



Licensing & Out of Hours Compliance Team - Representation

Name	Gemma Smith
Job Title	Neighbourhood Compliance Officer
Department	Licensing and Out of Hours Compliance Team
Address	Level 1, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 2LA
Email Address	Gemma.smith2@manchester.gov.uk
Telephone Number	0161 234 1220

Premise Details

Application Ref No	263113
Name of Premises	Basement Complex
Address	18 Tariff Street, Manchester, M1 2FN

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 Team (LOOHT) have assessed the likely impact of the grant of this application considering several factors, including the hours and activities applied for, the nature of the area in which the premises is located and any potential risk that granting the application could have on any of the four licensing objectives.

As a result of this assessment the Licensing and Out of Hours Team have concerns that the grant of the application, in its current form, is likely to lead to the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and the Prevention of Public Nuisance Licensing objectives being undermined.

In reaching this decision we have given particular consideration to Manchester City Councils Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 – 2026. Specifically:

7.25 The licensing authority will ensure that due consideration is given to the proximity of licensed premises not only to local residents and businesses, but also in relation to other licensed premises as well.

7.26 The authority will give particular consideration to measures proposed in the application in relation to prevent nuisance.

The premises is located on Tariff Street within the Northern Quarter district of the city centre. There are residential dwellings and commercial properties nearby and a number of alcohol led licensed premises in close proximity.

The premises is currently authorised in the provision of regulated entertainment (limited to the exhibition of films) Monday to Sunday 24 hours a day. The premises is open to the public Monday to Sunday 24 hours a day.

The variation application proposes to allow the premises to supply alcohol for

consumption on the premises only Monday to Sunday 1200 to 0200. The sale and consumption of alcohol will only be permitted within the lounge area of the premises.

With the inclusion of the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises there is a potential risk of public nuisance arising from customers gathering outside (e.g. Smoking) and from them potentially trying to exit the premises with open containers of alcohol therefore creating a heightened possibility that the alcohol will be consumed on the street. This would breach the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which relates to people drinking alcohol or having open containers of alcohol in the streets.

Furthermore, it is probable that the inclusion of this licensable activity could give rise to litter being dropped in the vicinity of the premises e.g. cigarette ends. Within the application there are no measures in place to guarantee that the premises and surrounding area are kept clean and free of litter.

The applicant has proposed that staff will be trained in recognising the signs of drunkenness, refusing service and the premises duty of care. Records of all training should be made available upon request by a responsible authority. Additionally, LOOH would expect that the premises to have effective measures in place to ensure age restrictions and refusals are enforced i.e. the operation of the "Challenge 25" scheme and the maintenance of refusal logs.

Also, when door supervisors are employed, we would expect the premises to maintain a register to ensure all identities of door staff on shift can be verified and we would expect that the register it is made available upon request by a responsible authority.

To address these concerns, LOOH propose that the following conditions are attached to the licence if granted at committee:

Include: Customers will not be permitted to remove from the premises any drinks supplied by the premises (alcoholic or otherwise).

Include: Staff shall monitor customers smoking outside the premises on a regular basis and ensure patrons do not cause a public nuisance.

Include: The premises and immediate surrounding area shall be kept clean and free from litter at all times the premises are open to the public.

Include: Documented records of training completed shall be kept for each member of staff. Training shall be regularly refreshed and at no greater than six monthly intervals. Training records shall be made available for inspection upon request by a police officer or an authorised officer of Manchester City Council

Include: The Challenge 25 scheme must be operated to ensure that any person who appears to be under the age of 25 shall provide documented proof that he/she is over 18 years of age. Proof of age shall only comprise a passport, photo card driving licence, an EU/EEA national ID card or similar document, an HM Forces warrant card, a card bearing the PASS hologram, or any electronic or biometric age verification technology approved by the

licensing authority

Include: The premises shall display prominent signage indicating at any point of sale that the Challenge 25 scheme is in operation.

