

To: Councillors Woodward (Chair), Mitchell and Tarar

Direct: 0118 937 2744
Email: andrew.wood@reading.gov.uk

14 May 2025

Your contact is: Andrew Wood - Committee Services

NOTICE OF MEETING - LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE 22 MAY 2025

A meeting of the Licensing Applications Sub-Committee will be held on Thursday, 22 May 2025 at 9.30 am in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU. The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

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1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (a) Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in relation to the items for consideration;
- (b) Councillors to declare whether they wish to speak on the grounds they:
 - i. Have submitted a relevant representation; or
 - ii. Will be speaking on behalf of someone who has submitted a relevant representation.

2. MINUTES

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To confirm the Minutes of the Licensing Applications Sub-Committee meetings held on 25 April 2025 and 29 April 2025.

CIVIC OFFICES EMERGENCY EVACUATION: If an alarm sounds, leave by the nearest fire exit quickly and calmly and assemble on the corner of Bridge Street and Fobney Street. You will be advised when it is safe to re-enter the building.

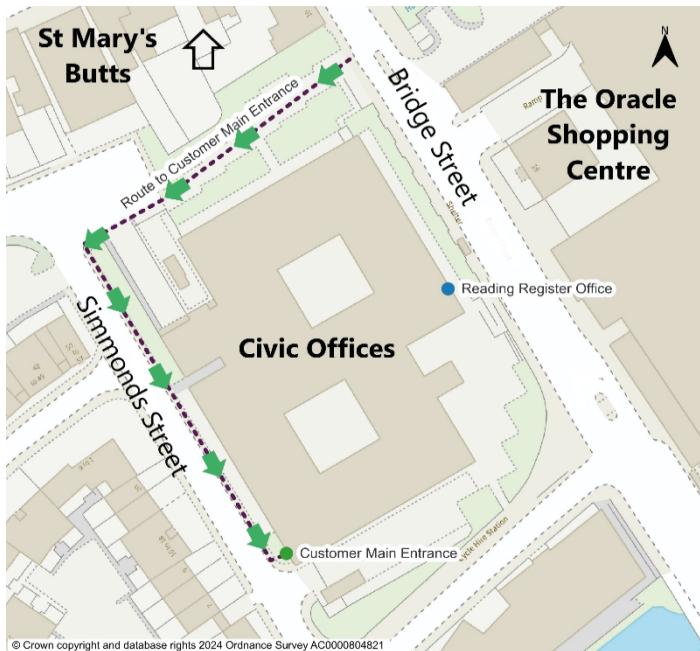
3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

At this point, the Sub-Committee will consider whether to exercise its power to exclude members of the press and public under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) for the following items on the agenda due to there being a high likelihood that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

4. APPLICATION FOR THE SUMMARY REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE - GUN STREET GARDEN, 5 GUN STREET, READING, RG1 2JR ABBEY 15 - 242

To consider an application for the Summary Review of a Premises Licence in respect of Gun Street Garden, 5 Gun Street, Reading, RG1 2JR.

***** Access to Civic Offices** - Please note that, from 13 January 2025, the Customer Main Entrance to the Civic Offices is moving from the front of the building to the back, because of construction work for the new Central Library. If you are attending the meeting in person, please enter via the new Customer Main Entrance in Simmonds Street. (The Council is asking customers not to come down Fobney Street to access the new Customer Entrance, due to heavy construction traffic in this area, and instead to walk via the pedestrian alleyway off Bridge Street next to the "Greek Van"). See map below:



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Agenda Item 2

LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

25 APRIL 2025

Present: Councillors Dennis (Chair), Asare and Keane.

48. ELECTION OF A CHAIR

Resolved –

That Councillor Dennis be elected as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

(Councillor Dennis in the Chair)

49. APPLICATION FOR THE SUMMARY REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE (INTERIM STEPS PENDING REVIEW HEARING) - GUN STREET GARDEN

A special meeting of the Licensing Applications Sub-Committee was convened, in accordance with Sections 53A and 53B of the Licensing Act 2003, following an application made by Thames Valley Police on 25 April 2025 requiring the licensing authority (Reading Borough Council), to carry out a summary review of the premises licence in respect of Gun Street Garden, 5 Gun Street, Reading, RG1 2JR.

The application to conduct a summary review had been submitted due to the premises being associated with serious crime and serious disorder following a series of alleged incidents that had taken place during the early hours of Sunday, 20 April 2025.

The application sought the immediate suspension of the premises licence to prevent further serious disorder and to provide a suitable period of time for the premises licence holder to ensure that suitable steps were taken to investigate and respond to the alleged serious failings at the premises.

The Sub-Committee was asked to consider whether interim steps were necessary to either suspend or to modify the premises licence pending the determination of a full review of the licence that would take place within 28 days after the day of receipt of the summary review application.

The Sub-Committee was provided with copies of the following documents via email:

- a copy of the application for the review of the premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 (premises associated with serious crime or disorder) made by Chief Inspector Felicity Parker, Berkshire West LCU Commander, on behalf of the Chief Officer of Police for the Local Command Unit for Berkshire West police area;
- a copy of the certificate under section 53A(1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 issued by Chief Superintendent Felicity Parker dated 25 April 2025;
- a copy of the premises licence (LP2003160) dated 16 August 2024;
- an updated version of the premises licence (LMV000493) dated 25 April 2025.

In coming to its decision, the Sub-Committee considered the written material that had been circulated by email for the meeting, the four Licensing Objectives (the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance, and the protection of children

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from harm) as well as relevant legislation, guidance and the policies of Reading Borough Council, in particular:

- The Licensing Act 2003 (in particular sections 53A to 53C)
- The Secretary of State's Guidance issued under section 182 of the Act
- Reading Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Policy

Resolved –

- (1) That the urgent nature of the application required the Sub-Committee to make a decision on whether or not to implement interim steps without the premises licence holder being given the opportunity to make representations be noted;
- (2) That it be noted that the Sub-Committee considered it necessary to take interim steps due to the premises being associated with serious crime and disorder;
- (3) That the premises licence in respect of Gun Street Garden be suspended with immediate effect;
- (4) That the Sub-Committee's reasons for suspending the premises licence be noted as follows:
 - a) That on Sunday 20 April 2025 at 02:00 am a serious assault took place on the premises whereby a male threw a hard plastic glass and threw a punch at the face of a female, requiring the female to attend hospital, security staff had allowed the male to freely leave the premises without apprehending him or calling for assistance from the police;
 - b) That on Sunday 20 April 2025 at approximately 03:37 am a report of public disorder was made, the police response to the incident caused the majority of Reading's police resources to be tied up for over one and a half hours;
 - c) That about 200 people were gathered outside the premises, and some security staff had been antagonistic to the police and appeared to be associated with problematic individuals in the crowd;
 - d) That the suspension of the licence was proportionate to the serious criminality and public disorder, furthermore there were other potentially high-risk events planned, and persons turning up to attend those events would be more liable to cause serious public disorder if the premises remained open;
 - e) The police did not have confidence in the Security Industry Authority (SIA) licenced staff employed by the premises;

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f) That, if required, an appeal against the interim steps imposed on the business could be considered at the meeting of the Licensing Applications Sub-Committee scheduled on 29 April 2025.

(The meeting was conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams)

(The meeting started at 4.00 pm and closed at 4.18 pm)

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**LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
29 APRIL 2025**

Present: Councillors Woodward (Chair), Edwards and Tarar.

50. APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE - MARKET HOUSE, 1-2 MARKET PLACE, READING, RG1 2EQ

The Sub-Committee considered a report on an application to vary the premises licence in respect of Market House, 1-2 Market Place, Reading, RG1 2EQ. The report explained that the premises currently benefited from a premise licence (copy at Appendix RS-1) that authorised the following licensable activities:

Provision of Late Night Refreshment:

Monday to Sunday from 2300hrs to 0500hrs.

From the end of permitted hours on New Year's Eve until the start of permitted hours on New Year's Day for non-overnight residents.

Sale by Retail of Alcohol (On Sales):

Monday to Sunday from 1000hrs to 2300hrs.

The supply of alcohol shall be 24hrs for residents of the hotel and their bona fide guests.

From the end of permitted hours on New Year's Eve until the start of permitted hours on New Year's Day.

Hours the Premises is Open to the Public:

Monday to Sunday from 0700hrs to 2330hrs.

The roof terrace will open from 0800hrs to 2300hrs daily.

Opening hours shall be 24hrs for residents of the hotel and their bona fide guests.

From the end of permitted hours on New Year's Eve until the start of permitted hours on New Year's Day.

The application to vary the premise licence had been submitted by The City Pub Group Ltd. At the meeting the Sub-Committee heard that City Pub Group Ltd had been acquired by Young & Co.'s Brewery PLC. A copy of the application form was attached to the report at Appendix RS-2. The application sought to vary the premise licence as follows:

Sale of Alcohol (On Sales)

Increase the terminal hour for the sale of alcohol, Wednesday to Saturday, from 2300hrs to 0100hrs.

**LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
29 APRIL 2025**

Provision of Recorded Music:

Add the Provision of Recorded Music to the licence as follows:

Wednesday 2300hrs to 0100hrs
Thursday 2300hrs to 0100hrs
Friday 2300hrs to 0100hrs
Saturday 2300hrs to 0100hrs

New Years Eve From the end of permitted hours on New Year's Eve to the start of permitted hours on New Year's Day.

Hours the Premises is Open to the Public

Increase the Hours the Premises is Open to the Public, Wednesday to Saturday, from 2330hrs to 0130hrs, as follows:

Wednesday 0700hrs to 0130hrs
Thursday 0700hrs to 0130hrs
Friday 0700hrs to 0130hrs
Saturday 0700hrs to 0130hrs

Remove the restriction on the existing licence listed under the opening hours stating that: "The roof terrace will open from 0800hrs to 2300hrs daily."

The application further sought to amend or remove other conditions attached to Annex 2 of the current premises licence. A copy of the newly proposed conditions which had been agreed between the Council's Licensing Team, Thames Valley Police and the Applicant was attached to the report at Appendix RS-3.

The report stated that all other licensable activities and hours would remain as per the current licence.

During the 28-day consultation period for the application a representation objecting to the variation had been received by Reading Borough Council from Mr Andrew Strong on behalf of Sykes Capital Ltd. A copy of the representation was attached to the report at Appendix RS-4.

The following additional information had been circulated to members of the Sub-Committee by email after the publication of the agenda, with hard copies also made available at the meeting:

- a document provided by the Applicant that included photographs of the premises, floor plans and online customer reviews;
- a document provided by the objector that included two annotated ariel photographs.

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The report stated that in determining the application the Licensing Authority had a duty to carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives, as follows:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- Public safety;
- The prevention of public nuisance;
- The protection of children from harm.

The report stated that any decision made in relation to the Premises Licence should be appropriate and proportionate with a view to promoting the licensing objectives. The Licensing Authority could amend, alter, or refuse an application should it be deemed appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The report stated that, when determining the application, the Licensing Authority must also have regard to the representations received, the Licensing Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy and to any relevant section of the statutory guidance issued to licensing authorities by the Secretary of State.

The report set out paragraphs 1.6, 3.1, 3.2, 5.6, 5.7, 6.1, 6.2, 6.5, 6.28, 6.29, 7.2, 7.14, 7.15, 8.6, 10.1 and 10.3 from the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy. The report also set out paragraphs 1.2 to 1.5, 8.41 to 8.49, 8.50, 8.76, 8.41 to 8.49, 8.50, 8.76, 9.12 and 9.38 to 9.43 from the Secretary of State's Guidance to the Licensing Act 2003 issued in December 2023.

Robert Smalley, Licensing Officer, Reading Borough Council, attended the hearing, presented the report and addressed the Sub-Committee. Tabitha Shaw, Licensing Officer, Reading Borough Council attended the hearing as an observer.

The Applicant's representative, James Anderson, Poppleston Allen Solicitors, attended the meeting, addressed the Sub-Committee on the application and answered questions. John St John, Operations Manager, Young's and Richard Robinson, General Manager, Young's also attended the meeting, addressed the Sub-Committee and answered questions.

At the meeting the Applicant offered to add three additional conditions to the licence that it felt would help to address any concerns that there might be relating to noise escaping from the premises.

Charlie Sykes attended the meeting on behalf of Sykes Capital Ltd, addressed the Sub-Committee and asked and responded to questions.

In reaching their decision the Sub-Committee gave due consideration to:

- the Licensing Act 2003;
- the Secretary of State's Guidance issued under section 182 of that Act;
- Reading Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Policy;
- the likely effect that granting the application would have on the promotion of the four Licensing Objectives;
- the report prepared by Reading Borough Council's Licensing Department;
- the representations and additional information provided the Applicant;

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- the representations and additional information provided the Objector;
- the professional representations given at the meeting by Robert Smalley on behalf of Reading Borough Council's Licensing Department;
- the oral representations at the meeting from the Applicant;
- the oral representations made at the meeting on behalf of the objector by Mr Charlie Sykes of Sykes Capital.

Resolved –

- (1) That the application to vary the premises licence in respect of Market House, 1-2 Market Place, Reading, RG1 2EQ, be granted to:
 - (a) increase the terminal hour for the Sale of Alcohol from 2300hrs to 0100hrs on the following days:

Wednesday	1000hrs to 0100hrs
Thursday	1000hrs to 0100hrs
Friday	1000hrs to 0100hrs
Saturday	1000hrs to 0100hrs
 - (b) add the Provision of Recorded Music from 2300hrs to 0100hrs on the following days:

Wednesday	2300hrs to 0100hrs
Thursday	2300hrs to 0100hrs
Friday	2300hrs to 0100hrs
Saturday	2300hrs to 0100hrs
 - (c) increase the Hours the Premises is Open to the Public by adjusting the closing time from 2330hrs to 0130hrs on the following days:

Wednesday	0700hrs to 0130hrs
Thursday	0700hrs to 0130hrs
Friday	0700hrs to 0130hrs
Saturday	0700hrs to 0130hrs
 - (d) remove the restriction listed under the opening hours stating that: "The roof terrace will open from 0800hrs to 2300hrs daily."
- (2) That the grant of the variation application be subject to the new set of conditions agreed between the Council's Licensing Team, Thames Valley Police and the Applicant, as set out in Appendix RS-3.

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- (3) That the following further conditions offered up by the Applicant be added to licence:
 - i. Closing the vault room roof at 2300 hrs each night;
 - ii. Closing the roof garden's roof at 2300 hrs each night;
 - iii. Provision by the applicant of a dedicated telephone number for local residents, through Sykes Developments, and the publishing of that telephone number on the premises' website.
- (4) That all other licensable activities and hours associated with the premises remain as per the existing licence.

(The meeting started at 5.00 pm and closed at 5.57 pm)

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**LICENSING ACT 2003 HEARING THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025 @ 09:30HRS
APPLICATION FOR THE SUMMARY REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE**

1. Premises:

Gun Street Garden
5 Gun Street
Reading
RG1 2JR

2. Applicant:

Thames Valley Police

3. Grounds for Review:

The application for a summary review has been submitted on the grounds outlined within the application and accompanying certificate.

The certificate states that this premises is currently associated with serious crime and serious disorder in that on Sunday 20th April 2025 at approximately 02:00hrs a report was made of an assault where a male suspect threw a hard plastic glass and a punch at a females face. The victim had to attend A&E for an x-ray and CT scan for their jaw.

On Sunday 20th April 2025 at approximately 03:07hrs a report of Public Disorder was made. A significant policing response was required involving public order tactics being utilised. This committed the majority of all Reading's policing resources for over 90 minutes purely in order to control the situation stemming from the premises and its patrons. This meant police resources could not attend other calls for service across Reading.

The review application has been submitted to prevent further undermining of the licensing objectives of: Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Protection of Children from Harm, Prevention of Public Nuisance and 'Public Safety'.

