

Terry Watson
Iconic Bar
29 Richmond Street
Manchester
M1 3NB

30th November 2021

Dear Margaret,

I am writing to you regarding the one objection that I received on the final day of the consultation period for a variation to my premises licence at Iconic Bar. I did not anticipate receiving an objection at this late stage from the Council Licensing Officer. There was a 28 day consultation period during which I would have happily discussed any concerns, especially as I have an ongoing relationship with you.

Since receiving the objection I have spoken to you on the phone and listened to your concerns. I had stated in the variation application that all existing licensing conditions would be adhered to. I had not stated a final entry and re-entry time as you mentioned during our conversation as it is not currently a condition of my licence and has not previously been suggested.

Iconic is a very small, community centred bar in the Gay Village. The bar is predominantly glass fronted and the front door is visible from all areas of the venue, including behind the bar. In accordance with our licensing conditions, we have SIA accredited security staff on the door at the weekends and busy evenings or events. They are briefed on the licensing requirements, the expectations that we have for the venue, safeguarding measures and our adherence to Challenge-25. There is no admittance once last orders have been called. I had not considered it necessary to state a final admission time given the nature and style of the venue as it operates very differently from a nightclub or other larger venue.

Prior to making my application for this variation, I wanted to consider and prepare for how this would effect the business and the community. I applied for three Temporary Event Notices with my proposed new licensing times over three consecutive weekends. These were granted with no objections whatsoever. Over those three weekends we had no incidents or complaints. I considered that operating later would not have a detrimental effect on the local area following this trial period.

I also consulted Simon Braithwaite, the former Licensing Officer with Greater Manchester Police, with whom I had a good professional relationship. He was confident that there would be no objection from GMP as Iconic does not pose a problem for them. There have been incredibly few incidents of a police call out to the venue in the nearly 6 years that I have owned it. The GMP have not objected to this variation.

With consideration of the points I have raised, I do not believe that there is justification for recommending that my licensing variation be refused. Having trialled the proposed opening hours safely, without incident or complaint, I am confident that Iconic Bar will continue to operate without being a nuisance to the local community. That belief is presumably shared by the local community, businesses and the GMP, as demonstrated by the lack of objections. On reflection of the above points, I would invite you to reconsider your objection and withdraw it.

Yours sincerely,

Terry