

IN THE MANCHESTER CITY TOWN HALL

BETWEEN:

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE  
OF GREATER  
MANCHESTER POLICE

APPLICANT

AND

THE LAWN CLUB

RESPONDENT

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**WITNESS STATEMENT**


CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

URN

Statement of: **Alan Isherwood**

Age if under 18: 18+ (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Constable

This statement (consisting of 3 pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything in it, which I know to be false.

Signature: 

Date: 27/6/2023

Check box if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on last page)

I am Police Constable 17659 Isherwood of the Greater Manchester Police, Licensing Officer for the City of Manchester Division, currently based in the Licensing Team at Manchester Town Hall Extension.

Part of my remit as licensing officer is to oversee all of the licensed premises on the City of Manchester Division. The objective of the role is to promote and maintain the 4 licensing objectives at licensed premises, those being the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm.

**The Lawn Club**

The premises are situated in the Spinningfields area of Manchester City Centre, and the premises licence was issued in December 2015. The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) is Hardman Bars Ltd and the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) is Thomas McCartney. It is fair to say that the premises have been operated in a manner which promotes the 4 Licensing Objectives and have not previously been on the radar of Greater Manchester Police (GMP) until the incident which triggered this Summary Review.

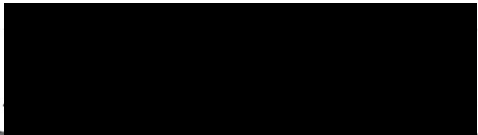
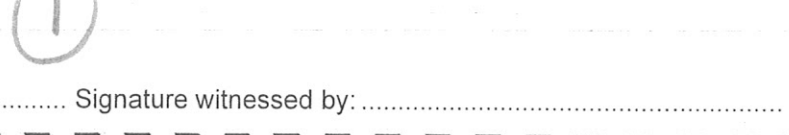
**Incident**

At 2214 hours on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Greater Manchester Police (GMP) received a phone call from a member of staff at the premises who stated that there was a large group of people fighting at the premises and that one of these people had a gun. They went on to say that there was another male who was lying unconscious and that they think that the male with the gun had now left.

At the same time GMP received a call from another person who shouted " Get the police here now. There's a massive brawl and someone has a gun!"

GMP Firearms officers were directed to attend the location.

At 2225 hours GMP received a phone call from North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) stating that they had received a report of a male being stabbed in the leg at the Lawn Club but that the knife was no longer in his leg and they didn't know where it was.

Signature:  Signature witnessed by: 

①

GMP Firearms officers attended at the premises a short time later and confirmed that there was blood on the floor outside the premises and that they had been told that the victim had got up and walked away.

Other GMP officers were then deployed to the location and the CCTV from the premises was viewed and it showed an argument taking place between 2 males and then a 3<sup>rd</sup> male turns up and pulls out a black handgun, which thankfully was not fired.

Officers also noted that there was blood inside the premises, near to the door of the premises and then a trail of blood leading away from the premises.

Staff at the premises were spoken to and they confirm that they saw the firearm and they provided the CCTV to the officers.

A crime for Possession of a Firearm with Intent to cause Fear of Violence has now been submitted and enquiries are ongoing to identify those responsible.

To date no victim has come forward or been traced in relation to the alleged stabbing and the CCTV does not show anything that would suggest that anyone has been stabbed so it appears that the call to NWS from the concerned member of the public was made with in good faith but appears to have been incorrect information.

That being said it is clear that a firearm was produced inside the premises which is of great concern.

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 I applied for a Summary Review of the Premises Licence and the application was signed by Superintendent Spurgeon.

Interim Steps Hearing

The Interim Steps hearing took place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 remotely via Zoom and during this hearing GMP outlined the incident and their concerns regarding the safety of customers and staff to the committee and asked for the Premises Licence to be suspended pending the full review hearing, whilst the investigation continued. The PLH did not contest the suspension and after deliberating the committee took the decision to suspend the licence until the full review hearing which was initially listed for Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Meeting

During the interim period a meeting took place between the PLH, their legal representative, GMP and MCC LOOH. It was agreed that the premises had operated in a well-run manner prior to the incident and positive conversations were able to formulate a list of conditions which all parties agreed were likely to diminish the likelihood of a repeat of such an incident in the future.

The date of the full review hearing was subsequently rescheduled to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 the legal representatives representing the PLH informed Manchester City Council that they wished to appeal the Interim Steps suspension and another Interim Steps hearing was listed for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023.

