

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE



To: Manchester City Council
Licensing Unit
Town Hall Extension

To: Ms Natalie Lea



30th Sep 2020

Dear Madam,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that Greater Manchester Police wish to object, under Section 104(2) of the Licensing Act 2003, to the **TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICE** detailed below, as we are satisfied that granting the application under these circumstances would undermine the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, the Prevention of Public Nuisance and Public Safety Objectives.

PREMISES NAME:	Puffin Box
ADDRESS:	Basement Hilton House 26-28 Hilton Street Manchester M1 2EH
DATE OF EVENT:	22/10/20 – 24/10/20
TIME OF EVENT:	1145 – 2200 hrs

This Temporary Event application seeks to allow the user to stage events where groups of 6 people will be inside box shaped booths and a DJ will play music to them from a separate stage and the people in the booths can then drink alcohol and dance to the music.

GMP are of the opinion that this constitutes the elements of a nightclub due to the loud music and dancing and under current regulations nightclubs are prohibited from opening and dancing should not be permitted by venues.

On the Puffin Box website there is a video which shows an example of one of their events and people are clearly dancing inside the booths, with subdued lighting and loud music.

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This makes these events non Covid compliant and as such GMP ask that this TEN is refused.

Signed:.....PC 17659 Isherwood..... (rank/pin/name)

Date/Time 30/09/20.....1300 hrs



Licensing & Out of Hours Compliance Team - Representation

Name	Ben Moran
Job Title	Licensing Out of Hours Team Lead
Department	Licensing and Out of Hours Compliance Team
Address	Level 1, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M2 5DB
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Premise Details

Application Ref No	251164
Name of Premises	Puffin Box
Address	Basement, Hilton House, Hilton Street, Manchester, M1 2EH

Representation

Outline your representation regarding the above application below. This representation should describe the likely effect of the grant of the licence/certificate on the licensing objectives and on the vicinity of the premises.

The Licensing and Out of Hours (LOOH) team have assessed the likely impact of the grant of the Temporary Event Notice (TEN) on the Licensing Objectives taking into account a number of factors, including the activities being applied for, the nature of the area in which the premises is located and any potential risk the granting of the Temporary Events could have on any of the four licensing objectives.

As a result of this assessment the LOOH Team have concerns that the grant of the Temporary Event is likely to lead to the Public Safety licensing objective being undermined.

The premises is located in the basement of Hilton House, Hilton Street within the Northern Quarter district of the city centre. The basement provides very little in the way of air flow as there are no windows or doors to circulate fresh air. There are also residential dwellings nearby and a number of alcohol led, licensed premises in close proximity.

The applicant, before engaging with any of the Responsible Authorities, has already marketed and sold out shows (as exhibited below) for their event which is yet to be licensed. The application relies fundamentally on substantial changes of legislation taking effect to run an event that is currently illegal to do so under the current form of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) England Regulations 2020.

18:00 - 19:30: Puffin Box 2 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below*	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	SOLD OUT
18:00 - 19:30: Puffin Box 3 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below*	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	SOLD OUT
18:00 - 19:30: Puffin Box 4 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below*	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	SOLD OUT
18:00 - 19:30: Puffin Box 5 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below*	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	SOLD OUT
Slot 3		
19:45 - 21:15: Puffin Box 1 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below* <i>On sale for just 10 more days.</i>	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	0
19:45 - 21:15: Puffin Box 2 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below* <i>On sale for just 10 more days.</i>	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	0
19:45 - 21:15: Puffin Box 4 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below*	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	SOLD OUT
19:45 - 21:15: Puffin Box 5 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below* <i>On sale for just 10 more days.</i>	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	0
Slot 4		
21:30 - 23:00: Puffin Box 1 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below*	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	SOLD OUT
21:30 - 23:00: Puffin Box 2 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below*	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	SOLD OUT
21:30 - 23:00: Puffin Box 3 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below*	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	SOLD OUT
21:30 - 23:00: Puffin Box 4 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below* <i>On sale for just 10 more days.</i>	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	0
21:30 - 23:00: Puffin Box 5 90 Min Session. 8 Max per Box. *Must Also Purchase Prepaid £100 Drink Package Below*	£125.00 (£120.00 + bf)	SOLD OUT

The organisers of Puffin Box describe the events as;
‘a socially distanced, immersive, Covid-compliant raving experience’
‘a ‘mini club experience’
their ‘layout is unique for a nightclub’
The definition of a rave is ‘a lively party involving dancing and drinking’ The most recent guidance from the government, specifically makes clear that nightclubs, dance halls and discotheques are to remain closed in law.

Manchester, with its surrounding boroughs, have some of the worst infection rates in the country and as a result are subject to stricter restrictions. There is a restriction in place which advises people must not socialise in groups or no more than 6 and should only be from 1 household. The operators at Puffin Box have sold group bookings of 8 and have not applied any restrictions on mixing households or have no way of knowing who will attend on the day.

The proposed timings, until 22:00, also give added pressure on the night time economy as all licensed premises are required to close at that terminal hour. Across the city centre there have been a number of concerns observed when patrons leave venues at the same time and the bottleneck effect of people being able to leave the area in a safe manner. Adding another licensed premises to this congestion is irresponsible.

No risk assessment has been presented with the application.

LOOH, with all the facts before us, have no other alternative than to object to the application for a Temporary Event Notice. The activity that they wish to conduct is currently illegal and would completely undermine the Licensing Objectives.

Recommendation: Refuse Application