The application for summary review and certificate are attached as **Appendix RS-1**.

4. Licensable activities and hours:

The premises currently benefits from a premises licence (no. LMV000493 attached as **Appendix RS-2**) that authorises:

Provision of Regulated Entertainment (Exhibition of Films – Performance of Live Music – Playing of Recorded Music – Performance of Dance – Anything Similar to Live Music, Recorded Music or Performance of Dance)

Monday to Saturday from 1000hrs to 0300hrs
Sunday from 1200hrs to 0200hrs

Provision of Late Night Refreshment

Monday to Saturday from 2300hrs to 0300hrs
Sunday from 2300hrs to 0200hrs

Sale by Retail of Alcohol (On & Off Sales):

Monday to Saturday from 1000hrs to 0300hrs
Sunday from 1200hrs to 0200hrs

All licensable activities to extend on Bank Holiday Sunday from 1200hrs to 0430hrs

Hours the Premises is Open to the Public:

Monday to Saturday from 1000hrs to 0330hrs
Sunday from 1200hrs to 0230hrs

5. Date of receipt of application: 25 April 2025

6. Date of closure of period for representations: 12 May 2025

7. Interim Steps

On 25 April 2025 a sub-committee was convened at which it was determined that it was necessary to suspend the premises licence under Section 53B of the Licensing Act 2003. The minutes of this meeting are attached as **Appendix RS-3**

8. Representations received:

During the 10 working day consultation period for the application, representations were received from:

1. Mr Ben Williams – Reading Borough Council Licensing - Attached as **Appendix RS-4**
2. Valid Representations from Other Persons – Attached as **Appendix RS-5**
3. Invalid Representations from Other Persons – Attached as **Appendix RS-6**

9. Licensing Objectives and Reading Borough Council's Licensing Policy Statement

In determining this application the Licensing Authority has a duty to carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives, which are as follows:-

- the prevention of crime and disorder;
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance
- the protection of children from harm

In determining this application the Licensing Authority must also have regard to the representations received, the Licensing Authority's statement of licensing policy and any relevant section of the statutory guidance to licensing authorities.

10. Power of Licensing Authority on the determination of a Review

In determining the review application the sub-committee can take such steps as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, which are:

1. Take no further action

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To issue formal warnings to the premises supervisor and/or premises licence holder 3. Modify the conditions of the licence (including, but not limited to hours of operation of licensable activities) 4. Exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence 5. Remove the designated premises licence supervisor 6. Suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months 7. Revoke the licence.
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Where the sub-committee takes a step mentioned in 3 or 4 it may provide that the modification or exclusion is to have effect for a period not exceeding three months or permanently.

In considering the interim steps on receipt of a summary review, the Licensing Authority may consider:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the modification of the conditions of the premises licence 2. the exclusion of the sale of alcohol as a licensable activity 3. the removal of the designated premises supervisor 4. the suspension of the premises licence
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Interim steps were imposed on 25th April 2025. The Licensing Authority must also review the interim steps on the date of the full review hearing and consider whether the interim steps are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, consider any relevant representations and decide whether to withdraw or modify the interim steps taken pending the decision made at the full reviewing hearing coming into effect.

11. Licensing Objectives and Reading Borough Council's Licensing Policy Statement

In considering representations received the Licensing Authority has a duty to carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives, which are as follows:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- The Protection of Children from Harm

Any conditions that are placed on a premises licence should be appropriate and proportionate with a view to promoting the licensing objectives. The Licensing Authority can amend, alter, or refuse an application should it be deemed appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

In determining this application, the Licensing Authority must also have regard to the representations received, the Licensing Authority's statement of licensing policy and any relevant section of the statutory guidance to licensing authorities.

12. The Council's Licensing Policy Statement (2023):

1.5 This licensing policy aims to make Reading's night-time economy an economy for all. A diverse range of responsibly run premises are to be encouraged. The licensing

authority wishes to discourage drunkenness and a move away from alcohol led vertical drinking establishments. We would expect responsibly run premises to actively promote the licensing objectives through promoting extra seating at their premises; instigating effective dispersal from their premises at the conclusion of licensable activities and engagement with the licensing authority and other responsible authorities in policies, initiatives and strategies that promote Reading as a safe, healthy, diverse and vibrant night-time economy suitable for all.

1.6 The predominantly urban nature of Reading as a town means that an appropriate balance needs to be struck between the needs of local business and the needs of local residents. This licensing policy seeks to encourage all stakeholders to engage in the licensing process so that the needs of all can be taken into account and issues dealt with in a spirit of partnership and cooperation.

Other Initiatives

2.26 Reading's night-time economy has achieved Purple Flag and Best Bar None status. These are nationally recognised schemes meaning the town has achieved a level of excellence and we would expect all licence holders and potential applicants to take cognisance of these standards and practices. The Authority and its partners shall seek to work with all stakeholders in the town to maintain these standards. The town also has a very successful and well attended Pubwatch scheme both in the town centre and in the outer areas of Reading. This scheme is supported by Thames Valley Police and Reading Borough Council and is a particularly useful forum for licence holders to share information, best practice and work in a collaborative manner so as to make the night-time economy as vibrant and safe as possible for all. The Authority would expect all prospective applicants and current licence holders to make use of their local Pubwatch scheme and engage fully in any relevant initiatives that stem from it.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

3.2 This Act requires local authorities and other bodies to consider crime and disorder reduction. Section 17 of the Act states that it shall be the duty of each authority, to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that is reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment). This links specifically with the licensing objective of prevention of crime and disorder and the licensing authority will take into account all reasonable measures that actively promote this licensing objective.

Other Legislation that the Licensing Authority will consider

3.10 The Licensing Authority will also have cognisance to the following legislation when it decides to discharge its responsibilities under the Licensing Act. This list is not exhaustive:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990 which deals with noise and nuisance
- Regulatory Reform Order 2005 which deals with fire safety

- Highways Act 1980 which deals with pavement café licences
- Reading Borough Council Act 2013 which deals with street trading and touting
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Food Hygiene regulations
- Planning legislation (see paragraphs 2.2-2.9 of this policy)

Licensable Activities

4.15 This policy relates to all applications for the following licensable activities:

- The sale of alcohol by retail
- The supply of alcohol to club members
- The provision of regulated entertainment:
- Performance of a play
- Performance of a film
- An indoor sporting event
- Boxing or wrestling
- Performance of live music
- Performance of recorded music
- Performance of dance
- The provision of late night refreshment (the sale of hot food and drink between 2300hrs and 0500hrs)

Review of a premises licence or club premises certificate

5.13 Any premises that has a premises licence or club premises certificate may have that licence reviewed by any of the named Responsible authorities – including the Licensing Authority in its role as a Responsible Authority. Thames Valley Police may also submit a Summary Review if there is a premises associated with serious crime and disorder. When the Licensing Authority instigates a review it will ensure that there is a clear separation of functions between the officer acting as the licensing authority and the officer acting as a responsible authority.

5.15 The Act provides strict guidelines, timescales and procedures for review applications and hearings and the Authority will deal with every review application in accordance with these rules.

Licensing Hours

General Approach

7.1 The Licensing Act 2003 gives the licensing authority the power to make decisions about the hours during which premises can conduct licensable activities as part of the implementation of this policy. The licensing authority will make appropriate decisions on licensing hours for the locality of each premises. All applications will be considered on its individual merits.

7.2 When an application receives representations, the authority may consider reducing

the opening hours and times for licensable activities if it considers it appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

7.4 Where it is deemed appropriate and proportionate to do so, the authority may seek to reduce the hours for licensable activities in order to promote an orderly and gradual dispersal from a certain area or certain premises.

Enforcement Approach

9.12 Where offences are found to have been carried out on licensed premises, the Authority has a number of enforcement options available to it. The Authority will work with partner agencies to determine which enforcement option is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The seriousness of the offences found will be taken into consideration as well as any previous issues of non-compliance or criminality that have taken place at the licensed premises.

9.13 The enforcement options available to the Authority are wide-ranging. The Authority may consider, for example, that a letter detailing the issues found during an inspection followed by a period of time to rectify them is sufficient to promote the licensing objectives. Similarly, the Authority may consider that the breaches are sufficiently serious to warrant an immediate performance meeting with a licence holder so that a discussion can take place about the adequacy of the processes in place at the premises. This could, for example, lead to recommendations being put to the licence holder to implement much more robust conditions and processes to avoid a repeat of the breaches found. The authority may also decide to prosecute relevant persons for offences being carried out on licensed premises. Licence holders should note that the authority can take one or more of these options available to it at the same time for the same offences should it be deemed appropriate to do so.

9.15 Licensed premises that have a history of non-compliance over a period of months and years and/or incidents of serious crime taking place at that premises, will likely find that the Authority will initiate a review with a view to asking for the licence to be considered for revocation.

9.16 When considering what enforcement action to take, the Authority will always consider what is the most appropriate and proportionate step to promote the licensing objectives. The Authority is not required to wait for offences to occur before deciding it needs to take appropriate action. Case law – notably *East Lindsey District Council v Abu Hanif* – states that the promotion of the licensing objectives requires a prospective consideration of what is warranted in the public interest having regard to the twin considerations of prevention and deterrence. Similarly, the Secretary of State's Guidance to the Licensing Act makes clear that there is no requirement for the Authority to wait for the outcome of any criminal proceedings before it initiates any enforcement action. This is the approach that the Authority will take when considering what, if any, action should be taken when condition breaches and other criminal activity is found at licensed premises.

9.17 Thames Valley Police may also initiate a Summary Review when they believe a premises is associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both. The Summary review process is outlined in Section 53A to 53D of the Licensing Act 2003 and is

reserved for the most serious crime and disorder issues. When a Summary Review is submitted by Thames Valley Police, the Authority will deal with the application as set out in the Act. Similarly, Immigration Enforcement may also close a licensed premises under a compliance order which will then trigger an expedited review once the Authority is notified by the Magistrates Court. This will be dealt with in accordance with the processes and timescales detailed in the Act.

9.18 Any responsible authority or person defined as 'any other person' within the Act can initiate a review of any premises licence or club premises certificate. When another responsible authority or other person initiates a review, the Authority will deal with it as the Licensing Authority and may also wish to make representation in support of the review within its role as a responsible authority if it has relevant information.

9.20 The Authority shall endeavour to work with licence holders and applicants where it is believed that steps can be taken to rectify issues identified at licensed premises. However it cannot merely continue that approach if it has previously failed or the licence holder is unresponsive. It is the responsibility of all licence holders and responsible authorities to ensure that licensed premises are not undermining the promotion of the licensing objectives and that licensable activity is carried out lawfully. The Authority will work with partners to determine what action is appropriate for each premises where issues are discovered. Each premises and the action required for each will be assessed on its own individual merits.

9.21 The Council, in determining a review application can take the following steps in order to promote the licensing objectives:

- modify the conditions on the licence
- exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence
- remove the designated premises supervisor
- suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months
- revoke the premises licence

9.22 If a summary review has been submitted by Thames Valley Police then the Authority can, within 48 hours of an application, take immediate steps if it deems it appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. These are called 'interim steps' and can include modifying conditions; removing alcohol as a licensable activity; removing the designated premises supervisor or suspending the licence. The interim steps – unless successfully appealed by the licence holder within 48 hours – shall remain in place at least up until the final review hearing. The final review hearing will then see the Authority make two determinations – what action to take in relation to the premises licence and whether it is appropriate for the interim steps to remain in place.

13. Amended Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (February 2025)

Licensing Objectives and Aims:

1.2 The legislation provides a clear focus on the promotion of four statutory objectives which must be addressed when licensing functions are undertaken.

1.3 The licensing objectives are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- Public safety;
- The prevention of public nuisance; and
- The protection of children from harm.

1.4 Each objective is of equal importance. There are no other statutory licensing objectives, so that the promotion of the four objectives is a paramount consideration at all times.

1.5 However, the legislation also supports a number of other key aims and purposes. These are vitally important and should be principal aims for everyone involved in licensing work. They include:

- protecting the public and local residents from crime, anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance caused by irresponsible licensed premises

Purpose

1.7 This Guidance is provided to licensing authorities in relation to the carrying out of their functions under the 2003 Act. It also provides information to magistrates' courts hearing appeals against licensing decisions and has been made widely available for the benefit of those who run licensed premises, their legal advisers and the general public. It is a key medium for promoting best practice, ensuring consistent application of licensing powers across England and Wales and for promoting fairness, equal treatment and proportionality.

1.8 The police remain key enforcers of licensing law. This Guidance does not bind police officers who, within the parameters of their force orders and the law, remain operationally independent. However, this Guidance is provided to support and assist police officers in interpreting and implementing the 2003 Act in the promotion of the four licensing objectives.

Protection of children from harm

2.28 The protection of children from harm includes the protection of children from moral, psychological and physical harm. This includes not only protecting children from the harms associated directly with alcohol consumption but also wider harms such as exposure to strong language and sexual expletives (for example, in the context of exposure to certain films or adult entertainment). Licensing authorities must also consider the need to protect children from sexual exploitation when undertaking licensing functions.

The role of responsible authorities (eg Police)

9.12 Each responsible authority will be an expert in their respective field, and in some cases it is likely that a particular responsible authority will be the licensing authority's main source of advice in relation to a particular licensing objective. For example, the police have a key role in managing the night-time economy and should have good

working relationships with those operating in their local area. The police should usually therefore be the licensing authority's main source of advice on matters relating to the promotion of the crime and disorder licensing objective. However, any responsible authority under the 2003 Act may make representations with regard to any of the licensing objectives if they have evidence to support such representations. Licensing authorities must therefore consider all relevant representations from responsible authorities carefully, even where the reason for a particular responsible authority's interest or expertise in the promotion of a particular objective may not be immediately apparent. However, it remains incumbent on all responsible authorities to ensure that their representations can withstand the scrutiny to which they would be subject at a hearing.

Licensing authorities acting as responsible authorities

9.13 Licensing authorities are included in the list of responsible authorities. A similar framework exists in the Gambling Act 2005. The 2003 Act does not require responsible authorities to make representations about applications for the grant of premises licences or to take any other steps in respect of different licensing processes. It is, therefore, for the licensing authority to determine when it considers it appropriate to act in its capacity as a responsible authority; the licensing authority should make this decision in accordance with its duties under section 4 of the 2003 Act.

Determining actions that are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives

9.42 Licensing authorities are best placed to determine what actions are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in their areas. All licensing determinations should be considered on a case-by-case basis. They should take into account any representations or objections that have been received from responsible authorities or other persons, and representations made by the applicant or premises user as the case may be.

9.43 The authority's determination should be evidence-based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and proportionate to what it is intended to achieve.

The review process

11.1 The proceedings set out in the 2003 Act for reviewing premises licences and club premises certificates represent a key protection for the community where problems associated with the licensing objectives occur after the grant or variation of a premises licence or club premises certificate.

11.2 At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence or club premises certificate, a responsible authority, or any other person, may ask the licensing authority to review the licence or certificate because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives.

11.10 Where authorised persons and responsible authorities have concerns about problems identified at premises, it is good practice for them to give licence holders

early warning of their concerns and the need for improvement, and where possible they should advise the licence or certificate holder of the steps they need to take to address those concerns. A failure by the holder to respond to such warnings is expected to lead to a decision to apply for a review. Co-operation at a local level in promoting the licensing objectives should be encouraged and reviews should not be used to undermine this co-operation.

Powers of a licensing authority on the determination of a review

11.16 The 2003 Act provides a range of powers for the licensing authority which it may exercise on determining a review where it considers them appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

11.17 The licensing authority may decide that the review does not require it to take any further steps appropriate to promoting the licensing objectives. In addition, there is nothing to prevent a licensing authority issuing an informal warning to the licence holder and/or to recommend improvement within a particular period of time. It is expected that licensing authorities will regard such informal warnings as an important mechanism for ensuring that the licensing objectives are effectively promoted and that warnings should be issued in writing to the licence holder.

