Vision

The premises are situated on Whitworth Street West in the city centre of Manchester. The premises licence was issued on 18/12/2012. The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) is YDS UK Trading Limited, and the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) is Yongzhi Shao who has held this position since 2019.

Previous Summary Review

The premises were subject to a previous Summary Review in April 2023 after an incident involving the use of a knife inside the premises. The details of this previous incident are as follows;

At 0128 hours on Sunday 2nd April 2023 GMP received a telephone call from a person who stated that a male had been stabbed at the premises.

Police officers attended at the premises and established that a male had been slashed across the face with a knife inside the premises and the offender had left the scene. The victim was being treated by ambulance staff and had sustained a large laceration to his left cheek.

It was established that the victim had been involved in a verbal dispute with a group of males who had sat at their pre booked booth and were refusing to vacate it. This dispute has escalated, and the offender has produced a knife and slashed the victim across his face. The victim provided a statement in which he clearly states that it was a knife that was used to injure him.

The victim staggered a few paces away from the booth and then fell to the ground and staff went over to assist him.

The offender and his associates have then quickly walked out of the premises and ran off.

Signature: A Isherwood..... Signature witnessed by:

2006/07 (1)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11

Page 2 of 4

The victim was taken to hospital by the ambulance, and he has needed 30 stitches, in order to close the wound.

A report of crime for a Section 18 Wounding with Intent was submitted and a potential offender has since been identified and arrested.

On Monday 3rd April 2023 I applied for a Summary Review of the premises licence and the certificate was signed by Superintendent Spurgeon. The interim steps hearing was held on Wednesday 5th April 2023 where GMP asked for a suspension of the premises licence.

After deliberation committee decided that a suspension was not proportionate and agreed that an extra condition regarding searching customers using knife wands should be added to the licence as the interim measure.

During the period between the Interim Steps hearing I walked past the premises one night and I saw a customer walking up to the entrance of the premises and being asked to raise their arms and I saw the door staff use a metal detector wand. As I was on my way to another premises I didn't wait to see the full extent of the search but as I walked on I turned around and saw another customer stood with their arm outstretched and from this I was satisfied that the premises were using the wands on customers entering, so at that time I formed the opinion that the premises were abiding by the new condition.

At the full review hearing on Friday 28th April 2023 the decision to make the condition permanent was handed down as the full decision.

In the period after the review hearing the licence condition regarding the use of body cams was raised and it was explained by the operators of the premises that because the incident was over so quickly the security staff did not have sufficient time to activate them.

Other Incident

At 0259 hours on Sunday 23rd April 2023 GMP were contacted by a male who stated that there were people fighting at the premises and 2 customers had been hit and a staff member had been assaulted leaving her with a bloody nose. As a result of this incident a crime for Affray and a crime for ABH were submitted but unfortunately the offenders have not been traced and the crimes have been filed.

Current Review Proceedings

At 0230 hours on Sunday 11th June 2023 GMP received a telephone call from a person who stated that there were 2 groups fighting on the road outside the premises. Police officers attended at the premises and established that a male had been stabbed in the leg and the offenders had left the scene. A short time later the officers updated that another male had also been stabbed, this time in his back. From the witness statement of one of the victims it has been established that a fight had taken place inside the premises involving the group of offenders and some other males and the victim and his friends had ended up becoming involved and the male who ended up with a stab wound to his back was punched by one of the offenders.

Signature: A Isherwood..... Signature witnessed by:.....

2006/07 (1)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11

Page 3 of 4

The 1st group of males have left the premises and then walk out of shot of the CCTV before returning to the front of the premises a short time later. The second group of males have then exited the premises.

The 2 groups of males have then converged on one another and a mass brawl has ensued in the middle of Whitworth Street and during this fight both the victims have received stab wounds which a doctor who later treated them said were consistent with knife injuries.

The male with the stab wound to his leg suffered heavy blood loss and the male with the stab wound to his back kept slipping in and out of consciousness.

A blood-stained knife and a sheath were later recovered nearby.

During the initial brawl inside the premises 2 females were caught up in it and received minor injuries and another male was punched in the face resulting in cuts and bruising and a laceration to his elbow.

This latest incident occurred only 10 weeks after the male customer was slashed across the face in the premises resulting in a wound which required 30 stitches

2 reports of crime for a Section 18 Wounding with Intent have been submitted as well as a crime for ABH and 2 crimes for Common Assault and enquiries are ongoing to trace those responsible.

Interim Steps Hearing

On Tuesday 13th June 2023 I applied for a Summary Review of the Premises Licence and the certificate was signed by Superintendent Spurgeon.

