

Objections received:

Three objections to the application were received within the period permitted. The general terms of the objection(s) are as follows –

- A significant number of officers who are deployed on the weekend policing operation Custodian are located in the Deansgate Locks/Whitworth Street area due to the issues that the area attracts and in the early hours a significant number of the calls made to the police relate to the premises in this area and the locality in general.
- All of the other venues in this vicinity finish trading at 4am on a weekend and by allowing these premises to remain open for another 2 ½ hours will almost certainly attract this unruly element to the premises and cause issues. This will probably lead to issues on the door, with new customers coming from the other venues on the Locks and trying to gain entry. This will then see an increase in calls to service that GMP are already overstretched to deal with.
- Concerns that the granting of this application is likely to lead to issues of public nuisance and the undermining of the Council's Licensing Policy 2016-2021, with specific reference to paragraph 7.26, 7.28, 7.31, 7.39 & 10.2 and the Council's Sex Establishment Policy – revised August 2013, with specific reference to paragraph 4.7 (a & d) & 7.8
- Concerns regarding the dispersal of customers at the extended time clashes with commuters into the city centre and the management of intoxicated customers upon exit from the premises.
- A risk factor to be taken into consideration for events where there is a drinking culture associated, such as football, is the fact that there is a high probability that patrons arriving at the premises will have already been drinking for an extended period of time.
- A further concern is that the premises will become a 'go to' location for football fans wanting to continue their stay in the City, potentially leading to an increase of noise disturbance in an area which contains residential properties and during the week the majority of premises in the area will be closed, therefore there will be less transient noise in the area.
- Concerns about the large numbers of people who may attempt to gain entry but then subsequently loiter outside the premises if refused entry and if refused entry engaging in conversation directly below residential properties with staff and customers outside smoking.
- The exemption to the standard hours for UEFA Champions League matches means that the hours are extended during weekdays and these events will have a greater impact on residents and the daytime economy. Given that patrons will have been consuming alcohol until 6:00 hours they are therefore more likely to cause a public nuisance on dispersal.
- Concerns are raised over the potential imagery or content on any proposed publicity material and how, when and to whom the distribution of such material will be conducted or how this will be managed in relation to the protection of children and/or vulnerable people.
- Concerns the increased hours will impact upon the character of the locality. We believe there will be an adverse impact upon: a) regeneration, b) tourism, c) the retail or commercial attraction of the area & d) social issues e.g. anti-social behaviour
- Concerns increased opening hours (and the increase in the hours in which alcohol can be sold) will further deter people from using the area comfortably and increase the fear of crime.

- The representation also objects to the proposal to amend Condition 8 of Obsessions licensing conditions regarding the use of flyers and promotional materials, and ask that such promotional materials continues to be prohibited.
- Two photographs taken from the venue's Facebook page are attached. The representation comments the content of such promotional material should be reviewed and posts show that Obsessions already appear to have significant promotional activity going on outside the venue, which should be investigated.
- MCC cannot abide by its Public Sector Equality Duty (to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; Advance equality of opportunity between the sexes and Foster good relations between the sexes) and at the same time legitimately extend licensing hours for sexual entertainment venues. The Council must consider its Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).
- Obsessions website boasts that it offers 'full nude lap dancing is provided in a discreet environment....Manchester's finest and most beautiful girls ensure you and your friends enjoy an exciting night out in Manchester'. Offering up 'girls' as objects for sale and by calling itself a 'gentlemen's club' leads to the deduction that the dynamic of the business is that men consume and women are the objects of consumption.
- Like all SEVs, Obsessions reinforces the notion that women's function is to serve and satisfy men sexually. This provision of live display of nudity is provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the live audience for the financial gains of the organiser or the entertainer. This has an impact on how females and males perceive themselves and each other: the ever-increasing sexual objectification of women runs counter to efforts to achieve equality between women and men in Manchester.
- The representation urges the Council to acknowledge and consider the PSED when making a decision as to whether to vary this licence.