11.18 However, where responsible authorities such as the police or environmental health officers have already issued warnings requiring improvement – either orally or in writing – that have failed as part of their own stepped approach to address concerns, licensing authorities should not merely repeat that approach and should take this into account when considering what further action is appropriate. Similarly, licensing authorities may take into account any civil immigration penalties which a licence holder has been required to pay for employing an illegal worker.

11.25 Reviews are part of the regulatory process introduced by the 2003 Act and they are not part of criminal law and procedure. There is, therefore, no reason why representations giving rise to a review of a premises licence need be delayed pending the outcome of any criminal proceedings. Some reviews will arise after the conviction in the criminal courts of certain individuals, but not all. In any case, it is for the licensing authority to determine whether the problems associated with the alleged crimes are taking place on the premises and affecting the promotion of the licensing objectives. Where a review follows a conviction, it would also not be for the licensing authority to attempt to go beyond any finding by the courts, which should be treated as a matter of undisputed evidence before them.

Summary Reviews:

12.1 Summary reviews can be undertaken when the police consider that the premises concerned is associated with serious crime or serious disorder (or both). The summary review process, set out under sections 53A-53D of the 2003 Act, allows interim conditions to be quickly attached to a licence and a fast track licence review. The provisions were inserted by section 21 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 and amended by sections 136-137 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, including the addition of section 53D.

12.2 The powers apply only where a premises licence authorises the sale of alcohol.

They do not apply in respect of other premises licences, or to premises operating under a club premises certificate. The powers are aimed at tackling serious crime and serious disorder, in particular (but not exclusively) the use of guns and knives. The powers complement the general procedures in the 2003 Act for tackling crime and disorder associated with licensed premises and should be reserved for the most serious matters which cannot be adequately or otherwise redressed unless urgent action is taken. Separate powers in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provide for the instant closure of premises by the police in some circumstances (in essence, disorder or nuisance). The consequent review of premises licences by the licensing authority is provided for by section 167 of the Licensing Act 2003.

12.5 The tests to determine the kinds of conduct that amount to serious crime are set out in section 81(2) and (3) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Those tests are that the conduct:

- (a) constitutes an offence for which a person who is 21 years of age or over with no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for 3 years or more; or
- (b) 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.

12.6 There is no definitive list of behaviours that constitute serious disorder, and the matter is one for judgment by the local police. The phrase should be given its plain, ordinary meaning, as is the case under section 12 of the Public Order Act 1986 in which it is also used.

12.13 The interim steps that the licensing authority must consider taking are:

- the modification of the conditions of the premises licence;
- the exclusion of the sale of alcohol by retail from the scope of the licence;
- the removal of the designated premises supervisor from the licence; and
- the suspension of the licence.

Modification of the conditions of the premises licence can include the alteration or modification of existing conditions or addition of any new conditions, including those that restrict the times at which licensable activities authorised by the licence can take place.

12.14 If the licensing authority decides to take steps at the initial interim stage:

- the decision takes effect immediately, or as soon after it as the licensing authority directs; but
- the licensing authority must give immediate notice of its decision and its reasons for doing so to the holder of the premises licence and the chief officer of police who made the application. The 2003 Act does not specify that the immediate notice has to be in writing. However, in an individual case the licensing authority may consider that the need for immediate communication at least initially requires a non-written approach, such as a telephone call. This may happen when, for example, the authority decides that the decision should have immediate effect. In such a case, the decision and the reasons for it should be explained clearly and in full to the licence-holder (or someone who may properly act for the licence-holder), and the call followed up as soon as

possible with a written version of the decision and the reasons (for example, by email or fax) which is identical to, or not significantly different from, the version given by telephone.

12.15 The licensing authority, in deciding when its decision on interim steps should take effect, should consider the practical implications of compliance in relation to the premises. For example, to comply with a modification of the conditions of a licence that requires employment of door supervisors, those running the premises may need some time to recruit appropriately qualified and accredited staff.

12.17 The premises licence holder may make representations against the interim steps taken by the licensing authority. There is no time limit for the premises licence holder to make representations on the interim steps, although in practice this would at some point be superseded by the full review which would have to be completed within 28 days of the application being received by the licensing authority. On receipt of such representations, the licensing authority must (if the representations are not withdrawn) hold a hearing within 48 hours of their receipt. When calculating the 48 hour period, any non-working day can be disregarded. Where the licensing authority has already held a hearing to consider representations against the interim steps, the holder of the licence may only make further representations if there has been a material change in circumstances.

12.18 The licensing authority must give advance notice of the hearing to the premises licence holder and the chief officer of police. Given that these measures are designed to deal with serious crime and/or serious disorder on an interim basis only, the process is designed to avoid delay and, as such, significant portions of the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/44) (which set out the usual processes governing the conduct of licensing authority hearings) do not apply in order to streamline the hearing process. One result of this is that the licensing authority cannot adjourn the hearing to a later date if the licence holder fails to attend at the scheduled time, as is the case under the normal review procedure. And as is the case with that procedure, the licence holder does not have to be present for the hearing to take place. In addition, there is no timescale for notifying the licence holder of the hearing under the modified process, providing the notification takes place before the hearing is held. However, it is imperative that the licence holder be given as much notice as is possible in the circumstances to afford the holder a maximum practicable opportunity to prepare for and attend the hearing. Licensing authorities should bear in mind that the usual principles of public law decision-making will apply to interim determinations, in a form that has regard to the statutory context of an expedited process.

12.19 At the hearing to consider representations against interim steps the licensing authority must:

- consider whether the interim steps are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives; and
- determine whether to withdraw or modify the steps taken.

12.20 When considering the case the licensing authority must take into account:

- the senior officer's certificate that accompanied the application;
- the chief officer's representations (if any); and

- any representations made by the premises licence holder.

12.21 There is no right of appeal to a magistrates' court against the licensing authority's decision at this stage.

The review of the premises licence under section 53C

12.22 The licensing authority must hold a full review of the premises licence and determine the review within 28 days after the day of receipt of the chief officer's application. There can be no adjournment of the hearing or delay in reaching a determination beyond the end of the 28 day period. This must take place even if the chief officer asks to withdraw his application or representations. At the review hearing, the licensing authority must consider what steps are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives taking into account any change in circumstances since any interim steps were imposed, consider any relevant representations, and review the interim steps already taken (if any).

Review of the interim steps under section 53D

12.29 The licensing authority's determination does not have effect until the end of the 21 day period given for appealing the decision, or until the disposal of any appeal that is lodged (see below information on right of appeal). To ensure that there are appropriate and proportionate safeguards in place at all times, the licensing authority is required to review any interim steps that it has taken that are in place on the date of the hearing and consider whether it is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives for the steps to remain in place, or if they should be modified or withdrawn. The review of the interim steps should take place immediately after the determination under section 53C has been reached. In making its decision, the licensing authority must consider any relevant representations made.

12.30 In conducting the review of the interim steps the licensing authority has the power to take any of the steps that were available to it at the initial stage (see paragraph 12.13). Any interim steps taken at the review hearing apply until—

- (a) the end of the period given for appealing against a decision made under section 53C (21 days),
- (b) if the decision under section 53C is appealed against, the time the appeal is disposed of, or
- (c) the end of a period determined by the relevant licensing authority (which may not be longer than the period of time for which such interim steps could apply under (a) or (b) above).

Right of appeal against review of interim steps decision

12.31 The licence holder or the chief officer of police may appeal against the decision made by the licensing authority concerning its review of the interim steps to a magistrates' court. The appeal must be made within 21 days of the appellant being notified of the licensing authority's decision and must be heard in full by the

magistrates' court within 28 days beginning with the day on which the appellant lodged the appeal.

14. Relevant Case law for consideration:

(R) on the application of Hope and Glory Public House v Westminster City Council (2011) EWCA Civ31

East Lindsey District Council v Abu Hanif (t/a Zara's Restaurant) (2016)

R (on application of Daniel Thwaites plc) v Wirral Magistrates' Court and Others (2008) EWHC 838 (Admin)

15. Appendices

Appendix RS-1: Application & Certificate for Summary Review

Appendix RS-2: Current Premises Licence

Appendix RS-3: Minutes from the Interim Steps Hearing held on 25/04/2025

Appendix RS-4: Representation by Mr Ben Williams - Reading Borough Council Licensing

Appendix RS-5: Valid Representations from Other Persons

Appendix RS-6: Invalid Representations from Other Persons

Appendix RS-7: Additional Information submitted by Thames Valley Police

ANNEX C

FORM FOR APPLYING FOR A SUMMARY LICENCE REVIEW

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

Reading Borough Council, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU

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 Chief Superintendent 5186 Felicity Parker [on behalf of] the chief officer of police for the Local Command Unit for Berkshire West 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:

**Gun Street Garden,
5 Gun Street**

Post town: Reading

Post code (if known): **RG1 2JR**

2. Premises licence details:

Name of premises licence holder (if known): BSK SERVICES LIMITED

Number of premises licence holder (if known): LP2003160

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 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]

I am a Chief Superintendent in the Thames Valley 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:

This premises is currently associated with serious crime and serious disorder in that on Sunday 20th April 2025 @ approximately 02:00 (crime reference: 43250193845) a report was made of an assault where a male suspect, threw a hard plastic glass and a punch at a females face. The victim had to attend A&E for an x-ray and CT scan for their jaw. It is alleged that the offender in this incident was identified to security staff at the location and yet he was allowed to leave freely from the premises without apprehension or calls for support from the police.

On Sunday 20th April 2025 @ approximately 03:07 (crime reference: 43250191773) a report of Public Disorder was made. A significant policing response was required involving public order tactics being utilised. This committed the majority of all Reading's policing resources for over 90 minutes purely in order to control the situation stemming from the premises and it's patrons. This meant my police resources could not attend other calls for service across Reading.

Initially staff and door supervisors within the club requested assistance over the Town Safe Radio initially only stating "Nine Nine", they had stated this roughly 3 more times with no further explanation.

After some time had passed, a staff member from Gun Street Garden, called "FIGHT IN PROGRESS". Upon officers' attendance there was roughly 200 people congregating outside the premises.

Officers describe the response from the SIA staff at the premises as inadequate. Some members of staff were described as helpful and supportive of the officers whilst others appeared to be associates of the problematic individuals within the crowd. These SIA staff were also described as being antahonistic and provoking further disorder amongst the crowd.

Thames Valley Police believe that the immediate suspension of the licence shall both prevent further serious disorder but shall also provide a suitable period of time for the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) to ensure that suitable steps are taken to both investigate and respond to the serious failings at this premises. We strongly feel that this course of action must be taken at this stage to protect the public and in order to promote the four licensing objectives.

However, if you are of a mind not to suspend the licence we suggest that all of the following steps be implemented.

- 1) Modify the premises licence conditions by the inclusion of a licensing condition stating words to the effect "NO EXTERNALLY PROMOTED EVENTS OR BOOKINGS SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN, AND NO EXTERNAL PROMOTERS UTILISED"**
- 2) Modify the times for both the sale of alcohol and all licensable activities on Monday to Sunday to cease at 00:00 hours**
- 3) Modify the hours open to the public Monday to Sunday for closure at 00:30 hours.**

Please note that our concerns with a non-suspension of the premises licence are two fold in that promotions and bookings which have already been taken for potentially high risk events shall likely lead to persons planning on attending the events arriving at the premises and causing further disorder if the premises is found open.

And secondly, the security and management issues and lack of control at this premises is currently so inherent that the PLH would actually benefit from a period of time to resolve these key concerns and allow for a suitable period of time for all responsible authorities to reflect upon the steps which must be taken to ensure serious disorder is prevented from occurring at this premises again.

Signature of applicant: Chief Superintendent Felicity PARKER

Date: 25th April 2025

Capacity: Berkshire West LCU Commander

Contact details for matters concerning this application:

Address: Licensing Office, Reading Police Station, Castle Street, Reading, RG1 7TH

Telephone number(s): 101

Email: licensing@thamesvalley.police.uk

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.

Reading Police Station,
Castle Street
Reading,
RG1 7TH

25th April 2025

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 both serious crime and serious disorder

Premises Licence Number: LP2003160

Premises: Gun Street Garden

Premises Address: 5 Gun Street, Reading RG1 2JR

Premises Supervisor: Aurelia Singh

I am a Chief Superintendent in the Thames Valley 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:

This premises is currently associated with serious crime and serious disorder in that on Sunday 20th April 2025 @ approximately 02:00 (crime reference: 43250193845) a report was made of an assault where a male suspect, threw a hard plastic glass and a punch at a females face. The victim had to attend A&E for an x-ray and CT scan for their jaw. It is alleged that the offender in this incident was identified to security staff at the location and yet he was allowed to leave freely from the premises without apprehension or calls for support from the police.

On Sunday 20th April 2025 @ approximately 03:07 (crime reference: 43250191773) a report of Public Disorder was made. A significant policing response was required involving public order tactics being utilised. This committed the majority of all Reading's policing resources for over 90 minutes purely in order to control the situation stemming from the premises

and its patrons. This meant my police resources could not attend other calls for service across Reading.

Initially staff and door supervisors within the club requested assistance over the Town Safe Radio initially only stating "Nine Nine", they had stated this roughly 3 more times with no further explanation.

After some time had passed, a staff member from Gun Street Garden, called "FIGHT IN PROGRESS". Upon officers' attendance there was roughly 200 people congregating outside the premises.

Officers describe the response from the SIA staff at the premises as inadequate. Some members of staff were described as helpful and supportive of the officers whilst others appeared to be associates of the problematic individuals within the crowd. These SIA staff were also described as being antahonistic and provoking further disorder amongst the crowd.

Thames Valley Police believe that the immediate suspension of the licence shall both prevent further serious disorder but shall also provide a suitable period of time for the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) to ensure that suitable steps are taken to both investigate and respond to the serious failings at this premises. We strongly feel that this course of action must be taken at this stage to protect the public and in order to promote the four licensing objectives.

However, if you are of a mind not to suspend the licence we suggest that all of the following steps be implemented.

- 1) Modify the premises licence conditions by the inclusion of a licensing condition stating words to the effect "NO EXTERNALLY PROMOTED EVENTS OR BOOKINGS SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN, AND NO EXTERNAL PROMOTERS UTILISED"
- 2) Modify the times for both the sale of alcohol and all licensable activities on Monday to Sunday to cease at 00:00 hours
- 3) Modify the hours open to the public Monday to Sunday for closure at 00:30 hours.

Please note that our concerns with a non-suspension of the premises licence are two fold in that promotions and bookings which have already been taken for potentially high risk events shall likely lead to persons planning on attending the events arriving at the premises and causing further disorder if the premises is found open.

And secondly, the security and management issues and lack of control at this premises is currently so inherent that the PLH would actually benefit from a period of time to resolve these key concerns and allow for a suitable period of time for all responsible authorities to reflect upon the steps which must be taken to ensure serious disorder is prevented from occurring at this premises again.



This decision has been made in order to uphold the licensing objectives and to both to prevent crime and disorder, protect children from harm and to ensure public safety.

Chief Superintendent Felicity PARKER

25 April 2025

.....
(Signed)

.....
(Date)

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LICENSING ACT 2003 PREMISES LICENCE - PART A

Reading Borough Council being the Licensing Authority under the above Act,
HEREBY GRANT a PREMISES LICENCE as detailed in this licence.

