

Licensing and Appeals Sub Committee Hearing Panel

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 2 March 2020

Present: Councillor Grimshaw – in the Chair

Councillors: Hewitson and Jeavons

LACHP/20/24. Sex Establishment Licence renewal application for Baby Platinum, 109 Princess Street, Manchester, M1 6JB

The Hearing Panel considered a report from the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing.

The Hearing Panel heard from LOOH with regard to the relevant legislation for Sex Entertainment Venues (SEVs). LOOH further explained that the one objection received (from the Women's Equality Party) was only relatable to 2.2(d) of the legislation where the location of a SEV is of concern.

The Hearing Panel was informed via the written report and oral submission from the Directors of Baby Platinum and their representative that the Licence Renewal was Baby Platinum's ninth application since the legislation had changed. The representative explained in detail the operations and running of the venue. It was outlined to the Hearing Panel that Baby Platinum had been running their Manchester premises since 2009 and that there were two other Baby Platinum venues, one in Derby and another in Wigan. The representative for Baby Platinum contested that no representations had been received from GMP, LOOH or local residents and with regard to the objection, that the one discretionary ground of the legislation that may apply to Baby Platinum was its location. The representative went on to explain that the location of the venue was within the boundary of Manchester's Gay Village and, as such, operated on similar terms and with similar trading times as nearby establishments and was therefore in keeping with the character of its locality and not in an area where the venue was likely to cause offence.

The Hearing Panel considered the written representations and oral submission from the Women's Equality Party which was a "nil cap" stance on SEVs nationwide. In addressing their objections to Baby Platinum's Manchester venue, the Women's Equality Party raised concerns around policy, equality, crime and safety. Furthermore, the Women's Equality Party contested that, as Manchester is a residential city, there could be no guarantee that Baby Platinum (and other SEVs) would not have a negative impact on residents.

After considering the application and hearing from the applicant and the objector, the Hearing Panel felt that they should grant the renewal. In making their decision they considered their Sex Establishment Policy Document. The Panel noted the objection to the application but felt that the location of Baby Platinum was suitable

Decision

To grant the renewal of a Sex Entertainment Venue for Baby Platinum, 109 Princess Street, Manchester, M1 6JB

LACHP/20/25. Sex Establishment Licence renewal application for Whiskey Down, 18-22 Lloyd Street, Manchester, M2 5WA

The Hearing Panel considered a report from the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing.

The Hearing Panel heard from LOOH with regard to the relevant legislation for Sex Entertainment Venues (SEVs). LOOH further explained that the one objection received (from the Women's Equality Party) was only relatable to 2.2(d) of the legislation where the location of a SEV is of concern.

The Hearing Panel were informed via the written report and oral submission from the Directors of Whiskey Down and their representative that the Licence Renewal was Baby Platinum's ninth application since the legislation had changed and explained in detail the operations and running of the venue.

The Hearing Panel were informed via the written report and oral submission from the Directors of Whiskey Down and their representative that they had two other premises, one in Leeds and another in York, and operations at the Manchester venue had begun in 2019. The representative explained in detail the operations and running of the venue with regard to CCTV, panic buttons (which had not had to be used at the time of the hearing) and the majority of female staff running and working at the venue. The representative informed the Hearing Panel that the Manchester venue had been rebranded and attracted a global star from the Burlesque fraternity for the opening night. Further information on the type of events available at the club were presented for the Hearing Panel to consider and mention was given that Whiskey Down caters for female customers with male dancers, which, whilst being factual, was offered as a way of demonstrating that Whiskey Down operate within their remit with equality in mind for the objector to take consideration of.

The Hearing Panel considered the written representations and oral submission from the Women's Equality Party which was a "nil cap" stance on SEVs nationwide. In addressing their objections to Whiskey Down's Manchester venue, the Women's Equality Party raised concerns around policy, equality, crime and safety. Furthermore, the Women's Equality Party contested that, as Manchester is a residential city, there could be no guarantee that Whiskey Down (and other SEVs) would not have a negative impact on residents.

After considering the application and hearing from the applicant and the objector, the Hearing Panel felt that they should grant the renewal. In making their decision they considered their Sex Establishment Policy Document. The Panel noted the objection to the application but felt that the location of Whiskey Down was suitable.

Decision

To grant the renewal of the of a Sex Entertainment Venue licence for Whiskey Down,
18-22 Lloyd Street, Manchester, M2 5WA.