The hearing took place on Wednesday 14th June 2023 where GMP outlined the incident and their concerns to the committee. GMP asked for a suspension of the Premises Licence and after deliberation the committee took this decision pending the full review hearing.

GMP and LOOH visited the premises in the interim period and spoke with the operators and their legal representative. It has since been established that no body cams were activated at any point during this incident which lasted several minutes and not a single transmission was given out over the NiteNet system to alert MCC CCTV control room to the large brawl.

This means that the premises were in breach of condition 2 and condition 5 (ix) of annex 2 of the Premises Licence.

The premises incident book was checked as well, and it was noted that there had been no entries into it since the incident on the 2nd April 2023, in which the male customer had his face slashed. The incident which occurred on 23rd April 2023, in which an off-duty staff member was assaulted, and a fight had taken place involving several people, was not recorded in the book. Although this isn't a condition on the licence for all incidents to be recorded in a book, the fact they have one and have used it to record other incidents, begs the question why this incident was not recorded in there.

Signature: A Isherwood..... Signature witnessed by:

2006/07 (1)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

CCTV

CCTV has been provided by the premises operators and has been viewed and one of the clips that has been provided is of the group of males, who are believed responsible for using the knife, entering the premises at 0204 hours.

The security staff use wands on each of the group but when the extent of this wanding is looked at it falls way below what would be expected of a thorough search procedure. None of the males are asked to turn round, one of the males has a bum bag on his belt area and this is not opened or examined. None of the wanding goes any lower than thigh level so anyone wearing long trousers could easily have a knife or other weapon in their sock.

There are 2 females that are behind the group of males in the queue and all they are allowed to enter without being wanded at all.

The beginning part of the condition which was attached at the previous review hearing states *Every customer entering or re-entering the premises will be searched with a metal detector wand*, so this condition was also being breached on the night.

Conclusion

GMP are shocked that such a serious incident has happened only 10 weeks since the last knife related incident and has resulted in 2 males being stabbed and others receiving injuries. This latest incident started inside the premises and then escalated on the door step of the premises before spilling out across a busy main road causing vehicles to have to stop. All persons involved in this brawl were customers of Vision and anyone witnessing this violent brawl would surely have been shocked and fearful.

The staff and security have not adhered to the conditions of the licence and the searching procedure on the night was scant and allowed people to enter without being wanded.

Body cams have not been operated at any point and NiteNet has also not been used at any point, so this raises serious concerns about the safe operation of the premises. These are conditions which are attached to the licence so that when incidents occur, and the conditions are abided by, there is a greater chance of securing evidence and bringing those responsible to justice.

GMP believe that the premises now attracts customers who are willing to use knives on other people and as such has become an unsafe venue for both customers and staff and, as such, we do not believe that it should be allowed to continue to operate as a licensed premises.

We do not believe the addition of further conditions is sufficient as the premises are not abiding by those that they already have, as demonstrated on the night.

Therefore, GMP see no option that can guarantee that incidents like this will not occur again in the near future, other than revocation of the premises licence, so we ask committee to revoke the premises licence forthwith.

Signature: A Isherwood..... Signature witnessed by:.....

ANNEX B

Greater Manchester Police
Central Park
Northampton Road
Manchester

CERTIFICATE UNDER SECTION 53A(1)(b) OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003

I hereby certify that in my opinion the premises described below are associated with serious crime / serious disorder / both serious crime and serious disorder¹.

*Premises*²:

Vision
Arch 58, Whitworth Street West
Manchester
M1 5WW

Premises licence number (if known): 146980

Name of premises supervisor (if known): Yongzhi Shao

I am a Superintendent ³ in the Greater Manchester police force.

I am giving this certificate because I am of the opinion that other procedures under the Licensing Act are inappropriate in this case, because⁴:

The standard review of the premises licence under section 51 Licensing Act 2003 is inappropriate due to length of time a standard review would take, there are serious concerns as to the serious violence which has occurred at the premises.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) will say that the premises are associated with Serious Crime and Serious Disorder. Therefore due to the Serious Crime and Serious Disorder which has taken place at the premises GMP feel that it is

¹ Delete as applicable.

² Include business name and address and any other relevant identifying details.

³ Insert rank of officer giving the certificate, which must be superintendent or above.

⁴ Give a brief description of why other procedures such as a standard review process are thought to be inappropriate, e.g. the degree of seriousness of the crime and/or disorder, the past history of compliance in relation to the premises concerned.

necessary for an expedited review to take place.

Serious crime is defined within the statutory guidance as per section 81(3)(a) and (b) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, which states that the conduct constitutes an offence for which a person 21 years of age or over with no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for 3 years or more.

The premises are situated on Whitworth Street West in Manchester city centre and the premises licence was issued on 18/12/2012 . The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) is YDS UK Trading Limited and the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) is Mr Yongzhi Shao who has held this position since January 2019.