Premises Licence Number	LMV000493
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Premises Details

Trading name of Premises and Address	
Gun Street Garden	
5 Gun Street	
Reading	
RG1 2JR	
Telephone Number	0118 958 6839

Where the Licence is time limited the dates the Licence is valid
N/A

Licensable Activities

Licensable Activities authorised by the Licence
Exhibition of Films - Indoor
Performance of Live Music - Indoor
Playing of Recorded Music - Indoor
Performance of Dance - Indoor
Anything similar to Live Music, Recorded Music or Performance of Dance - Indoor
Late Night Refreshment - Indoor
Sale of Alcohol by Retail- On & Off the Premises

Authorised Hours for Licensable Activities

The times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities
Hours for the Exhibition of Films
Monday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Tuesday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Wednesday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Thursday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Friday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Saturday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday from 1200hrs until 0200hrs
Hours for the Performance of Live Music
Monday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Tuesday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Wednesday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Thursday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Friday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs

Saturday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday	from 1200hrs until 0200hrs

Hours for the Playing of Recorded Music

Monday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Tuesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Wednesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Thursday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Friday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Saturday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday	from 1200hrs until 0200hrs

Hours for the Performance of Dance

Monday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Tuesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Wednesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Thursday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Friday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Saturday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday	from 1200hrs until 0200hrs

Hours for anything similar to Live Music, Recorded Music or Performance of Dance

Monday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Tuesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Wednesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Thursday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Friday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Saturday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday	from 1200hrs until 0200hrs

Hours for the Provision of Late Night Refreshment

Monday	from 2300hrs until 0300hrs
Tuesday	from 2300hrs until 0300hrs
Wednesday	from 2300hrs until 0300hrs
Thursday	from 2300hrs until 0300hrs
Friday	from 2300hrs until 0300hrs
Saturday	from 2300hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday	from 2300hrs until 0200hrs

Hours for the Sale by Retail of Alcohol

Monday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Tuesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Wednesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Thursday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Friday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Saturday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday	from 1200hrs until 0200hrs

All licensable activities to extend on Bank Holiday Sunday 1200hrs to 0430hrs

Opening Hours

Hours the Premises is Open to the Public

Monday	from 1000hrs until 0330hrs
Tuesday	from 1000hrs until 0330hrs
Wednesday	from 1000hrs until 0330hrs
Thursday	from 1000hrs until 0330hrs
Friday	from 1000hrs until 0330hrs
Saturday	from 1000hrs until 0330hrs
Sunday	from 1200hrs until 0230hrs

Alcohol

Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and/or off supplies

Sale of Alcohol by Retail - On & Off the Premises

Premises Licence Holder

Name, (registered) address of holder of premises licence

Name: BSK Services Limited

Address: 2 Alexandra Terrace, Alexandra Road, Aldershot, GU11 3HU

Registered number of holder, for example company number or charity number [where applicable]

15714506

Additional Details

Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol

Name: Aurelia Singh

Address: [REDACTED]

Designated Premises Supervisor

Personal Licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by the designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol

Personal Licence Number: 21/01234/PERS_N

Issuing Authority: Basingstoke & Dean Borough Council

This Licence shall continue in force from **27/02/2025** unless previously suspended or revoked.

Dated: 25 April 2025

Signed on behalf of the issuing licensing authority



Emma Gee

Acting Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Mandatory Conditions

Supply of Alcohol

To be applied where a premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol	
1	No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence:- <ol style="list-style-type: none">at a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, orat a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended
2	Every supply of alcohol made under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

Film Exhibitions

To be applied only where a premises licence or club premises certificate authorises the exhibitions of films	
1	The admission of children to any exhibition of any film must be restricted in accordance with section 20 of Part 3 of the Licensing Act 2003.
2	In the case of films which have been classified by the British Board of Film Classification admission of children to films must be restricted in accordance with that classification.
3	In the case of films which have not been classified by the British Board of Film Classification, admission of children must be restricted in accordance with any recommendation made by the Licensing Authority.

Door Supervisors

To be applied where a premises licence or club premises certificate includes a condition that any person must be at the premises to carry out a security activity. [Except premises with a premises licence authorising only plays or films or premises used exclusively by a club].	
1	Each individual present at the licensed premises to carry out a security activity must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority.

- 1) The responsible person must ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.
- 2) In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises—
 - (a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to—
 - (i) drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or
 - (ii) drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise);
 - (b) provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;
 - (c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;
 - (d) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner;
 - (e) dispensing alcohol directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of disability).

Supply of Tap Water (commencement date 01/10/2014)

1. The responsible person must ensure that free potable water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.

Age Verification Policy (commencement 01/10/2014)

1. The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.
2. The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.
3. The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either—
 - (a) a holographic mark, or
 - (b) an ultraviolet feature.

Drink Measurements (commencement date 01/10/2014)

1. The responsible person must ensure that—
 - (a) where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures—
 - (i) beer or cider: $\frac{1}{2}$ pint;
 - (ii) gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25 ml or 35 ml; and
 - (iii) still wine in a glass: 125 ml;
 - (b) these measures are displayed in a menu, price list or other printed material which is available to customers on the premises; and
 - (c) where a customer does not in relation to a sale of alcohol specify the quantity of alcohol to be sold, the customer is made aware that these measures are available.”

Minimum Permitted Pricing (commencement 28th May 2014)

1. A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.
2. For the purposes of the condition set out in paragraph 1—
 - (a) “duty” is to be construed in accordance with the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979;
 - (b) “permitted price” is the price found by applying the formula—
$$P = D + (D \times V)$$
where—
 - (i) P is the permitted price,
 - (ii) D is the rate of duty chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the duty were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol, and
 - (iii) V is the rate of value added tax chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the value added tax were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol;
 - (c) “relevant person” means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a premises licence—
 - (i) the holder of the premises licence,
 - (ii) the designated premises supervisor (if any) in respect of such a licence, or
 - (iii) the personal licence holder who makes or authorises a supply of alcohol under such a licence;
 - (d) “relevant person” means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a club premises certificate, any member or officer of the club present on the premises in a capacity which enables the member or officer to prevent the supply in question; and
 - (e) “valued added tax” means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994
3. Where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 would (apart from the paragraph) not be a whole number of pennies, the price given by that sub-paragraph shall be taken to be the price actually given by that sub-paragraph rounded up to the nearest penny.
4. (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 on a day (“the first day”) would be different from the permitted price on the next day (“the second day”) as a result of a change to the rate of duty or value added tax.
4. (2) The permitted price which would apply on the first day applies to sales or supplies of alcohol which take place before the expiry of the period of 14 days beginning on the second day.

Annex 2

Conditions Consistent with the Operating Schedule

General

Conditions attached via Variation October 2018

1. The premises licence holder shall ensure the premises' digitally recorded CCTV system cameras shall continually record whilst the premises are open to the public and recordings shall be kept for a minimum of 31 days with time and date stamping.

- a) The entire licensable area shall be covered by CCTV.
- b) Data recordings shall be made immediately available to an authorised officer of Thames Valley Police or Reading Borough Council subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act, together with facilities for viewing upon request.
- c) Recorded images shall be of such quality as to be able to identify the recorded person in any light.
- d) At least one member of staff on the premises at any time during operating hours shall be trained to access and download material from the CCTV system.

2. The premises shall at all times operate a Challenge 25 policy to prevent any customers who attempt to purchase alcohol and who appear to the staff member to be under the age of 25 years from making such a purchase without having first provided identification. Only a valid British driver's licence showing a photograph of the person, a valid passport or a nationally approved proof of age card showing the 'Pass' hologram (or any other similarly nationally recognised scheme) are to be accepted as identification.

3. When employed, a register of Door Supervisors shall be kept. The register must show the following details:

- Full SIA registration number.
- Date and time that the door supervisor commenced duty, countersigned by the DPS or Duty Manager.
- Date and time that the door supervisor finished work, countersigned by the DPS or Duty Manager.
- Any occurrence or incident of interest impacting on any of the four licensing objectives must be recorded giving names of the door supervisor involved.

a) The Door Supervisor register shall be kept at the premises and be available for inspection by an authorised officer of Thames Valley Police, or an authorised officer from Reading Borough Council and shall be retained for a period of twelve months.

4. The premises and area immediately outside the premises shall be kept clear of all forms of litter whilst the premises is open for licensable activities.

5. Clearly legible and suitable notices shall be displayed at all exits, requesting customers to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and area quietly. Staff shall be available to ensure that customers disperse quietly.

6. All cashiers shall be trained to record refusals of sales of alcohol in a refusals book /register. The book/ register shall contain:

- Details of the time and date the refusal was made;
- The identity of the staff member refusing the sale;
- Details of the alcohol the person attempted to purchase.

This book /register will be available for inspection when requested by a Police Officer or authorised officer of Reading Borough Council and shall be retained for six months.

7. All incidents which impact on any of the four licensing objectives shall be recorded in a register kept at the premises for this purpose. The names of the person recording the incident and those members of staff who deal with any incident shall also be recorded. Where known, any offenders name shall also be recorded.

a) This record shall be available for inspection by a Police Officer or an authorised officer of Reading Borough Council upon request and shall be retained for one year. The record shall be signed off by the DPS or nominated representative at the end of each trading session.

b) A weekly review of the incident register shall also be carried out by the DPS.

8. All incidents that are recorded in the incident register shall be signed off by the Designated Premises Supervisor or nominated representative. A weekly review of the incident register shall also be carried out by the Designated Premises Supervisor.

9. The placing of refuse - such as bottles - into receptacles shall not cause a noise nuisance at any time.

10. An entry, closure and dispersal policy for controlling the opening and closing of the premises and the departure of customers from the premises at the conclusion of the licensed activities shall be put in place and shall be actively operated. The policy shall be in written format and made available upon request to an authorised officer of Reading Borough Council and Thames Valley Police.

11. The licensee shall take all reasonable precautions and exercise all due diligence to ensure that no patron removes glasses or open bottles from the premises. The licensee shall display notices advising that glasses and bottles must not be removed from the premises at all exit points normally used by patrons.

12. All cashiers involved in the sale of alcohol shall be trained to record refusals of sale of alcohol in a refusals log (whether written or electronic). The log shall contain:

- Details of the time and date the refusal was made;
- The identity of the staff member refusing the sale;
- Details of the alcohol the person attempted to purchase.

a) This book /register will be available for inspection by a Police Officer or authorised officer of Reading Borough Council upon request.

13. Staff employed to sell alcohol shall undergo training upon induction. This shall include, but not be limited to:

- The premises age verification policy.
- The law relating to underage sales.
- Dealing with refusal of sales.
- Proxy purchasing.
- Recognising valid identity documents not in the English language.
- Identifying attempts by intoxicated persons to purchase alcohol.
- Identifying signs of intoxication
- Conflict management
- How to identify and safeguard vulnerable persons who attend and leave the premises.
- Identifying signs of drug usage and prevention.
- The four licensing objectives.

a) Such training sessions are to be documented and refreshed every six months. All training sessions are to be documented in English. Records of training shall be kept for a minimum of one year and be made available to an authorised officer of Thames Valley Police and Reading Borough Council upon request.

14. An active policy shall be put in place at the premises in relation to the searching and detection of illegal drugs and weapons. This shall include detection on the way into the premises and active monitoring of all areas of the premises for illegal drug use when the premises is open to members of the public. Any incidents or findings are to be documented in writing.

15. The premises licence holder shall ensure that advertising or promotional material for licensable activities at the premises is not placed on any street furniture, structure or public highway not belonging to the premises licence holder. Failure by the premises licence holder to remove any promotional material illegally displayed will be a breach of this condition and any other legislation that applies in Reading in relation to unlawful advertising on street furniture.

16. A written risk assessment shall be put in place to manage the queuing of patrons outside of the venue on the public highway. This risk assessment shall be reviewed on a regular basis, be provided in written form and be made available for inspection to officers of Reading Borough Council and Thames Valley Police upon request.

17. Children shall only be permitted on the premises when accompanied by a responsible adult. No children shall be permitted on the premises after 2100hrs.

18. The last permitted entry time to the premises on any given night shall be one hour prior to the venue's closing time, with the exception of the re-entry of smokers.

19. A minimum of two Security Industry Authority (SIA) registered door staff shall be employed at the premises on a Friday and Saturday night from 21:00 . Door staff shall be employed from 21:00 hours until 03:00 hours or until all customers have dispersed from inside and outside the premises, whichever is later, and at least two door staff will remain outside the premises during this time;

a) At all other times, SIA registered door staff shall be employed at the premises in accordance with a written risk assessment, to be carried out by the Designated Premises Supervisor. The risk assessment shall be produced to an authorised officer of Reading Borough Council or Thames Valley Police.

b) When employed, door staff will wear clearly visible clothing that clearly distinguishes them from patrons. Hi visibility armbands shall be worn at all times displaying their SIA badge. The uniform worn by door staff must be suitable to ensure that they are clearly visible via both internal and external CCTV camera systems. Hi visibility fluorescent tabards must be worn by door staff at any time when stationed at the entry/exit of the premises and whenever on the public highway, and during dispersal.

c) When employed, door staff shall monitor customers as they queue and enter the premises.

20. A scanner type ID system will be in operation when licensable activities are permitted at the point of entry to be used by the premises to promote the licensing objective.

21. There should at all times be available a breathalyser test for use at the discretion of the premises licence holder on customers entering the premises.

22. A body worn video camera will at all times be used by one member of the SIA door team, during the times in which the premises are open for licensable activities.

23. An active search policy shall be put in place to prevent illegal drugs and weapons being brought on to the premises. The policy shall include, but not be limited to, methods of search, detection, confiscation and disposal and shall be actively operated. The policy shall be in written format and made available upon request to an authorised officer of Reading Borough Council and Thames Valley Police. Notices shall also be put in place informing customers that the management reserve the right to conduct an outer body search and or bag as a condition of entering the premises.

24. Regular checks of high risk areas for drug use (including the toilets) shall be carried out by door staff and premises staff when door staff are not available. A written record of all checks shall be maintained and made available upon request by an authorised officer of the Thames Valley Police and Reading Borough Council.

25. The premises licence holder shall participate in the Local Town Radio Scheme when the premises are opened for licensable activities Monday to Sunday inclusive.

26. The licensee shall monitor the audience numbers and must ensure that the maximum permitted occupancy of 350, including all staff members, is not exceeded.

27. The premises licence holder or duly nominated representative shall be an active member of the local pub watch scheme if such a scheme is operative.

28. Noise from amplified music or voices shall not such as to cause a noise nuisance to occupants of nearby premises.

29. The exterior of the building shall be cleared of litter at regular intervals.

30. Clearly legible and suitable notices shall be displayed at all exits requesting customers to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and area quietly. After 00:00 staff shall be available to ensure that customers disperse quietly.

31. Doors and windows at the premises are to remain closed after 11pm save for access and egress.

32. Dispersal Policy

- a) At the end of the evening management and staff shall assist with the orderly and gradual dispersal of patrons in line with the written dispersal policy;
- b) Staff members (including door personnel when employed) shall advise patrons to leave the premises quickly and quietly out of respect for neighbours;
- c) Notices shall be displayed requesting customers to leave quietly and in an orderly manner out of consideration to neighbours and their attention shall be drawn to these notices by members of staff;
- d) Bottle and drinking receptacles shall be removed from any patron before exiting the premises;
- e) Customers shall be actively discouraged from assembling outside the premises at the end of the permissible hours.

33. Any outside area used by the customers wishing to drink or smoke shall be clearly delineated and covered by the CCTV system which shall be installed at the premises;

- a) The outside area shall be monitored by staff or door staff (when employed);
- b) The area shall be cleaned regularly;
- c) Suitable receptacles shall be provided for smokers to dispose of cigarette butts;
- d) Signs shall be displayed in the area requesting customers to keep noise to a minimum;
- e) Patrons who disregard signage and verbal instructions regarding noise shall be asked to move inside and/or leave the premises;
- f) Open containers of alcohol shall not be permitted to be taken beyond the boundary of the outside area.

