

# GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE - REPRESENTATION

## About You

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## About the Premises

Application Reference No.	<b>LPV 226989</b>
Name of the Premises	<b>Obsessions</b>
Address of the premises including postcode	First Floor, 2b Whitworth Street West, Manchester

## Your Representation

Please outline your representation below and continue overleaf. This should describe the likely effect of the grant of the variation on the licensing objectives on and in the vicinity of the premises in question.

Please accept this as formal notification of the Greater Manchester Police objection to the premises licence in relation to the above premises on the grounds of Prevention of Crime and Disorder and the Prevention of Public Nuisance and Public Safety.

The application is seeking to allow the premises to extend its licensable hours until 0600 hrs on Fridays and Saturdays with a closing time of 6.30 hrs in an area where there is one of the highest concentrations of assaults and disorder within the City Centre. They are also seeking to do the same thing on Sundays preceding a Bank Holiday and whenever Manchester United or Manchester City have a home fixture in the UEFA Champions League.

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. The applicant has offered a last entry time of 0330 hrs and, whilst this will mean that only existing customers will be allowed in the premises after this time, the fact that they will obviously be open much later than the other premises 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.

Between 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 there were 179 incidents of violence and 114 incidents of ASB recorded on Whitworth Street and a number of these were in the later hours of the early morning.

We therefore ask that this application is refused.

<b>Licensing &amp; Out of Hours Compliance Team - Representation</b>	
Name	Signe Johansen
Job Title	Neighbourhood Compliance Officer
Department	Licensing and Out of Hours Compliance Team
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Premise Details	
Application Ref No	622813
Name of Premises	Obsessions
Address	2b Whitworth Street West, Manchester, M1 5WZ

Representation
<p>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.</p>
<p>The Licensing and Out of Hours Team (LOOHT) have assessed the likely impact of the grant of this application to vary the Sex Establishment Licence and the <b>Premises Licence</b>, taking into account a numbers of factors, including the nature of the area the premises is located, the hours applied for, the Council's Sex Establishment Policy, the Council's Licensing Policy and any potential risk that the granting of this could lead to issues of public nuisance.</p> <p>The premises is a sexual entertainment venue located on Whitworth Street West in the Deansgate Locks area of Manchester City Centre. The surrounding area is a mix of commercial properties including licensed premises and offices. There are a number of bars opposite the premises. The latest time the bars are open is 4:00 hours. There is a large mix of residential properties to the rear of the premises running along Little Peter Street.</p> <p>Adjacent to the premises approximately 20m away is the entrance Deansgate train station which runs to all the North West stations including Manchester Airport. It is a main commuter station. Opposite the premises is Deansgate Castlefield Metrolink station which is the junction for all Metrolink lines across the network.</p> <p>The applicant has applied to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Extend the hours of licensable activities on Fridays, Saturdays to 6am, open to the public until 6.30am.</li> <li>● Sundays preceding a Bank Holiday Monday and the morning following any UEFA Champions League played at either Old Trafford or Etihad until 6am.</li> <li>● Make amendments to the Operating schedule.</li> </ul> <p>As a result of this assessment we have concerns regarding the extension of the applicant's licensable hours to 6am (with a 6.30am close) and how this will impact on the day time economy and upholding the licensing objectives, Council's Sex Establishment Policy and Licensing Policy.</p>

The first trains arrive to Deansgate at approximately 6:00hours, and trams to Deansgate Castlefield Metrolink. A significant number of commuters will be making their way into the city centre for work during the daytime economy. How intoxicated customers will be dispersed from the premises at this time, does not appear to have been thought out within the application.

The request to extend the premises opening hours is highly likely to have an impact on issues within the vicinity of the premises and is likely to lead to issues of public nuisance with noise and/or drunken behaviour from customers leaving the premises during the same time the public will be arriving or passing through the area on their daily commute or just visiting the City.