The incident which has triggered this Summary Review is as follows:

At 0230 hours on Sunday 11th June 2023 GMP received a telephone call from a person who stated that there were 2 groups fighting on the road outside the premises.

Police officers attended at the premises and established that a male had been stabbed in the leg and the offenders had left the scene. A short time later the officers updated that another male had also been stabbed, this time in his back.

From the witness statement of one of the victims it has been established that a fight had taken place inside the premises involving the group of offenders and some other males and the victim and his friends had ended up becoming involved and the male who ended up with a stab wound to his back was punched by one of the offenders.

The victims have then made their way outside to the smoking area and the group of offenders have been standing in the middle of Whitworth Street. They have goaded the victims and as a result of this the victims have come out of the smoking area and confronted the group of males.

This has resulted in another fight taking place in the middle of the road and during this fight both the victims have received stab wounds which a doctor who later treated them said are consistent with knife injuries.

The male with the stab wound to his leg suffered heavy blood loss and the male with the stab wound to his back kept slipping in and out of consciousness.

A blood stained knife was later recovered nearby.

During the initial brawl inside the premises 2 females were caught up in it and received minor injuries and another male was punched in the face resulting in cuts and bruising and a laceration to his elbow.

This incident comes only 10 weeks after a male customer was slashed across the face in the premises resulting in a wound which required 30 stitches.

This previous knife incident resulted in Summary Review proceedings being instigated and GMP asking for suspension of the premises licence. Committee took the decision not to suspend the licence and attached an extra condition to the licence regarding the searching of all customers using knife

wands.

This condition became the final decision at the full review hearing.

2 reports of crime for a Section 18 Wounding with Intent have been submitted as well as a crime for ABH and 2 crimes for Common Assault and enquiries are ongoing to trace those responsible.

GMP have serious concerns as to the level of violence which occurred at the premises and by the fact the offenders were able to enter the premises carrying a knife in the first place. More so now that they have a condition requiring them to search all customers using knife wands.

The powers contained under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 are necessary and proportionate in light of the association that the premises has to Serious Crime and Serious Disorder.

In the interim Greater Manchester Police would request that the Licensing Authority consider suspension of the Premises Licence until the full review is heard before the committee. Serious Crime and Serious Disorder has occurred at the premises and until the Licensing Committee hear the full review and all the evidence that will be disclosed, to allow the premises to continue to operate as a licensed premises gives concerns that further violent incidents will occur at the premises and the safety of both customers and staff will be placed in jeopardy.

Greater Manchester Police will say that the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder can only be promoted if the premises licence was suspended until the final determination of the summary review application.

The standard review of the premises licence under section 51 Licensing Act 2003 is inappropriate due to length of time a standard review would take. There are serious concerns as to the extreme level of violence that has occurred. Greater Manchester Police believe that Serious crime and Serious Disorder has occurred at the premises.

[Redacted signature]

(Signed)

11/06/23

(Date)

SUPERINTENDENT PHIL SKIRRETON GMP

ANNEX C

FORM FOR APPLYING FOR A SUMMARY LICENCE REVIEW

[Insert name and address of relevant licensing authority and its reference number (optional)]

Manchester City Council

Application for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 (premises associated with serious crime or disorder)

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form. If you are completing the form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. **Use additional sheets if necessary.**

I Alan Isherwood [on behalf of] the chief officer of police for the Greater Manchester police area apply for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003.

1. Premises details:

Postal address of premises, or if none or not known, ordnance survey map reference or description:

**Vision
Arch 58,
Whitworth Street West**

Post town: Manchester

Post code (if known): **M1 5WW**

2. Premises licence details:

Name of premises licence holder (if known): YDS UK Trading Limited

Number of premises licence holder (if known): 07346087

3. Certificate under section 53A(1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 [Please read guidance note 1]:

I confirm that a certificate has been given by a senior member of the police force for the police area above that in his opinion the above premises are associated with serious crime or disorder or both, and the certificate accompanies this application.

(Please tick the box to confirm)

4. Details of association of the above premises with serious crime, serious disorder or both:

[Please read guidance note 2]

The standard review of the premises licence under section 51 Licensing Act 2003 is inappropriate due to length of time a standard review would take, there are serious concerns as to the serious violence which has occurred at the premises.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) will say that the premises are associated with Serious Crime and Serious Disorder. Therefore due to the Serious Crime and Serious Disorder which has taken place at the premises GMP feel that it is necessary for an expedited review to take place.

Serious crime is defined within the statutory guidance as per section 81(3)(a) and (b) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, which states that the conduct constitutes an offence for which a person 21 years of age or over with no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for 3 years or more.