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Signature

Signature witnessed by:

2nd Interim Steps Hearing

This hearing took place in person on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Manchester Town Hall where a list of conditions, which GMP had previously seen, were proposed by the PLH as an alternative to the interim suspension handed down at the first interim steps hearing.

GMP agreed that these conditions represented a proportionate and sensible alternative to the suspension and did not contest the lifting of the suspension.

Committee took the decision to attach the proposed conditions to the premises licence as the interim measure and the suspension was duly lifted pending the full review hearing.

Conclusion

As previously stated, the premises have operated without incident for a number of years, prior to this incident, and GMP believe that the incident was a result of an externally promoted event, which attracted customers who aren't the usual clientele of the premises.

We appreciate that the committee will make their own decision based on everything that has been presented to them, but we would ask that when making their decision the conditions handed down at the 2<sup>nd</sup> interim steps hearing are considered as a final determination.

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Signature

[Redacted Signature]

Signature witnessed by: .....





Greater Manchester Police  
Central Park  
Northampton Road  
Manchester

**CERTIFICATE UNDER SECTION 53A(1)(b) OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

I hereby certify that in my opinion the premises described below are associated with serious crime / serious disorder / both serious crime and serious disorder<sup>1</sup>.

*Premises*<sup>2</sup>:  
The Tavern  
Hardman Square  
Manchester  
M4 3HG

Premises licence number (if known): 182538

Name of premises supervisor (if known): Thomas McCartney

I am a Superintendent <sup>3</sup> in the Greater Manchester police force.

I am giving this certificate because I am of the opinion that other procedures under the Licensing Act are inappropriate in this case, because<sup>4</sup>:

The standard review of the premises licence under section 51 Licensing Act 2003 is inappropriate due to length of time a standard review would take, there are serious concerns as to the serious crime and serious disorder which has occurred at the premises.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) will say that the premises are associated with Serious Crime and Serious Disorder. Therefore due to the Serious Crime and Serious Disorder which has taken place at the premises GMP feel that it is

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<sup>1</sup> Delete as applicable.

<sup>2</sup> Include business name and address and any other relevant identifying details.

<sup>3</sup> Insert rank of officer giving the certificate, which must be superintendent or above.

<sup>4</sup> Give a brief description of why other procedures such as a standard review process are thought to be inappropriate, e.g. the degree of seriousness of the crime and/or disorder, the past history of compliance in relation to the premises concerned.



necessary for an expedited review to take place.

The premises are situated in the Spinningfields area of Manchester City Centre and the premises licence was issued in December 2015. The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) is Spinningfields Estate Limited and Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) is Thomas McCartney.

On the Greater Manchester Police computer systems the premises is still listed under its previous name The Lawn Club.

The incident which has triggered this Summary Review is as follows:

At 2214 hours on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Greater Manchester Police (GMP) received a member of staff at the premises who stated that there was a large group of people fighting at the premises and that one of these people had a gun. They went on to say that there was another male who was lying unconscious and that they think that the male with the gun had now left.

At the same time GMP received a call from another person who shouted " Get the police here now. There's a massive brawl and someone has a gun!"

GMP Firearms officers were directed to attend the location.

At 2225 hours GMP received a phone call from North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) stating that they had received a report of a male being stabbed in the leg at the Lawn Club but that the knife was no longer in his leg and they didn't know where it was.

GMP Firearms officers attended at the premises a short time later and confirmed that there was blood on the floor outside the premises and that they had been told that the victim had got up and walked away.

Other GMP officers were then deployed to the location and the CCTV from the premises was viewed and it showed an argument taking place between 2 males and then a 3<sup>rd</sup> male turns up and pulls out a black handgun, which thankfully was not fired.

Officers also noted that there was blood inside the premises, near to the door of the premises and then a trail of blood leading away from the premises.

Staff at the premises were spoken to and they confirm that they saw the firearm and they provided the CCTV to the officers.

A crime for Possession of a Firearm with Intent to cause Fear of Violence has now been submitted and there is a huge amount of investigation that now needs to take place in relation to this incident and to identify those responsible. Also the victim who was stabbed in the leg is still to be traced.

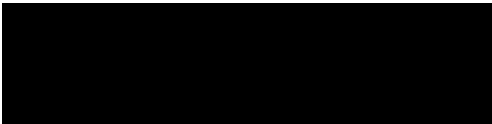
GMP therefore have serious concerns as to the safety of the customers and staff at the premises due to possible reprisals.