34. The emptying of bins into skips, and refuse collections shall not take place between 11pm and 8am.

35. No noise shall emanate from the premises nor vibration be transmitted through the structure of the premises which gives rise to a nuisance.

Annex 3

Conditions attached after a hearing by the Licensing Authority

N/A

Annex 4

Plans

As attached plan dated 12.02.2025

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Appendix RS-3
LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
25 APRIL 2025

Present: Councillors Dennis (Chair), Asare and Keane.

48. ELECTION OF A CHAIR

Resolved –

That Councillor Dennis be elected as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

(Councillor Dennis in the Chair)

**49. APPLICATION FOR THE SUMMARY REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE
(INTERIM STEPS PENDING REVIEW HEARING) - GUN STREET GARDEN**

A special meeting of the Licensing Applications Sub-Committee was convened, in accordance with Sections 53A and 53B of the Licensing Act 2003, following an application made by Thames Valley Police on 25 April 2025 requiring the licensing authority (Reading Borough Council), to carry out a summary review of the premises licence in respect of Gun Street Garden, 5 Gun Street, Reading, RG1 2JR.

The application to conduct a summary review had been submitted due to the premises being associated with serious crime and serious disorder following a series of alleged incidents that had taken place during the early hours of Sunday, 20 April 2025.

The application sought the immediate suspension of the premises licence to prevent further serious disorder and to provide a suitable period of time for the premises licence holder to ensure that suitable steps were taken to investigate and respond to the alleged serious failings at the premises.

The Sub-Committee was asked to consider whether interim steps were necessary to either suspend or to modify the premises licence pending the determination of a full review of the licence that would take place within 28 days after the day of receipt of the summary review application.

The Sub-Committee was provided with copies of the following documents via email:

- a copy of the application for the review of the premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 (premises associated with serious crime or disorder) made by Chief Inspector Felicity Parker, Berkshire West LCU Commander, on behalf of the Chief Officer of Police for the Local Command Unit for Berkshire West police area;
- a copy of the certificate under section 53A(1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 issued by Chief Superintendent Felicity Parker dated 25 April 2025;
- a copy of the premises licence (LP2003160) dated 16 August 2024;
- an updated version of the premises licence (LMV000493) dated 25 April 2025.

In coming to its decision, the Sub-Committee considered the written material that had been circulated by email for the meeting, the four Licensing Objectives (the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance, and the protection of children

LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 25 APRIL 2025

from harm) as well as relevant legislation, guidance and the policies of Reading Borough Council, in particular:

- The Licensing Act 2003 (in particular sections 53A to 53C)
- The Secretary of State's Guidance issued under section 182 of the Act
- Reading Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Policy

Resolved –

- (1) That the urgent nature of the application required the Sub-Committee to make a decision on whether or not to implement interim steps without the premises licence holder being given the opportunity to make representations be noted;
- (2) That it be noted that the Sub-Committee considered it necessary to take interim steps due to the premises being associated with serious crime and disorder;
- (3) That the premises licence in respect of Gun Street Garden be suspended with immediate effect;
- (4) That the Sub-Committee's reasons for suspending the premises licence be noted as follows:
 - a) That on Sunday 20 April 2025 at 02:00 am a serious assault took place on the premises whereby a male threw a hard plastic glass and threw a punch at the face of a female, requiring the female to attend hospital, security staff had allowed the male to freely leave the premises without apprehending him or calling for assistance from the police;
 - b) That on Sunday 20 April 2025 at approximately 03:37 am a report of public disorder was made, the police response to the incident caused the majority of Reading's police resources to be tied up for over one and a half hours;
 - c) That about 200 people were gathered outside the premises, and some security staff had been antagonistic to the police and appeared to be associated with problematic individuals in the crowd;
 - d) That the suspension of the licence was proportionate to the serious criminality and public disorder, furthermore there were other potentially high-risk events planned, and persons turning up to attend those events would be more liable to cause serious public disorder if the premises remained open;
 - e) The police did not have confidence in the Security Industry Authority (SIA) licenced staff employed by the premises;

**LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
25 APRIL 2025**

f) That, if required, an appeal against the interim steps imposed on the business could be considered at the meeting of the Licensing Applications Sub-Committee scheduled on 29 April 2025.

(The meeting was conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams)

(The meeting started at 4.00 pm and closed at 4.18 pm)

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Name of Officer	Ben Williams						
Type of Application	Summary Review of Premises Licence – Licensing Act 2003						
Name of Premises	Gun Street Garden						
Address	5 Gun Street Reading RG1 2JR						
Licensable Activities	Provision of Late Night Refreshment Exhibition of Films Performance of Live Music Playing of Live Music Performance of Dance Sale of Alcohol by Retail Anything Similar to Live Music, Recorded Music or Performance of Dance						
Finish Times	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	03:00	03:00	03:00	03:00	03:00	03:00	02:00

Content of Application:

I am a Chief Superintendent in the Thames Valley 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: This premises is currently associated with serious crime and serious disorder in that on Sunday 20th April 2025 @ approximately 02:00 (crime reference: 43250193845) a report was made of an assault where a male suspect, threw a hard plastic glass and a punch at a females face. The victim had to attend A&E for an x-ray and CT scan for their jaw. It is alleged that the offender in this incident was identified to security staff at the location and yet he was allowed to leave freely from the premises without apprehension or calls for support from the police.

On Sunday 20th April 2025 @ approximately 03:07 (crime reference: 43250191773) a report of Public Disorder was made. A significant policing response was required involving public order tactics being utilised. This committed the majority of all Reading's policing resources for over 90 minutes purely in order to control the situation stemming from the premises and its patrons. This meant my police resources could not attend other calls for service across Reading.

Initially staff and door supervisors within the club requested assistance over the Town Safe Radio initially only stating "Nine Nine", they had stated this roughly 3 more times with no further explanation.

After some time had passed, a staff member from Gun Street Garden, called "FIGHT IN PROGRESS". Upon officers' attendance there was roughly 200 people congregating outside the premises.

Officers describe the response from the SIA staff at the premises as

inadequate. Some members of staff were described as helpful and supportive of the officers whilst others appeared to be associates of the problematic individuals within the crowd. These SIA staff were also described as being antahanistic and provoking further disorder amongst the crowd.

Thames Valley Police believe that the immediate suspension of the licence shall both prevent further serious disorder but shall also provide a suitable period of time for the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) to ensure that suitable steps are taken to both investigate and respond to the serious failings at this premises. We strongly feel that this course of action must be taken at this stage to protect the public and in order to promote the four licensing objectives.

However, if you are of a mind not to suspend the licence we suggest that all of the following steps be implemented.

- 1) Modify the premises licence conditions by the inclusion of a licensing condition stating words to the effect "NO EXTERNALLY PROMOTED EVENTS OR BOOKINGS SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN, AND NO EXTERNAL PROMOTERS UTILISED"
- 2) Modify the times for both the sale of alcohol and all licensable activities on Monday to Sunday to cease at 00:00 hours
- 3) Modify the hours open to the public Monday to Sunday for closure at 00:30 hours.

Please note that our concerns with a non-suspension of the premises licence are two fold in that promotions and bookings which have already been taken for potentially high risk events shall likely lead to persons planning on attending the events arriving at the premises and causing further disorder if the premises is found open.

And secondly, the security and management issues and lack of control at this premises is currently so inherent that the PLH would actually benefit from a period of time to resolve these key concerns and allow for a suitable period of time for all responsible authorities to reflect upon the steps which must be taken to ensure serious disorder is prevented from occurring at this premises again.

Licensing Officer's Comments:

The premises currently has the benefit of a premises licence (LMV000493) attached as Appendix BDW001 held by BSK Services Limited that authorises:

Sale of Alcohol by Retail – On & Off the Premises

Monday to Saturday – 1000hrs to 0300hrs

Sunday – 1200hrs to 0200hrs

Exhibition of Films

Monday to Saturday – 1000hrs to 0300hrs

Sunday – 1200hrs to 0200hrs

Performance of Live Music

Monday to Saturday – 1000hrs to 0300hrs

Sunday – 1200hrs to 0200hrs

Playing of Recorded Music

Monday to Saturday – 1000hrs to 0300hrs

Sunday – 1200hrs to 0200hrs

Performance of Dance

Monday to Saturday – 1000hrs to 0300hrs

Sunday – 1200hrs to 0200hrs

Anything similar to Live Music, Recorded Music or Performance of Dance

Monday to Saturday – 1000hrs to 0300hrs

Sunday – 1200hrs to 0200hrs

Late Night Refreshment

Monday to Saturday – 2300hrs to 0300hrs

Sunday – 2300hrs to 0200hrs Hours

The Premises is Open to the Public

Monday to Saturday – 1000hrs to 0330hrs

Sunday – 1200hrs to 0230hrs

The premises licence holder utilises this licence to operate as a nightclub, with the predominant activities of vertical drinking, playing music and dancing. Reading Borough Council, acting as a responsible authority, support the application for the summary review of the premises licence for Gun Street Garden with the aim to revoke the premises licence.

We believe that no other powers available to the sub-committee, namely, a suspension of the premises licence, modification of conditions, exclusion of licensable activities and the removal of the Designated Premises Supervisor are sufficient to prevent the undermining of the Licensing Objectives at this premises.

Gun Street Garden has become repeatedly associated with serious incidents of crime and disorder. The most recent and severe incidents, reported by Thames Valley Police, are summarised below:

- On Sunday 20th April 2025 at approximately 02:00 hours, a report was made to police of a serious assault. A male suspect threw a hard plastic glass and punched a female in the face. The victim required hospital treatment, including an x-ray and CT scan to assess injuries to her jaw.

- At approximately 03:07 hours the same morning, a report of public disorder was received. A significant policing response was necessary, including the use of public order tactics. The incident involved numerous individuals and resulted

in the majority of Reading's police resources being committed to the scene for over 90 minutes, leaving other emergency calls unattended.

These events are not isolated, and my direct involvement with the premises over the past several months has revealed a pattern of poor management practices, particularly during the dispersal period:

- 11th October 2024: I spoke directly with management and advised that forcing patrons out all at once had previously led to fights breaking out. I made clear that a better-managed, staggered dispersal process was necessary to avoid conflict.
- 17th November 2024: I witnessed poor dispersal management with groups of patrons congregating in the street and obstructing traffic, creating a risk to public safety and order. I also witnessed patrons fighting in the street. I attach photos of the dispersal on this date as appendix BDW002.
- 4th January 2025 (around 01:00 hours): I witnessed patrons involved in a fight in the street directly outside the venue.
- 30th March 2025 (around 03:30 hours): I observed multiple patrons fighting in the street during dispersal. Some individuals had exited the premises with glass bottles. One male who had been fighting fell into the road and had his foot run over by a Hackney Carriage, highlighting the serious safety risks posed.
- 5th April 2025: I spoke to a manager at the venue regarding the importance of ensuring that patrons do not leave the premises carrying glass bottles, due to the risk of injury and further disorder.
- 15th April 2025: During a Pub Watch meeting, the Designated Premises Supervisor asked for my views on how the premises was performing. I raised my concerns directly with her about ongoing problems with dispersal and advised that she must ensure all necessary steps were taken to safeguard patrons and the wider community.

Background

The current owners have been at the premises since July 2024 but the premises has been trading as Gun Street Garden for a number of years prior. Under the old owners the premises was reviewed by Thames Valley Police due to issues not dissimilar to the reasons for the current Summary Review.

The fact that even under new ownership similar issues are still arising at the premises goes to show the issues at the premises are systemic and that whilst the premises still continues to trade more issues will arise.

Undermining of the Licensing Objectives

Based on both police evidence and my own observations, it is clear that Gun Street Garden is undermining several of the licensing objectives, namely:

1. The Prevention of Crime and Disorder:

The premises has been consistently linked to violent incidents, including assaults and large-scale disorder. Management has failed to implement or sustain effective measures to prevent patrons from engaging in criminal behaviour in or around the premises.

2. Public Safety:

The failure to manage dispersal in a controlled and safe manner has placed both patrons and members of the public at risk. Incidents involving patrons exiting with glass bottles, street fights, and an injury involving a Hackney Carriage highlight a systemic failure to safeguard individuals leaving the premises.

3. The Prevention of Public Nuisance:

Poor dispersal arrangements have led to customers loitering and blocking roads, causing disruption to traffic.

Despite ongoing engagement and advice from the Licensing Authority, the premises has failed to demonstrate meaningful improvement or compliance with its responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003.

Conclusion

Gun Street Garden continues to pose a significant threat to public safety and order in Reading's night-time economy. The repeated instances of violence and disorder, combined with an apparent lack of control during dispersal, indicate that the premises is not upholding the required licensing objectives.

We appreciate that the determination of this review is solely down to those members of the sub-committee at the hearing, however, we respectfully provide the following breakdown of the powers available to the sub-committee, each accompanied by an explanation as to whether we consider the power appropriate or not to address the current undermining of the licensing objectives:

The modification of the conditions of the premises licence;

We do not consider the addition or amendment of the conditions attached to the licence to be a pragmatic solution due to the licence already containing robust conditions and the premises was, at the conclusion of the most recent inspection, compliant with their premises licence conditions, showing that it is the poor management of the premises which is in fact leading to the undermining of the licensing objectives.

The exclusion of a licensable activity from the scope of the licence;

We do not consider the exclusion of licensable activities to be an effective measure because to remove anything other than the sale of alcohol and the playing of live and recorded music would have no impact on the premises and to remove alcohol and the playing of live and recorded music would simply act as a punitive measure and in real terms would be the same as the revocation of the licence because the premises could not function as a nightclub without alcohol and music.

The removal of the designated premises supervisor:

I believe the removal of the DPS would not address the broader systemic issues at the premises and that the licensing objectives would continue to be undermined. The number of incidents at the premises and the frequency make me believe that the removal of one person within the premises' management would not be enough to ensure the licensing objectives are not undermined.

Revocation of the licence:

For the previously stated reasons, we believe this is the only way to prevent further undermining of the licensing objectives.

The suspension of the licence for a period not exceeding 3 months:

We do not believe that this option would serve as anything other than a punitive measure with the premises likely to return to how it currently operates at the end of the suspension period. I note that under the last management of the premises when the premises was reviewed a suspension was the outcome with the view of the staff undergoing training during this period, I do not believe that this would be the appropriate outcome on this occasion and that further training would not improve the situation.

I respectfully submit this representation in support of the summary review.

Licensing policy

9.1 It is the responsibility under the Act for all responsible authorities; licence holders and prospective licence holders to actively promote the four licensing objectives. The Council along with partner agencies, has a wider responsibility to protect the public as a whole and prevent crime, harm or nuisance from taking place.

9.2 The Authority will carry out its licensing functions with a view to actively promoting the licensing objectives and maintaining public safety. This applies to the dual role the licensing authority has both as the administrator of the process and as a responsible authority.

9.12 Where offences are found to have been carried out on licensed premises, the Authority has a number of enforcement options available to it. The Authority

will work with partner agencies to determine which enforcement option is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The seriousness of the offences found will be taken into consideration as well as any previous issues of non compliance or criminality that have taken place at the licensed premises.

9.15 Licensed premises that have a history of non compliance over a period of months and years and/or incidents of serious crime taking place at that premises, will likely find that the Authority will initiate a review with a view to asking for the licence to be considered for revocation.

9.16 When considering what enforcement action to take, the Authority will always consider what is the most appropriate and proportionate step to promote the licensing objectives. The Authority is not required to wait for offences to occur before deciding it needs to take appropriate action. Case law – notably East Lindsey District Council v Abu Hanif – states that the promotion of the licensing objectives requires a prospective consideration of what is warranted in the public interest having regard to the twin considerations of prevention and deterrence. Similarly, the Secretary of State's Guidance to the Licensing Act makes clear that there is no requirement for the Authority to wait for the outcome of any criminal proceedings before it initiates any enforcement action. This is the approach that the Authority will take when considering what, if any, action should be taken when condition breaches and other criminal activity is found at licensed premises.