Include: A refusals record must be kept at the premises which details all refusals to sell alcohol. This record must include the date and time of the incident, a description of the customer, the name of the staff member who refused the sale, and the reason the sale was refused. All entries must be made within 24 hours of the refusal. The record must be made available for inspection and copying a reasonable time of a request by an officer of a Responsible Authority.

Include: Where SIA registered door supervisors are used at the premises, a record must be kept of their SIA registration number and the dates and times when they are on duty.

Recommendation: Approve with Conditions (Outlined Above)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 October 2021 12:04

To: Premises Licensing <Premises.Licensing@manchester.gov.uk>; Gemma Smith <gemma.smith2@manchester.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: The Basement, Manchester

Yes – those are the confirmed Conditions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Premises Licensing [mailto:Premises.Licensing@manchester.gov.uk]

Sent: 14 October 2021 09:42

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: The Basement, Manchester

Hi [REDACTED] Gemma, can I just confirm that the conditions agreed are:

1. Customers will not be permitted to remove from the premises any drinks supplied by the premises (alcoholic or otherwise).
2. Staff shall monitor customers smoking outside the premises on a regular basis and ensure patrons do not cause a public nuisance.
3. The premises and immediate surrounding area shall be kept clean and free from litter at all times the premises are open to the public.
4. Documented records of training completed shall be kept for each member of staff. Training shall be regularly refreshed and at no greater than six monthly intervals. Training records shall be made available for inspection upon request by a police officer or an authorised officer of Manchester City Council
5. The Challenge 25 scheme must be operated to ensure that any person who appears to be under the age of 25 shall provide documented proof that he/she is over 18 years of age. Proof of age shall only comprise a

passport, photo card driving licence, an EU/EEA national ID card or similar document, an HM Forces warrant card, a card bearing the PASS hologram, or any electronic or biometric age verification technology approved by the licensing authority

6. The premises shall display prominent signage indicating at any point of sale that the Challenge 25 scheme is in operation.
7. A refusals record must be kept at the premises which details all refusals to sell alcohol. This record must include the date and time of the incident, a description of the customer, the name of the staff member who refused the sale, and the reason the sale was refused. All entries must be made within 24 hours of the refusal. The record must be made available for inspection and copying a reasonable time of a request by an officer of a Responsible Authority.
8. Where SIA registered door supervisors are used at the premises, a record must be kept of their SIA registration number and the dates and times when they are on duty.

thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 October 2021 16:28

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Premises Licensing

<Premises.Licensing@manchester.gov.uk>

Subject: The Basement, Manchester

Hi Gemma – apologies for the delay in coming back to you but we were awaiting instructions.

We can confirm that the Applicant is happy to agree to the Conditions - as set out in your Representation - being attached to the Premises Licence should the application be granted.

Should you require anything further, then please don't hesitate to contact [REDACTED] or myself.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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RES1

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 23 September 2021 18:26
To: Premises Licensing <Premises.Licensing@manchester.gov.uk>
Subject: Basement Sauna license

To whom it may concern,

I am writing with regards to the application for an alcohol licence for basement sauna. I'm writing in a personal capacity, but I am a qualified nurse and university postdoctoral researcher with a keen interest in chemsex and gay male sexuality. I have conducted extensive research into chemsex and I am currently writing up a book of my findings, and co-editing a special edition of an academic journal.

I wish to speak in favour of the licence application. One of the key reasons for this is that a licensed premises will most likely be a safer place for alcohol consumption to occur. There are several reasons for this, firstly many gay saunas particularly across continental Europe have alcohol licences and they function in perfectly safe manners. There is nothing fundamentally different about Manchester.