As the applicant has requested an extension of the hours for the morning until 6:00 hours following UEFA Champions League matches played at either Old Trafford or Etihad. Given the lateness of the proposed hours LOOHT have concerns that this will become the 'go to' premises for football fans wanting to stay out after other bars have closed.

The applicant has proposed a last entry time of 03:30 hours, the majority of the licensed premises on a weekday in the area close by this time, this therefore raises concerns. There is also potential for customers leaving the premises would be able to go directly to the airport via public transport having consumed alcohol until 6:00 hours with also a potential to cause public nuisance on dispersal.

The Manchester City Council's statement of Licensing Policy 2016-2021 stated that a number of risk factors should be taken into consideration when applying for and granting a licence application, specifically to:

- Paragraph 7.26 refers to consideration the Authority should make to prevention of nuisance such as noise disturbance from people entering and leaving the premises, prevention of disturbance by people outside the premises, litter from premises.
- Paragraph 7.28 in that the licensing authority will give consideration to the appropriateness of hours applied for, having regard for the location of premises and their likely effect of the promotion of the four Licensing Objectives
- Paragraph 7.31 states that the lateness of terminal hour for the premises will often be a contributory factor in the potential for disturbance.
- Paragraph 7.39 The night-time economy presents particular service needs in relation to street cleaning to ensure the streets are cleansed following the departure of night-time crowds, but ahead of the arrival of other users the following morning. Use of mechanised equipment, or even broom-sweeping, is often impractical when streets are busy with people and litter continues to be discarded.

As a result of our assessment we have 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.

When considering the request to extend the hours of licensable activities on Fridays, Saturdays to 6am, open to the public until 6.30am, we feel these hours will greatly impact on residents in the vicinity of the premise from noise by people leaving at the terminal hour and those permitted to temporarily leave to smoke. In addition to the residents we have also taken into account the effect on the day time economy when the public will be arriving or passing through, on a daily commute or visiting the City.

The hours also raise concerns over the ability of the Council to clean and maintain the street scene ahead of the arrival of the day time economy due to the change over time of the Council's contracted Street Cleansing Teams.

The Manchester City Council's statement of Licensing Policy 2016-2021 stated that a number of risk factors should be taken into consideration when applying for and granting a licence application, specifically paragraph 7.8

**Paragraph 7.8** Relevant factors include:

- Physical design of the premises, including:
  - physical hazards arising from type and placement of furniture
  - lighting that facilitates deviance and increases anonymity
  - insufficient and unclean toilets
- Activities at the premises, including entertainment
- **Style of operation, particularly related to the likelihood of alcohol consumption**
  - The potential for pre-loading by customers
- **Social mix of patrons**
- **Patron type (age, gender)**
  - Visible staffing of the local public realm, including policing, wardens, Street Angels etc
- The surrounding locality including:
  - public CCTV coverage
  - any pedestrian and vehicular pathways likely to be used by customers when leaving the premises late at night.

Given that football and Sexual Entertainment Venues are predominantly frequented by males, a number of these risk factors are met before any other considerations have taken place. Another 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. It is common amongst football fans to chant and more so when in large numbers. The concern of the LOOHT is that this would lead to an increase of noise disturbance in an area which contains residential properties with potential of undermining the public nuisance licensing objective. It is also worth pointing out that during the week the majority of premises in the area will be closed and therefore there will be less transient noise in the area. The applicant has offered a last entry time of 03:30 hours, however this does not mitigate our concerns about the large numbers of people who may attempt to gain entry but then subsequently loiter outside the premises once refused. From the applicant's proposals, there will be a three hour period between last entry and closing where the premises will appear to be open with staff and customers outside in the smoking area and this may encourage those refused entry to remain outside engaging in conversation directly below residential properties.

The exemption to the standard hours for UEFA Champions League matches means that the hours are extended during weekdays and the LOOHT have concerns that 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.

We therefore recommend that given the concerns raised above this application is refused.

*In the event the application goes through to a hearing, I reserve the right to include additional information to support my application.*

Recommendation: Refuse Application