9.17 Thames Valley Police may also initiate a Summary Review when they believe a premises is associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both. The Summary review process is outlined in Section 53A to 53D of the Licensing Act 2003 and is reserved for the most serious crime and disorder issues. When a Summary Review is submitted by Thames Valley Police, the Authority will deal with the application as set out in the Act. Similarly, Immigration Enforcement may also close a licensed premises under a compliance order which will then trigger an expedited review once the Authority is notified by the Magistrates Court. This will be dealt with in accordance with the processes and timescales detailed in the Act.

Relevant Case Law for consideration

East Lindsey District Council v Abu Hanif (t/a Zara's Restaurant) 2016

R (on application of Daniel Thwaites plc) v Wirral Magistrates' Court and Others (2008) EWHC 838 (Admin)

R (on application of Hope and Glory Public House Ltd) v City of Westminster Magistrates' Court and Others (2011) EWCA Civ 312

Appendices:

BDW001 – Premises licence

BDW002 – Photos of dispersal on 17th November 2024

Date Received	25/04/2025	Date Due	12/05/2025
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Date	09	05	2025
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LICENSING ACT 2003 PREMISES LICENCE - PART A

Reading Borough Council being the Licensing Authority under the above Act,
HEREBY GRANT a PREMISES LICENCE as detailed in this licence.

Premises Licence Number	LMV000493
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Premises Details

Trading name of Premises and Address Gun Street Garden 5 Gun Street Reading RG1 2JR	
Telephone Number	0118 958 6839

Where the Licence is time limited the dates the Licence is valid

N/A

Licensable Activities

Licensable Activities authorised by the Licence Exhibition of Films - Indoor Performance of Live Music - Indoor Playing of Recorded Music - Indoor Performance of Dance - Indoor Anything similar to Live Music, Recorded Music or Performance of Dance - Indoor Late Night Refreshment - Indoor Sale of Alcohol by Retail- On & Off the Premises

Authorised Hours for Licensable Activities

The times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities
Hours for the Exhibition of Films
Monday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs Tuesday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs Wednesday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs Thursday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs Friday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs Saturday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs Sunday from 1200hrs until 0200hrs
Hours for the Performance of Live Music
Monday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs Tuesday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs Wednesday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs Thursday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs Friday from 1000hrs until 0300hrs

Saturday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday	from 1200hrs until 0200hrs

Hours for the Playing of Recorded Music

Monday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Tuesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Wednesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Thursday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Friday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Saturday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday	from 1200hrs until 0200hrs

Hours for the Performance of Dance

Monday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Tuesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Wednesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Thursday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Friday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Saturday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday	from 1200hrs until 0200hrs

Hours for anything similar to Live Music, Recorded Music or Performance of Dance

Monday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Tuesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Wednesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Thursday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Friday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Saturday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday	from 1200hrs until 0200hrs

Hours for the Provision of Late Night Refreshment

Monday	from 2300hrs until 0300hrs
Tuesday	from 2300hrs until 0300hrs
Wednesday	from 2300hrs until 0300hrs
Thursday	from 2300hrs until 0300hrs
Friday	from 2300hrs until 0300hrs
Saturday	from 2300hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday	from 2300hrs until 0200hrs

Hours for the Sale by Retail of Alcohol

Monday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Tuesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Wednesday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Thursday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Friday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Saturday	from 1000hrs until 0300hrs
Sunday	from 1200hrs until 0200hrs

All licensable activities to extend on Bank Holiday Sunday 1200hrs to 0430hrs

Opening Hours

Hours the Premises is Open to the Public

Monday	from 1000hrs until 0330hrs
Tuesday	from 1000hrs until 0330hrs
Wednesday	from 1000hrs until 0330hrs
Thursday	from 1000hrs until 0330hrs
Friday	from 1000hrs until 0330hrs
Saturday	from 1000hrs until 0330hrs
Sunday	from 1200hrs until 0230hrs

Alcohol

Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and/or off supplies

Sale of Alcohol by Retail - On & Off the Premises

Premises Licence Holder

Name, (registered) address of holder of premises licence

Name: BSK Services Limited

Address: 2 Alexandra Terrace, Alexandra Road, Aldershot, GU11 3HU

Registered number of holder, for example company number or charity number [where applicable]

15714506

Additional Details

Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol

Name: Aurelia Singh

Address: [REDACTED]

Designated Premises Supervisor

Personal Licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by the designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol

Personal Licence Number: 21/01234/PERS_N

Issuing Authority: Basingstoke & Dean Borough Council

This Licence shall continue in force from **27/02/2025** unless previously suspended or revoked.

Dated: 25 April 2025

Signed on behalf of the issuing licensing authority



Emma Gee

Acting Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Mandatory Conditions

Supply of Alcohol

To be applied where a premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol	
1	No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence:- <ol style="list-style-type: none">at a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, orat a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended
2	Every supply of alcohol made under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

Film Exhibitions

To be applied only where a premises licence or club premises certificate authorises the exhibitions of films	
1	The admission of children to any exhibition of any film must be restricted in accordance with section 20 of Part 3 of the Licensing Act 2003.
2	In the case of films which have been classified by the British Board of Film Classification admission of children to films must be restricted in accordance with that classification.
3	In the case of films which have not been classified by the British Board of Film Classification, admission of children must be restricted in accordance with any recommendation made by the Licensing Authority.

Door Supervisors

To be applied where a premises licence or club premises certificate includes a condition that any person must be at the premises to carry out a security activity. [Except premises with a premises licence authorising only plays or films or premises used exclusively by a club].	
1	Each individual present at the licensed premises to carry out a security activity must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority.

- 1) The responsible person must ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.
- 2) In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises—
 - (a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to—
 - (i) drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or
 - (ii) drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise);
 - (b) provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;
 - (c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;
 - (d) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner;
 - (e) dispensing alcohol directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of disability).

Supply of Tap Water (commencement date 01/10/2014)

1. The responsible person must ensure that free potable water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.

Age Verification Policy (commencement 01/10/2014)

1. The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.
2. The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.
3. The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either—
 - (a) a holographic mark, or
 - (b) an ultraviolet feature.

Drink Measurements (commencement date 01/10/2014)

1. The responsible person must ensure that—
 - (a) where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures—
 - (i) beer or cider: $\frac{1}{2}$ pint;
 - (ii) gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25 ml or 35 ml; and
 - (iii) still wine in a glass: 125 ml;
 - (b) these measures are displayed in a menu, price list or other printed material which is available to customers on the premises; and
 - (c) where a customer does not in relation to a sale of alcohol specify the quantity of alcohol to be sold, the customer is made aware that these measures are available.”

Minimum Permitted Pricing (commencement 28th May 2014)

1. A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.
2. For the purposes of the condition set out in paragraph 1—
 - (a) “duty” is to be construed in accordance with the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979;
 - (b) “permitted price” is the price found by applying the formula—
$$P = D + (D \times V)$$
where—
 - (i) P is the permitted price,
 - (ii) D is the rate of duty chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the duty were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol, and
 - (iii) V is the rate of value added tax chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the value added tax were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol;
 - (c) “relevant person” means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a premises licence—
 - (i) the holder of the premises licence,
 - (ii) the designated premises supervisor (if any) in respect of such a licence, or
 - (iii) the personal licence holder who makes or authorises a supply of alcohol under such a licence;
 - (d) “relevant person” means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a club premises certificate, any member or officer of the club present on the premises in a capacity which enables the member or officer to prevent the supply in question; and
 - (e) “valued added tax” means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994
3. Where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 would (apart from the paragraph) not be a whole number of pennies, the price given by that sub-paragraph shall be taken to be the price actually given by that sub-paragraph rounded up to the nearest penny.
4. (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 on a day (“the first day”) would be different from the permitted price on the next day (“the second day”) as a result of a change to the rate of duty or value added tax.
4. (2) The permitted price which would apply on the first day applies to sales or supplies of alcohol which take place before the expiry of the period of 14 days beginning on the second day.

Annex 2

Conditions Consistent with the Operating Schedule

General

Conditions attached via Variation October 2018

1. The premises licence holder shall ensure the premises' digitally recorded CCTV system cameras shall continually record whilst the premises are open to the public and recordings shall be kept for a minimum of 31 days with time and date stamping.

- a) The entire licensable area shall be covered by CCTV.
- b) Data recordings shall be made immediately available to an authorised officer of Thames Valley Police or Reading Borough Council subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act, together with facilities for viewing upon request.
- c) Recorded images shall be of such quality as to be able to identify the recorded person in any light.
- d) At least one member of staff on the premises at any time during operating hours shall be trained to access and download material from the CCTV system.

2. The premises shall at all times operate a Challenge 25 policy to prevent any customers who attempt to purchase alcohol and who appear to the staff member to be under the age of 25 years from making such a purchase without having first provided identification. Only a valid British driver's licence showing a photograph of the person, a valid passport or a nationally approved proof of age card showing the 'Pass' hologram (or any other similarly nationally recognised scheme) are to be accepted as identification.

3. When employed, a register of Door Supervisors shall be kept. The register must show the following details:

- Full SIA registration number.
- Date and time that the door supervisor commenced duty, countersigned by the DPS or Duty Manager.
- Date and time that the door supervisor finished work, countersigned by the DPS or Duty Manager.
- Any occurrence or incident of interest impacting on any of the four licensing objectives must be recorded giving names of the door supervisor involved.

a) The Door Supervisor register shall be kept at the premises and be available for inspection by an authorised officer of Thames Valley Police, or an authorised officer from Reading Borough Council and shall be retained for a period of twelve months.

4. The premises and area immediately outside the premises shall be kept clear of all forms of litter whilst the premises is open for licensable activities.

5. Clearly legible and suitable notices shall be displayed at all exits, requesting customers to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and area quietly. Staff shall be available to ensure that customers disperse quietly.

6. All cashiers shall be trained to record refusals of sales of alcohol in a refusals book /register. The book/ register shall contain:

- Details of the time and date the refusal was made;
- The identity of the staff member refusing the sale;
- Details of the alcohol the person attempted to purchase.

This book /register will be available for inspection when requested by a Police Officer or authorised officer of Reading Borough Council and shall be retained for six months.

7. All incidents which impact on any of the four licensing objectives shall be recorded in a register kept at the premises for this purpose. The names of the person recording the incident and those members of staff who deal with any incident shall also be recorded. Where known, any offenders name shall also be recorded.

a) This record shall be available for inspection by a Police Officer or an authorised officer of Reading Borough Council upon request and shall be retained for one year. The record shall be signed off by the DPS or nominated representative at the end of each trading session.

b) A weekly review of the incident register shall also be carried out by the DPS.

8. All incidents that are recorded in the incident register shall be signed off by the Designated Premises Supervisor or nominated representative. A weekly review of the incident register shall also be carried out by the Designated Premises Supervisor.

9. The placing of refuse - such as bottles - into receptacles shall not cause a noise nuisance at any time.

10. An entry, closure and dispersal policy for controlling the opening and closing of the premises and the departure of customers from the premises at the conclusion of the licensed activities shall be put in place and shall be actively operated. The policy shall be in written format and made available upon request to an authorised officer of Reading Borough Council and Thames Valley Police.

11. The licensee shall take all reasonable precautions and exercise all due diligence to ensure that no patron removes glasses or open bottles from the premises. The licensee shall display notices advising that glasses and bottles must not be removed from the premises at all exit points normally used by patrons.

12. All cashiers involved in the sale of alcohol shall be trained to record refusals of sale of alcohol in a refusals log (whether written or electronic). The log shall contain:

- Details of the time and date the refusal was made;
- The identity of the staff member refusing the sale;
- Details of the alcohol the person attempted to purchase.

a) This book /register will be available for inspection by a Police Officer or authorised officer of Reading Borough Council upon request.

13. Staff employed to sell alcohol shall undergo training upon induction. This shall include, but not be limited to:

- The premises age verification policy.
- The law relating to underage sales.
- Dealing with refusal of sales.
- Proxy purchasing.
- Recognising valid identity documents not in the English language.
- Identifying attempts by intoxicated persons to purchase alcohol.
- Identifying signs of intoxication
- Conflict management
- How to identify and safeguard vulnerable persons who attend and leave the premises.
- Identifying signs of drug usage and prevention.
- The four licensing objectives.

a) Such training sessions are to be documented and refreshed every six months. All training sessions are to be documented in English. Records of training shall be kept for a minimum of one year and be made available to an authorised officer of Thames Valley Police and Reading Borough Council upon request.

14. An active policy shall be put in place at the premises in relation to the searching and detection of illegal drugs and weapons. This shall include detection on the way into the premises and active monitoring of all areas of the premises for illegal drug use when the premises is open to members of the public. Any incidents or findings are to be documented in writing.

15. The premises licence holder shall ensure that advertising or promotional material for licensable activities at the premises is not placed on any street furniture, structure or public highway not belonging to the premises licence holder. Failure by the premises licence holder to remove any promotional material illegally displayed will be a breach of this condition and any other legislation that applies in Reading in relation to unlawful advertising on street furniture.

16. A written risk assessment shall be put in place to manage the queuing of patrons outside of the venue on the public highway. This risk assessment shall be reviewed on a regular basis, be provided in written form and be made available for inspection to officers of Reading Borough Council and Thames Valley Police upon request.

17. Children shall only be permitted on the premises when accompanied by a responsible adult. No children shall be permitted on the premises after 2100hrs.

18. The last permitted entry time to the premises on any given night shall be one hour prior to the venue's closing time, with the exception of the re-entry of smokers.

19. A minimum of two Security Industry Authority (SIA) registered door staff shall be employed at the premises on a Friday and Saturday night from 21:00 . Door staff shall be employed from 21:00 hours until 03:00 hours or until all customers have dispersed from inside and outside the premises, whichever is later, and at least two door staff will remain outside the premises during this time;

a) At all other times, SIA registered door staff shall be employed at the premises in accordance with a written risk assessment, to be carried out by the Designated Premises Supervisor. The risk assessment shall be produced to an authorised officer of Reading Borough Council or Thames Valley Police.

b) When employed, door staff will wear clearly visible clothing that clearly distinguishes them from patrons. Hi visibility armbands shall be worn at all times displaying their SIA badge. The uniform worn by door staff must be suitable to ensure that they are clearly visible via both internal and external CCTV camera systems. Hi visibility fluorescent tabards must be worn by door staff at any time when stationed at the entry/exit of the premises and whenever on the public highway, and during dispersal.

c) When employed, door staff shall monitor customers as they queue and enter the premises.

20. A scanner type ID system will be in operation when licensable activities are permitted at the point of entry to be used by the premises to promote the licensing objective.

21. There should at all times be available a breathalyser test for use at the discretion of the premises licence holder on customers entering the premises.

22. A body worn video camera will at all times be used by one member of the SIA door team, during the times in which the premises are open for licensable activities.

23. An active search policy shall be put in place to prevent illegal drugs and weapons being brought on to the premises. The policy shall include, but not be limited to, methods of search, detection, confiscation and disposal and shall be actively operated. The policy shall be in written format and made available upon request to an authorised officer of Reading Borough Council and Thames Valley Police. Notices shall also be put in place informing customers that the management reserve the right to conduct an outer body search and or bag as a condition of entering the premises.

24. Regular checks of high risk areas for drug use (including the toilets) shall be carried out by door staff and premises staff when door staff are not available. A written record of all checks shall be maintained and made available upon request by an authorised officer of the Thames Valley Police and Reading Borough Council.

25. The premises licence holder shall participate in the Local Town Radio Scheme when the premises are opened for licensable activities Monday to Sunday inclusive.