The powers contained under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 are necessary and proportionate in light of the association that the premises has to Serious Crime and Serious Disorder.

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In the interim Greater Manchester Police would request that the Licensing Authority consider suspension of the Premises Licence until the full review is heard before the committee. Serious Crime and Serious Disorder has occurred at the premises and until the Licensing Committee hear the full review and all the evidence that will be disclosed, to allow the premises to continue to operate as a licensed premises gives concerns that further incidents of this nature will occur at the premises and the licensing objectives will be further undermined. Greater Manchester Police will say that the licensing objectives of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Public Safety can only be promoted if the premises licence was suspended until the final determination of the summary review.



05/06/23

(Date)

PHIL SURGEN  
SUPERINTENDENT  
GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE





## FORM FOR APPLYING FOR A SUMMARY LICENCE REVIEW

[Insert name and address of relevant licensing authority and its reference number (optional)]

Manchester City Council

**Application for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 (premises associated with serious crime or disorder)**

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form. If you are completing the form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. **Use additional sheets if necessary.**

I Alan Isherwood [on behalf of] the chief officer of police for the Greater Manchester police area apply for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003.

**1. Premises details:**

Postal address of premises, or if none or not known, ordnance survey map reference or description:

**The Tavern  
Hardman Square**

Post town: Manchester

Post code (if known): **M4 3HG**

**2. Premises licence details:**

Name of premises licence holder (if known): Spinningfields Estate Limited

Number of premises licence holder (if known): 08008259

**3. Certificate under section 53A(1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 [Please read guidance note 1]:**

I confirm that a certificate has been given by a senior member of the police force for the police area above that in his opinion the above premises are associated with

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serious crime or disorder or both, and the certificate accompanies this application.

(Please tick the box to confirm)

**4. Details of association of the above premises with serious crime, serious disorder or both:**

[Please read guidance note 2]

The standard review of the premises licence under section 51 Licensing Act 2003 is inappropriate due to length of time a standard review would take, there are serious concerns as to the serious crime and serious disorder which has occurred at the premises.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) will say that the premises are associated with Serious Crime and Serious Disorder. Therefore due to the Serious Crime and Serious Disorder which has taken place at the premises GMP feel that it is necessary for an expedited review to take place.

The premises are situated in the Spinningfields area of Manchester City Centre and the premises licence was issued in December 2015 . The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) is Spinningfields Estate Limited and Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) is Thomas McCartney.

On the Greater Manchester Police computer systems the premises is still listed under its previous name The Lawn Club.

The incident which has triggered this Summary Review is as follows:

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Staff at the premises were spoken to and they confirm that they saw the firearm and they provided the CCTV to the officers.

A crime for Possession of a Firearm with Intent to cause Fear of Violence has now been submitted and there is a huge amount of investigation that now needs to take place in relation to this incident and to identify those responsible. Also the victim who was stabbed in the leg is still to be traced.

GMP therefore have serious concerns as to the safety of the customers and staff at the premises due to possible reprisals.

The powers contained under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 are necessary and proportionate in light of the association that the premises has to Serious Crime and Serious Disorder.

In the interim Greater Manchester Police would request that the Licensing Authority consider suspension of the Premises Licence until the full review is heard before the committee. Serious Crime and Serious Disorder has occurred at the premises and until the Licensing Committee hear the full review and all the evidence that will be disclosed, to allow the premises to continue to operate as a licensed premises gives concerns that further incidents of this nature will occur at the premises and the licensing objectives will be further undermined. Greater Manchester Police will say that the licensing objectives of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Public Safety can only be promoted if the premises licence was suspended until the final determination of the summary review.

Signature of applicant 

Date: 5/6/23

Capacity: Licensing Constable

**Contact details for matters concerning this application:**

Address:

**Manchester Town Hall Extension  
Lloyd Street  
Manchester  
M2 5DB**

Telephone number(s): 0161 856 6017

Email: alan.isherwood@gmp.police.uk

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Notes for guidance:

1. A certificate of the kind mentioned in the form must accompany the application in order for it to be valid under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003. The certificate must explicitly state the senior officer's opinion that the premises in question are associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both.

Serious crime is defined by reference to section 81 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. In summary, it means:

- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences for which a person who has attained the age of eighteen and has no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of three years or more; or
- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences and involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose.

Serious disorder is not defined in legislation, and so bears its ordinary English meaning.

2. Briefly describe the circumstances giving rise to the opinion that the above premises are associated with serious crime, serious disorder, or both.