The premises are situated on Whitworth Street West in Manchester city centre and the premises licence was issued on 18/12/2012 . The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) is YDS UK Trading Limited and the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) is Mr Yongzhi Shao who has held this position since January 2019.

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From the witness statement of one of the victims it has been established that a fight had taken place inside the premises involving the group of offenders and some other males and the victim and his friends had ended up becoming involved and the male who ended up with a stab wound to his back was punched by one of the offenders.

The victims have then made their way outside to the smoking area and the group of offenders have been standing in the middle of Whitworth Street. They have goaded the victims and as a result of this the victims have come out of the smoking area and confronted the group of males.

This has resulted in another fight taking place in the middle of the road and

during this fight both the victims have received stab wounds which a doctor who later treated them said are consistent with knife injuries.

The male with the stab wound to his leg suffered heavy blood loss and the male with the stab wound to his back kept slipping in and out of consciousness.

A blood stained knife was later recovered nearby.

During the initial brawl inside the premises 2 females were caught up in it and received minor injuries and another male was punched in the face resulting in cuts and bruising and a laceration to his elbow.

This incident comes only 10 weeks after a male customer was slashed across the face in the premises resulting in a wound which required 30 stitches.

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This condition became the final decision at the full review hearing.

2 reports of crime for a Section 18 Wounding with Intent have been submitted as well as a crime for ABH and 2 crimes for Common Assault and enquiries are ongoing to trace those responsible.

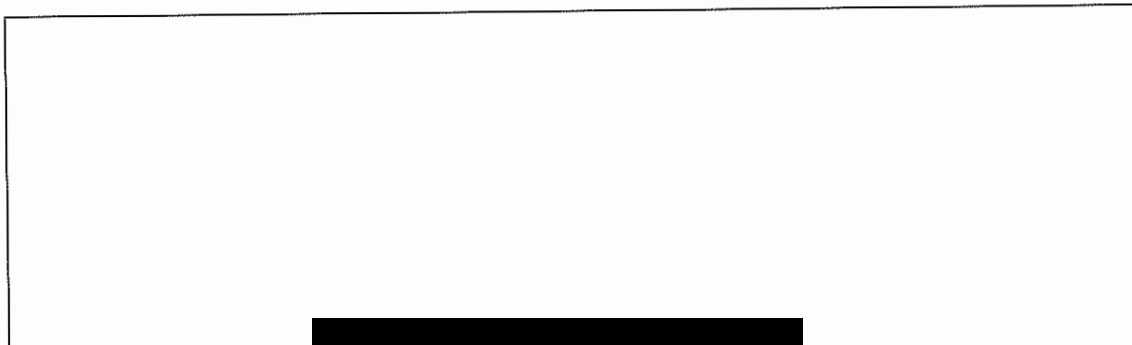
GMP have serious concerns as to the level of violence which occurred at the premises and by the fact the offenders were able to enter the premises carrying a knife in the first place. More so now that they have a condition requiring them to search all customers using knife wands.

The powers contained under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 are necessary and proportionate in light of the association that the premises has to Serious Crime and Serious Disorder.

In the interim Greater Manchester Police would request that the Licensing Authority consider suspension of the Premises Licence until the full review is heard before the committee. Serious Crime and Serious Disorder has occurred at the premises and until the Licensing Committee hear the full review and all the evidence that will be disclosed, to allow the premises to continue to operate as a licensed premises gives concerns that further violent incidents will occur at the premises and the safety of both customers and staff will be placed in jeopardy.

Greater Manchester Police will say that the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder can only be promoted if the premises licence was suspended until the final determination of the summary review application.

The standard review of the premises licence under section 51 Licensing Act 2003 is inappropriate due to length of time a standard review would take. There are serious concerns as to the extreme level of violence that has occurred. Greater Manchester Police believe that Serious crime and Serious Disorder has occurred at the premises.



Signature of applicant
Date: 10/6/23
Capacity: Licensing Constable

Contact details for matters concerning this application:

Address:
**Manchester Town Hall Extension
Lloyd Street
Manchester**

Telephone number(s): 0161 856 6017

Email: alan.isherwood@gmp.police.uk

Notes for guidance:

1. A certificate of the kind mentioned in the form must accompany the application in order for it to be valid under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003. The certificate must explicitly state the senior officer's opinion that the premises in question are associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both.

Serious crime is defined by reference to section 81 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. In summary, it means:

- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences for which a person who has attained the age of eighteen and has no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of three years or more; or
- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences and involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose.

Serious disorder is not defined in legislation, and so bears its ordinary English meaning.

2. Briefly describe the circumstances giving rise to the opinion that the above premises are associated with serious crime, serious disorder, or both.

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