26. The licensee shall monitor the audience numbers and must ensure that the maximum permitted occupancy of 350, including all staff members, is not exceeded.

27. The premises licence holder or duly nominated representative shall be an active member of the local pub watch scheme if such a scheme is operative.

28. Noise from amplified music or voices shall not such as to cause a noise nuisance to occupants of nearby premises.

29. The exterior of the building shall be cleared of litter at regular intervals.

30. Clearly legible and suitable notices shall be displayed at all exits requesting customers to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and area quietly. After 00:00 staff shall be available to ensure that customers disperse quietly.

31. Doors and windows at the premises are to remain closed after 11pm save for access and egress.

32. Dispersal Policy

- a) At the end of the evening management and staff shall assist with the orderly and gradual dispersal of patrons in line with the written dispersal policy;
- b) Staff members (including door personnel when employed) shall advise patrons to leave the premises quickly and quietly out of respect for neighbours;
- c) Notices shall be displayed requesting customers to leave quietly and in an orderly manner out of consideration to neighbours and their attention shall be drawn to these notices by members of staff;
- d) Bottle and drinking receptacles shall be removed from any patron before exiting the premises;
- e) Customers shall be actively discouraged from assembling outside the premises at the end of the permissible hours.

33. Any outside area used by the customers wishing to drink or smoke shall be clearly delineated and covered by the CCTV system which shall be installed at the premises;

- a) The outside area shall be monitored by staff or door staff (when employed);
- b) The area shall be cleaned regularly;
- c) Suitable receptacles shall be provided for smokers to dispose of cigarette butts;
- d) Signs shall be displayed in the area requesting customers to keep noise to a minimum;
- e) Patrons who disregard signage and verbal instructions regarding noise shall be asked to move inside and/or leave the premises;
- f) Open containers of alcohol shall not be permitted to be taken beyond the boundary of the outside area.

34. The emptying of bins into skips, and refuse collections shall not take place between 11pm and 8am.

35. No noise shall emanate from the premises nor vibration be transmitted through the structure of the premises which gives rise to a nuisance.

Annex 3

Conditions attached after a hearing by the Licensing Authority

N/A

Annex 4

Plans

As attached plan dated 12.02.2025

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Appendix BDW002

Exhibits

BDW002 – Photos of dispersal on 17th November 2024





Appendix RS-5

Supportive Representations with an Address

From: Niamh MacCafferty

Sent: 06 May 2025 21:57

To: Licensing Licensing@reading.gov.uk

Subject: Summary review of Gun Street Garden's premises license - representation in support of the venue

Hi,

I hope you are well.

I am writing to you to represent Gun Street Garden's Premises License.

I truly believe that the staff and security at Gun Street are excellent at making people feel safe. For example, if you have a problem at the club and make the bar staff aware, security will be on it straight away. This means that situations are dealt with quickly and don't escalate.

Most of the nightclubs in Reading city centre do not feel safe but at Gun Street you don't have to worry about having a bad night as everyone working there is always on high attention and alert to what is happening within the club. To further this, the way Gun Street is run i believe is amazing. Especially since the refurbishment as they now do student nights which specifically targets UoR students making it a cheap and fun way to spend time with your mates. As well, Gun Street's music is great and if this club was gone there would be a lack of diversity in Reading club wise.

Moreover, as someone coming from a big city to Reading, I feel as if the amount of good night clubs in Reading is shocking. Gun Street however, is always a nicely balanced club where it's not overcrowded but it's not empty like where you're leaving the minute you walk in like Era or Pop World.

Regards,

Niamh MacCafferty

From: Areeba Ali
Sent: 06 May 2025 23:40
To: Licensing Licensing@reading.gov.uk
Subject: Support for Gun Street Garden's Premises Licence

Dear Licensing Team,

I am writing to express my strong support for the renewal of Gun Street Garden's premises licence. I would like to share my experience and explain why this venue is so important to me and the wider community.

1. Safety & Management

Gun Street Garden is a fantastic, well-managed venue. Every time I've visited, I have felt completely safe and welcomed. The staff are incredibly friendly, helpful, and always professional, creating an environment where everyone feels comfortable and respected. The atmosphere is always positive and enjoyable. Since the venue's refurbishment and reopening in January–February 2025, I've seen its popularity grow even more, with bigger crowds and a noticeable increase in high-quality social events.

2. Community Impact & Value

Gun Street Garden means a lot to the local community. It's much more than just a club—it's a place where people can meet new friends, socialize, and build confidence in a fun and safe space. It also offers valuable opportunities for local DJs, performers, and creatives to showcase their talents, which is so important for the area's culture and nightlife. Losing this venue would have a huge impact on the local social scene and economy. I know many people who would be deeply disappointed if it were to close.

The venue takes its licensing responsibilities seriously, with strong door security, clear CCTV monitoring, and staff who are well-trained in ensuring safety and responsible alcohol service. They also do a great job of managing noise and keeping the local area clean and respectful.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please let me know if you require any further details.

Kind regards,

[Areeba Ali]

From: Angel Holmes
Sent: 07 May 2025 13:07
To: Licensing Licensing@reading.gov.uk
Subject: Support for Gun Street Garden's Premises Licence

I am writing to express my full support for Gun Street Garden's premises licence. I would like to share my personal experience and highlight why this venue is so important to me and many others in the community.

1. General Venue Operation & Safety

In my experience, Gun Street Garden is a well-managed venue. I feel safe when attending on a typical night and have always experienced nothing but good vibes and respect from both staff and other customers. The staff are incredibly kind-hearted, professional, and genuinely lovely, which creates a welcoming and positive atmosphere. Since the refurbishment and reopening in January–February 2025, I have noticed a bigger fan base and an increase in the number and quality of social events, which has really strengthened the venue's reputation and community feel.

2. Community Importance & Impact of Closure

Gun Street Garden is an important social club for the local community. It's not just a place to enjoy a night out; it's a great club for making friends and helping people get out of their comfort zones and socialise. It plays a huge role in bringing people together in a safe and fun environment, and is a venue that so many people rely on for their social wellbeing and enjoyment. If the venue were to close, it would leave a noticeable and significant gap in the local community, social scene, and economy. It would mean a lot to everyone if Gun Street Garden were to stay open, as it's truly an amazing club and a valued part of the community. I hope you are considering the community and economic impact as part of your review.

In relation to licensing objectives, I believe Gun Street Garden contributes to the prevention of crime and disorder and enhances public safety through door security, CCTV, and the responsible service of alcohol.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Kind regards,

Angel Holmes

From: Councillor Imtiyaz Shaikh

Sent: 09 May 2025 11:46

To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>

Subject: Subject: Support for Gun Street Garden – Endorsement from the Mayor of Swindon*

Dear Reading Licensing Council,

I am writing to offer my support for Gun Street Garden (GSG) in Reading, and to speak to the character and community-minded values of its ownership.

I have known the owner of GSG personally through their work in Swindon, where they have operated a nightclub that has consistently supported local causes and positively contributed to our town's cultural and social scene. Their venues have not only hosted vibrant, well-managed nightlife but have also been used to support charitable initiatives and bring communities together.

In all my dealings with them, I have found the owners to be cooperative, responsible, and committed to working in partnership with local authorities to ensure a safe, well-regulated nightlife environment. I have every confidence that, if given the opportunity, they will continue to uphold those same standards in Reading.

It would be a shame to lose a venue that has the potential to contribute so positively to the town's cultural life. I hope you will take this into consideration as you review the status of Gun Street Garden.

Thank you

Best Regards

Imtiyaz Shaikh

Mayor of Swindon & Eastcott Ward Swindon Borough Councillor

From: Puskar Basnet
Sent: 09 May 2025 13:53
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Support for keeping the Gun street garden open

Dear Reading Borough Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for keeping the GUNSTREET GARDEN open. As a valued part of Reading's nightlife, this venue plays an important role in bringing energy and vibrancy to our town centre.

The nightclub has long been a key social hub for local residents and visitors alike, offering a safe and enjoyable space to gather, celebrate and experience live music. After the recent refurbishment, the venue now looks even more appealing and provides a modern, welcoming atmosphere for costumers. The improvements have further enhanced its positive impact on the community.

Not only does the club contribute significantly to the local economy by attracting patrons and supporting nearby businesses, but it also provides jobs for a dedicated team of staff and management, who are always friendly and professional. The music, vibe, and overall experience it offers make it a cornerstone of Reading's nightlife.

Closing this venue would be a great loss to the town's cultural and social landscape. I urge the council to consider the benefits it brings to our community and to support its continued operation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,
Puskar Basnet

From: Councillor Adorabelle Shaikh
Sent: 09 May 2025 14:10
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Support for Gun Street Garden – Endorsement from the Mayor of Swindon

Dear Reading Licensing Council,

I am writing to offer my support for Gun Street Garden (GSG) in Reading, and to speak to the character and community-minded values of its ownership.

I have known the owner of GSG personally through their community work in Swindon, where they have operated a nightclub that has consistently supported local causes and positively contributed to our town's cultural and social scene. Their venues have not only hosted vibrant, well-managed nightlife but have also been used to support charitable initiatives and bring communities together.

I have found the owners to be cooperative, responsible, and committed to working in partnership with local authorities to ensure a safe, well-regulated nightlife environment. I have every confidence that, if given the opportunity, they will continue to uphold those same standards in Reading.

It would be a shame to lose a venue that has the potential to contribute so positively to the town's cultural life. I hope you will take this into consideration as you review the status of Gun Street Garden.

Thank you

Kindest Regards

Adorabelle Shaikh
Cabinet Member – Education
Labour Central Ward Councillor
Mayoress 2024/2025

From: kwadwo abankwa

Sent: 08 May 2025 23:25

To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>

Subject: Summary Review of Gun street Garden's premises license - representation in support of venue

I'm writing to place strong emphasis on the safety at Gun Street Garden. I deeply value the visible security measures, the well-trained and approachable staff, and the organised environment especially during busy nights. The security team never hesitates to address situations promptly. These efforts truly make a difference and allow me to enjoy nights out without fear or discomfort. It's clear that the team works hard to prevent crime and disorder, and helps make the club feel like a safe and inclusive space.

Socially, it's also been a space where I've connected with others from diverse backgrounds, and felt a true sense of community.

From: isabella mills

Sent: 09 May 2025 22:45

To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>

Subject: Summary review of Gun Street Garden's premises license

I am writing to express my full support for Gun Street's premises licence. I've been part of the team since 27th September 2024 and have witnessed firsthand the positive impact the venue has had on both my personal development and the wider community.

From the moment I started working there, I felt genuinely valued. The team is professional, respectful, and committed to creating a safe and welcoming space for both staff and guests. This contributes not only to public safety but also to the protection of children from harm, as younger adults entering the venue are safeguarded through strict ID checks and responsible service policies.

Since Gun Street reopened on 13th March 2025 following its refurbishment, the standards of operation have only improved. The management has clearly taken every detail into consideration — from high-quality security procedures to smart crowd management and staff training. These improvements have strengthened the venue's compliance with multiple licensing objectives, especially the prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of public nuisance. I've observed how security and other staff members handle situations with care and efficiency, reducing the potential for incidents both inside and immediately outside the premises.

Socially, Gun Street has been hugely important to me. It's where I've formed strong friendships and built community. It offers a safe, vibrant environment where young people can have fun without the risks that come with less structured alternatives. By doing this, Gun Street plays a key role in preventing crime and disorder and helps maintain public safety in the wider town centre.

It's also a space that encourages positive nightlife culture in Reading. With responsible noise management, respectful closing routines, and strong coordination with local authorities, it contributes to reducing public nuisance and maintaining a good relationship with nearby residents and businesses.

In summary, Gun Street is more than just a nightlife venue — it's a well-run, community-centred space that aligns strongly with all four licensing objectives. It offers safe employment, vibrant social experiences, and a structured, responsible approach to entertainment. I strongly urge you to support its premises licence and allow it to continue providing these benefits to the Reading community.

Kind regards,

Isabella Mills

From: Santosh Grg
Sent: 09 May 2025 22:57
Cc: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: In support of keeping Gunstreet Garden premises license

Dear Reading Borough Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for keeping Gunstreet Garden open. These venues are a vital part of the town's social and cultural life, providing a safe and welcoming space for people to come together and enjoy their evenings.

I've visited these clubs many times and have always felt comfortable, safe and well looked after. The recent refurbishments have transformed them into modern, stylish spaces and the atmosphere has never been better. The staff and management are consistently friendly and professional, creating an environment that truly reflects the spirit of the community.

Closing these venues would be a major blow to Reading's nightlife and would take away an important place where residents and visitors alike gather to relax, celebrate, and connect.

I urge the Council to support these local businesses and help preserve the vibrant nightlife that makes Reading such a great place to live.

Kind regards

Santosh Gurung

From: mandip gurung
Sent: 09 May 2025 23:08
Cc: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Please keep Reading's Nightclubs Open

Dear Reading Borough Council,

I'm writing to express my support for keeping the Gunstreet Garden in Reading open. I've been to these venues many times, and I've always felt safe and had a great time. They play a big part in our town's nightlife and bring people together in a fun, welcoming environment.

Since the recent refurbishments, the clubs look fantastic modern, clean and stylish. The management and staff are always friendly and make you feel right at home, which adds so much to the overall experience.

Closing these clubs would be a huge loss to Reading. They are key to our town's social life and economy, and their closure would negatively affect the local nightlife scene, especially for young people and anyone looking for a safe and enjoyable night out.

Please consider the positive impact these venues have on the community and keep them open for everyone to enjoy.

Kind regards

Mandip Gurung

From: miah carter
Sent: 11 May 2025 09:41
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Summary review of Gun Street Garden's premises licence - representation in support of the venue

To whom it may concern,

My name is Miah Carter. I am writing to express my full support for Gun Street Garden and to ask that the venue be allowed to continue operating under its current premises licence.

Since the venue's reopening in July 2024 following its refurbishment, I have been a regular visitor in fact, I'm there almost every weekend. I absolutely love the club. The atmosphere is always fun, friendly, and welcoming. I feel completely safe every time I go, even on the busiest nights. The team running the venue are professional and approachable, and the door and bar staff are incredibly well trained and respectful. Their strong presence and good management clearly support the prevention of crime and disorder and contribute to a feeling of public safety.

Gun Street Garden isn't just my favourite club I genuinely believe no other venue in Reading compares. It has a vibe and energy that can't be matched, and it plays a huge role in bringing people together socially. Losing this space would be a massive blow to the community and to those of us who rely on it for safe, inclusive nights out.

I truly believe that Gun Street Garden is a positive force in Reading's nightlife. It brings people together, supports the local economy, and is managed with care and responsibility. I really hope this will be taken into consideration during the review.

Yours faithfully,

Miah Carter

From: Sajina Gurung
Sent: 12 May 2025 11:42
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Support for Reopening Gun Street Garden

Dear Reading Licensing Council,

I am writing as a Reading resident and regular customer of Gun Street Garden to share my thoughts on its recent closure. During my visits to GSG I have always felt safe and welcomed and I've consistently had a positive experience. The management and staff have been professional and have created a great atmosphere for everyone.

I sincerely hope that a solution can be found to allow GSG to reopen as it's an important venue for the community and a place many of us enjoy.

Kind regards
Sajina Gurung

Appendix RS-6

Supportive Representations Without an Address

From: Zachary De Los Reyes

Sent: 06 May 2025 13:13

To: Licensing Licensing@reading.gov.uk

Subject: Summary Review of Gun Street Garden's Premises License - Representation in Support of Venue

Dear Reading Licensing Team,

As of the reopening of Gun Street Garden in March 2025, I have had no issues with safety in that club. The bar is ran well, the music is good and the security is tight as well as I'm sure a lot of other customers will agree. The times I was there, GSG had friendly staff, great bartenders and awesome security. I don't believe there is any sort of security risk in GSG.