The next is that as some of the councillors may be aware alcohol consumption can at times be concerning when it is paired with a drug colloquially called "G" (Gamma-hydroxybutyrate). The consumption of this drug whilst niche certainly does occur in Manchester amongst a subgroup of gay men who engage in group sex. Most gay men know not to combine the two. However, whilst cases are rare, it is possible for the co-consumption of G and alcohol to result in loss of consciousness and in worst case scenarios death. I would urge councillors to recognise that people are already combining these in domestic settings at private parties, where there is no regulation of the consumption of either of these drugs. I wish to suggest that it will be safer to facilitate the use of alcohol in a regulated premises where, if the staff had any suspicion that their patrons were under the influence of other drugs, they could merely decline to serve them any alcohol. This would be a significant way of ensuring harm reduction and making sure that alcohol and drugs do not mix. Failing to do so could just result in a growth of domestic (and unregulated) co-consumption of G and alcohol.

If an alcohol license isn't granted, then chemsex will continue to increase in domestic settings in Manchester. I can say this with some confidence because that is precisely what has happened in London as gay venues have closed down, and research suggests that one of the reasons why deaths are occurring in London is because drug and alcohol use has shifted into private domestic settings where there are no staff to respond to emergencies, or regulate the consumption of alcohol. Councilors should be mindful to encourage (moderate) alcohol consumption and group sex to occur in regulated premises, and to use this a key way of protecting public health by offering a safe alternative to unregulated private parties.

I would therefore suggest, that the councillors grant this licence, and follow the example of many of the European gay saunas where alcohol is sold in a sensible and controlled manner.

If councillors want further discussion with me, I am more than happy to facilitate this.

In the interest of full transparency, I have no financial or professional links to basement sauna. I do know one staff member in a personal capacity but he has not asked me to complete this consultation. I was made aware of this consultation via another friend with an interest in local politics. I do frequent basement sauna a few times a year, but as it happens I very infrequently drink alcohol. So to put it simply I have no direct personal motivations or conflicts of interest for what I state above. I am merely trying to lay out what I believe to be a reasonable academic argument and to inform debates about public safety as it pertains to the gay male community.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

RES3 (There is no RES2)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Sent: 29 September 2021 23:22

To: Premises Licensing <Premises.Licensing@manchester.gov.uk>

Subject: Basement sauna alcohol license

Regarding the application to allow the sale of alcohol in the sauna, I don't think this is a suitable venue for a licence. The venue have customers under the age of 18 and I would assume they will not be overly strict on getting ID when they serve drinks, as there's also historic issues with drug taking at the venue. Also the obvious fact alcohol and sauna /steam rooms don't mix. Due to increased chances of medical issues. The staff who are there won't be checking all areas of the building regularly enough to intervene in any medical problems. For this and any number of reasons I feel the license shouldn't be granted.

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RES4

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 29 September 2021 19:56
To: Premises Licensing <Premises.Licensing@manchester.gov.uk>
Subject: Picadilly Consultation

I am writing to submit a comment in support of granting an alcohol license to Basement Sauna, currently under consultation.

As a member and frequent visitor to the premises, I am familiar with its importance to the local gay community. Many guests are private about their sexuality and find safety in the discretion of the environment. Allowing alcohol to be served is a significant boost to the local economy, encouraging men to attend the sauna instead of a growing dangerous chemsex scene. As a matter of public safety and prevention of public nuisance, councillors are urged to engage with local police in the consultation. Basement's offering of safe, staffed facilities provide an alternative to the problematic cruising along the canal. This has been widely reported and an issue of which police are familiar. Charities such as the LGBT Foundation are likely to give more detailed research around these issues, which I urge councillors to approach as part of consultation.

I look forward to hearing more details as the application progresses and the decision of the council.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 30 September 2021 12:30
To: Premises Licensing <Premises.Licensing@manchester.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Acknowledgement of objection to premises licence application 263113PW5: Basement Complex, 18 Tariff Street, Manchester, M1 2FN - WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

Dear Patrick Ware,

Thanks for the acknowledgment of receipt. My contact details to share with the applicant:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Twitter: [REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]