

**Statement on behalf of Premises Licence Holder for The Levenshulme, 959 Stockport Road,
Manchester, M19 3NP**

Introduction

The Stonegate Pub Company fully owns Craft Union Pub Company, which is the Premises Licence Holder of The Levenshulme Public House. The company apologises unreservedly to the Licensing Committee and the Police for the amount of time that has had to be dedicated to the serious incident which occurred at these premises in the run up to Christmas.

The Company

Stonegate owns and operates in excess of 4,000 licensed premises across the country, including some 34 premises in Manchester itself.

Their estate is essentially a blend of managed and tenanted businesses, with a relatively small number of franchised operations of which The Levenshulme is one. This means that the Designated Premises Supervisor and her staff are not direct employees of Stonegate, nonetheless, they benefit from the company's significant resources in terms of management support and their award winning training programme.

Company actions following incident

When the company became aware of the serious incident that occurred, they immediately instructed their solicitors to contact the Police to determine how serious the situation was in reality. Having been given details of the incident and been advised of the impending expedited review, the company took the immediate decision to close the premises in promotion of the licensing objectives. Full cooperation was also provided to the Police by staff at the premises in relation to the incident which had occurred.

At the interim steps hearing, the company did ask the Committee to consider not suspending the licence on the basis that they would not reopen the pub in any event until such time as the Police were happy for them to do so.

Indeed, the company decided not to appeal against the interim steps in the run up to Christmas, despite arriving at a position with the Police where they would have supported such an appeal. The company felt that it was sensible in all the circumstances to remain closed until 29th December, when the matter is listed for the full review hearing.

The [REDACTED] perspective

[REDACTED] is understandably disappointed and upset by the serious incident which occurred [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has worked very hard to exclude troublesome elements from what has historically been a difficult pub in a difficult area of the city. The incidents

which have arisen at the premises, and which are mentioned within the Police evidence, have arisen directly as a result [REDACTED] to exclude known troublemakers from the premises.

[REDACTED] on the evening of 3rd December the atmosphere in the premises was good throughout the evening. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were having a few drinks and dancing to 80s music.

Unfortunately, at the end of the evening [REDACTED] and, despite taking the decision to close the bar 20 minutes earlier [REDACTED] struggled to get these individuals out of the premises in a timely manner.

Due to the fact that this group wanted to leave with their drinks, [REDACTED] persuaded them to decant their drinks into plastic glasses, as [REDACTED] not want them leaving the premises with glassware.

[REDACTED] trying to do everything right.

The rest of the incident unfolded broadly as described in the Police evidence.

[REDACTED] was incredibly frustrated by the initial inaction of [REDACTED]

Remedial Measures

As a result of this incident, and during this period of suspension, the following remedial actions have been undertaken:

1. A new door company has been appointed to provide the necessary door staff at the premises. The company is Radius, which we understand is well known locally.
2. Bodyworn cameras are now in situ at the premises for the use of the door team.
3. Management at the premises will be supported in the coming weeks by frequent Area Manager visits to ensure that both management and the door team are operating the premises in promotion of the licensing objectives.
4. The new door company will be reporting any incidents of note at the premises directly to Stonegate's internal licensing team. This will provide a further layer of scrutiny and support should it be required.
5. We have agreed an additional package of conditions to be added to the licence, which are detailed within the Police evidence. These have been fully communicated to Bianca Henderson, and she has provided the attached statement to confirm that she is happy for them to be added to the licence.
6. Full retraining of all staff has taken place to ensure promotion of the licensing objectives.

7. In addition to the conditions agreed with the Police, we are proposing the following condition due to a concern raised by the Committee at the interim steps hearing, in terms of the lack of clarity in terms of closing time on the licence as it currently stands. The condition could be worded as follows:

“Drinking up time will be permitted for a period of 30 minutes following the terminal hour for the sale of alcohol on any given day”.

Conclusion

The Premises Licence Holder is deeply regretful that the expedited review process had to be triggered in respect of one of their premises. Nonetheless, they have taken immediate remedial action in terms of the closure of the premises and sought to work closely with the Police to arrive at a solution to move these premises forward. They respectfully ask the Committee to endorse the Police’s view and add the proposed conditions to the Premises Licence.

In terms of the interim steps, they would respectfully ask the Committee to modify the interim steps and replace the current suspension with the very same package of conditions which have been proposed in respect of the full review decision.

