



Northamptonshire County Council

County Licensing Unit
East Northamptonshire Council
East Northamptonshire House
Cedar Drive
Thrapston
Northamptonshire
NN14 4LZ

Please ask for: Catherine Noonan
Tel: 01604 367908
Our ref: EST 2846
Your ref:
Date: 20 May 2016

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Application for the Review of a Premises Licence Aqua, 64-70 Gold Street, Kettering NN16 8JB

As a Responsible Authority under the 2003 Licensing Act and as a body '*responsible for protecting children from harm*' the Director for Children's Services makes the following representation in relation to the above application for the review of the licence currently in place at the premises named.

The representation relates to the following objective: -

- The protection of children from harm

The Application for Review has been made by the Northamptonshire Police Licensing Constable. Within the application nine separate incidents "*that have raised concern that the Licensing Objective of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder is not being promoted*" are cited. The nine incidents involve intoxication and / or violent disorder.

It is of considerable concern that four of the nine incidents cited involve young people aged under 18, suggesting that, as the Police Constable states, "*persons under the age of 18 years are being allowed access to the venue*".

It is, of course, illegal for alcohol to be served to young people under the age of 18. In addition, there is considerable evidence that access to alcohol can and will bring children and young people into harm's way.

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For example: -

- 193 males and 121 females between 15 and 34 years of age died from alcohol-related causes in 2011 in the UK (source: [Alcohol Concern](#));
- Almost one in ten boys and around one in eight girls aged 15 to 16 have unsafe sex after drinking alcohol (source: [Alcohol Concern](#));
- There is evidence that younger drinkers are more likely to come to harm whilst intoxicated than older drinkers (source: Institute of Alcohol Studies: [Alcohol's Harm to Others](#), 2015);
- The number of alcohol related hospital admissions of 15 to 24 year-old male patients increased by 57%, from 18,265 in 2002 to 28,747 in 2010. The number of admissions of 15 to 24 year-old female patients over the period increased at faster rate [76%], from 15,233 in 2002 to 26,908 in 2010. (source: Institute of Alcohol Studies: [Young People and Alcohol](#), 2013)

We therefore **support the application for review of the licence and the options suggested by Northamptonshire Police** with the addition that, should the Premises Licence not be revoked then the following conditions are applied (if not already in place): -

1. '[Challenge 25](#)' age verification scheme is introduced; and
2. All door staff are immediately retrained to ensure that the above is enforced.

Both being to protect children and young people from the harm caused by alcohol.

Yours sincerely



Alex Hopkins
Director for Children, Families and Education