As a student in the University of Reading, GSG has captured my attention in a multitude of ways. The environment is a place where I can enjoy myself and listen to music that I enjoy listening to and I am sure it can be said for a lot of people too. It is true there are also other venues in Reading such as Lola Lo's or Era however GSG's music tops all of these clubs. The people in GSG are also awesome and everyone gets along with each other. The bartenders are lively and the environment is friendly as I reiterate. Shutting down GSG would mean shutting down a community and a social space for students like me to enjoy my time in university. It would not be the same at all.

In terms of security, I guarantee you that the security guards are thorough in their searching and ID checks. Never once have I not been thoroughly searched. I guarantee you the security at GSG prioritise crime prevention in order to minimise injuries and other crimes. They follow protocol very well similar to other clubs in the era and to be honest make me feel as safe as possible.

Yours Sincerely,

Zach Reyes

GSG Customer

From: Rosie Parsno
Sent: 07 May 2025 12:38
To: Licensing Licensing@reading.gov.uk
Subject: Feedback on Gun Street Garden

Dear Licensing Team,

I hope you're well.

I'm writing to share my experiences at Gun Street Garden, especially in light of the recent incident and the temporary closure.

I've been attending this club regularly since I started going to university in Reading, and I can confidently say it has become a key part of Reading's nightlife and cultural scene. It consistently provides a safe and enjoyable environment, with attentive security and professional management. I've always felt like the staff are committed to maintaining a positive, secure atmosphere for all guests, and this is particularly evident in the thorough searching process when you first enter the club.

In addition, Gun Street Garden fills a unique space in Reading by offering Afrobeat, Dancehall, and Bashment music—genres that are not regularly featured elsewhere in the area. For many in the community, including myself, it's not just a nightlife venue but also a space that celebrates cultural diversity and brings people together.

The closure of the club would significantly impact the local community, as it would mean losing a rare and valued venue that offers entertainment to those who appreciate these music genres and the vibrant environment the club provides.

I trust that the recent incident will be thoroughly addressed, and I look forward to the safe reopening of Gun Street Garden in the near future.

Thank you for considering my feedback.

Kind regards,

Rosana Parsno

From: Loco Boys

Sent: 07 May 2025 21:07

To: Licensing Licensing@reading.gov.uk

Subject: Statement of Support for Gun Street Garden from the Nepalese Community

Dear Reading Licensing Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Nepalese community in Reading to express our support for Gun Street Garden (GSG) and to highlight the value it brings to our cultural and social life.

We have held several Nepalese community events at GSG, and the experience has always been positive. The venue has proven to be a supportive, reliable and safe space for us to gather, celebrate our heritage, and connect with others in the wider community such as the the Nepalese Gurkha Community. The management and staff have been exceptionally cooperative, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and respectfully.

As a venue, GSG welcomes diversity and provides a safe space where different cultures can be shared and appreciated. We had been planning additional events for the year ahead and it would be a real loss for our community if the venue were to close permanently.

We hope that the council recognises the important role GSG plays in fostering inclusivity and community spirit in Reading, and that it remains open for future events and cultural celebrations.

Thank you for considering this perspective.

Warm regards,

Nima Tamang

From: Lauren Gordon

Sent: 08 May 2025 00:26

To: Licensing Licensing@reading.gov.uk

Subject: Please Keep Gunstreet Gardens Open – It Means So Much to Us

Dear Reading licensing team

I'm writing to express how important Gunstreet Gardens is to me personally and to the wider community. I've been going to the club regularly since mid-July 2024, and it has genuinely become a big part of my social life.

From the moment I started going, I felt welcomed and safe. The recent refurb gave the space an even more polished and classy feel, but it still kept the same lively energy that made it special in the first place. It's one of those rare places where people from all backgrounds and cultures come together to enjoy music, meet new people, and feel part of something.

Gunstreet Gardens promotes a kind of diversity and community that's hard to find anywhere else. If it were to close, the local nightlife would lose something irreplaceable. It's not just another club! It's a space where people connect, share experiences, and enjoy themselves in a safe and well-managed environment. The staff and security are always lovely and clearly prioritise everyone's comfort and safety, which makes a huge difference.

For me personally, it's played a big role in shaping my social life. I've made great friends and unforgettable memories there, and I genuinely don't know where I'd go if it shut down. It would leave a real gap in both the community and in my own life.

Please consider what Gunstreet Gardens means to so many of us — not just as a venue, but as a space that brings people together.

Kind regards

Lauren Myah Gordon-Campbell

From: Ryan Collier
Sent: 08 May 2025 14:58
To: Licensing Licensing@reading.gov.uk
Subject: Gun Street Garden

Good afternoon,

I hope you're well.

In regards to the recent news surrounding the licensing of Gun Street Garden in Reading, I am writing to you to share my positive feedback of the business. As someone who has hosted numerous events at the venue, I can only provide positive feedback due to the experience we have. From the door staff to the management, we have always been provided the best service possible which has ensured our events have run smoothly & safely. Every member of staff we have encountered has always been warm & welcoming which sets a desired mood for the nights we are there. During the times we have been at the venue, we are yet to encounter a single issue which leads to me to believe the recent incident was isolated and rare.

With that in mind, it is awful to read that the venue's license may be removed as this would be a huge loss to the town's nightlife.

Kind regards,

Ryan Collier

From: Samuel
Sent: 09 May 2025 22:11
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Summary review of Gun Street Garden's premises licence - representation in support of the venue

Hello,

I am writing to you about the closure of the Gun Street Garden night club in Reading. I am part of the staff and have been there almost 2 years, ever since I joined I have felt comfortable and safe at my job & haven't had to worry about anything. The owners and managers have always been welcoming, supportive and very helpful.

Gun Street is the most popular club in Reading and everyone loves to go there for a night out including me and a big percentage of my friends. Any problems we have had in the past have always been dealt with professionally.

Please take this email into consideration.

Thank you

Kind regards

Sam

From: Anas Moussaid
Sent: 09 May 2025 22:36
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Gunstreet Gardens

I am writing to express my appreciation for my workplace, a nightclub that has had a positive impact on my personal and professional growth. Working there has significantly improved my social skills and confidence, as it allows me to interact with a diverse range of people in a vibrant, energetic environment, the management team also very helpful on how to make feel costumers and employees safe and welcome .

The club also plays an important cultural role in our community. It is the only venue in town that regularly features rap, Afrobeat, and dancehall music genres that are often underrepresented but deeply valued by many. It offers a safe, inclusive space for people to enjoy music they relate to and celebrate their cultural identity.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Anas Moussaid

From: violet bashier
Sent: 09 May 2025 22:41
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Summary review of Gun Street Garden's premises licence - representation in support of the venue

Hello,

My name is Violet Bashier, I am a regular customer at Gun Street Gardens and have heard about the closure of the nightclub. I am very disappointed about it being shut down and would love for it to open back up. Me and my friends always go there every weekend to enjoy our time and have a fun night out.

The owners, management & staff are always so welcoming, friendly to everyone and very helpful as well. I lost my phone at the night club a couple weeks ago and as soon as I told the staff and managers about it they did everything they could to help out, they searched the whole club after closing even though they didn't have to and went out their way to do that for me.

Since I started going there I have always felt safe and so have all of my friends, the security and staff all keep a watchful eye throughout the whole night and are quick to take action in situations where they are needed. Overall I genuinely think this club is the best and safest club out of every nightclub in Reading and hope that they are open back up as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Violet

From: Rob Dunn
Sent: 09 May 2025 23:02
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Review of Gun Street Garden Premises license Review - Show of Support of the venue

To whom it may concern,

As a regular customer of Gun Street Garden, and a former nightclub manager for some of the largest venues in the UK, with a personal license, I would like to strongly put forward my support for the venue.

Not only do I believe that the management team has made a lot of progress since re opening the venue after their recent refurbishment, I also think if we look at the current clientele the site brings, it is very clearly supporting a culture that does not have a lot of venues to express themselves in.

As we are all aware in this industry, making sure a venue that holds hundreds of people every single night, is a hard job. The way Gun Street Gardens has propositioned its self after re opening targets a much “classier” customer base than when it was under prior owners, and it needs to be given the adequate time to find its new identity.

Improvements to security can always be made, but closing down a venue that tries to be at the forefront of customer safety would only harm the local night time economy in Reading. I personally have always felt safe in the venue, with security showing the perfect balance of customer service / Protection.

Kind regards,

Robson Dunn

From: Isobel Busby

Sent: 09 May 2025 23:28

To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>

Subject: Summary review of Gun Street Garden's premises licence – representation in support of the venue

I'm a member of staff at Gun Street Garden and I've been working at the venue since November 2024 and after the refurbishment, and I wanted to share my experience as part of the team.

The venue has been run in a way that prioritises both safety and good vibes. From what I've seen, the management and security team take their responsibilities seriously, especially when it comes to public safety and the prevention of crime or disorder.

There was one particular night when a customer was rude and used inappropriate language towards me whilst I was on cash desk. The security team swiftly handled the situation calmly and professionally, letting the customer know that this kind of behaviour isn't tolerated at GSG. This made me feel respected and safe at work.

I've also seen our staff and security checking in on guests throughout the night, offering water to anyone who looks like they've had too much to drink, and just generally keeping an eye out for everyone's wellbeing. One night, a woman fell outside the venue, and staff were prompt to help her and make sure she was okay.

Working at Gun Street Garden has given me a stable job in a place I enjoy being. The music, the energy, and the people make it a great place and not just to work in, but to be part of. It would honestly be a huge loss to the local community and nightlife if the venue were to close.

Best regards,
Isobel Busby

From: puspa rokha
Sent: 09 May 2025 23:28
Cc: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Support for GUN STREET GARDEN READING TO STAY OPEN

To whom it may concern,

As a regular visitor of Gun Street Garden, I'd like to express my full support for the venue under its new ownership.

The transformation the site has undergone is remarkable. The recent refurbishment, paired with a refreshed approach to management, has made a visible and positive impact. The venue now attracts a more respectful and mature clientele, contributing to a safer and more enjoyable nightlife atmosphere in Reading. It's clear that the team is working hard to create an inclusive space for people who often lack venues where they can truly feel welcome and express themselves.

Running a busy nightlife venue is never easy, especially one that operates at this scale. However, the way Gun Street Garden has repositioned itself deserves recognition. It's developing a new identity one that focuses on quality, safety, and community and this process should be supported, not hindered.

From a safety perspective, I've always felt comfortable during my visits. The team maintains an excellent balance between professionalism and approachability, ensuring that all customers feel both protected and respected.

Removing or restricting such a venue would not only be a setback for the progress made but would also negatively impact the local economy and nightlife culture. I hope to see continued support for this important venue as it establishes its new chapter.

Kind regards,

Puspa Gurung

From: Louis Porter
Sent: 09 May 2025 23:49
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Summary review of Gun Street Garden's premises licence - representation in support of the venue

To whoever it may concern,

I am writing to show my support regarding the recent license review for Gun Street Gardens.

I strongly believe the venue is one of the safest in Reading. Reasons being:

- 1) We have multiple stage ID checks before any customer can enter.
- 2) We have a large amount of door staff inside and outside the venue
- 3) During closing time when we have to escort customers off the premises, our door staff stay outside of the venue to have a strong presence and deter any bad behaviour.
- 4) Our bar staff are trained in all local schemes (Ask for Angela ect) but also complete monthly licensing objective training and fire evacuation training.

Compared with other venues such as Club Era or Walkabout, I find our management team more proactive at finding and fixing issues during nights out. I've rarely seen any fuss at all in the venue since the relaunch.

I think it would be a massive shame for a lot of people if their license was revoked. Everyone at the venue works hard at putting on good nights out and the bar staff always make sure their customers are safe when serving them.

Regards,

Louis Porter

From: Jack Rayner
Sent: 10 May 2025 16:38
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: My DJ Experience at Gunstreet Garden

Hi there my name is Jack Rayner otherwise known as J4YR.

I have been DJing now at Gunstreet Garden for over 3 years and I wanted to express my experience in this email.

Gunstreet Garden is without a doubt the best club in and around reading, it brings the best vibes to a night with the customers and the staff who I now consider my good friends.

I always look forward to working there and have not once experienced an issue such as a fight or disruption in the club. The Music we play in the club brings everyone together in the hope to give the customers a great night of partying and also in the hope to keep coming back.

I am forever grateful to the club for the opportunities it's given me through people such as Aurelia to allow me to DJ in such a great club. The club protects its people whether it be the DJ's themselves and the staff, with a lot of security on stand by if something was to happen to mitigate any issue. However, in my experiences over the years, this has not once been needed.

Gunstreet Garden is a safe club and without question the best club in reading.

Best Wishes,

Jack

From: Veronica McNulty
Sent: 10 May 2025 18:11
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Gun Street Gardens

gun street gardens is a very fun place to go, the vibes in there are immaculate and you know your going to have a good time when you say earlier in the day your going to gun street later. There has never been any time ive been in there thinking i wasnt safe, the bouncers do their jobs very well if anything was to occur.

As a worker there it's even a reallt good place to work, the people are so nice and the customers all have good respect. i've been working there since august and can count on one hand the amount of 'bad or rude' customers ive had.

the management is amazing, they always make sure the place is stocked up on everything, always make sure we are doing our jobs, always making sure that it's a good and fun place to be in. it's not a bad club, it is a really good club and even before i started working there i said befire that gun street gardens was my favourite club and that dtill stands

From: Daniel Rock

Sent: 11 May 2025 01:55

To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>

Subject: Summary Review of Gun Street Garden's Premises Licence

I've had a positive experience with Gunstreet Garden. I moved to Reading 3 years ago for university and I instantly fell in love with the spot. It's the only place in Reading that provides music for the urban scene and attracts a wide range of customers. The club provides great social and economic value to Reading as a town as we receive customers from places such as Swindon, London, Oxford and surrounding areas.

This place has positively enhanced my overall experience at university and I think its existence is essential for attracting people from different areas to Reading. I have never felt unsafe in this venue thanks to the management team and this feeling is widely reflected amongst my peers. If Gunstreet Garden was to close down it would drastically impact the Reading Nightlife scene. I believe that the local economy would significantly suffer as people would look for alternative areas to party, causing a negative multiplier effect impacting significantly impacting other complimentary businesses such as takeaways and Taxi & transport services.

Gunstreet Garden has provided me with valuable experience and assisted me with my professional development and I am grateful for the opportunities provided by the management team. I would like to specifically highlight the excellence of the DPS, Aurelia Singh, for her organisation of a strong and professional team. I plan to continue to keep on visiting this place after I graduate.

From: eimile mcgovern

Sent: 11 May 2025 13:44

To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>

Subject: Summary review of Gun Street Garden's premises licence- representation in support of the venue

Summary review of Gun Street Garden's premises licence- representation in support of the venue

Good afternoon, as a staff member that has worked at Gun Street Garden for almost 2 years I believe the club itself adds to the community in many ways due to the genre of music in which other clubs aren't playing. Therefore, that allows the customers who only enjoy that type of music have a space to go to be able to enjoy that music and get to experience it in a place that has multiple security and staff that also enjoy the music which allows for them to feel a part of a community. Also, the management works very hard to ensure everyone's safety and makes a point to make a situation a priority to handle and diffuse, which also allows for security within the club to make sure that the situation is handled efficiently and effectively whether that is inside or outside the club. Furthermore, the staff are well trained in spotting certain escalations between customers or when a customer is too intoxicated or aggressive which we have our own procedure for. Additionally, when any of the staff members want to go on a night out majority of them chose Gun Street Garden as their club of choice as in my opinion it is one of the best clubs within reading which is why me personally I would chose that club over any other club and wouldn't be able to enjoy myself in the other clubs in Reading. Finally, as a staff member, at times the club can be stressful but that comes within working in such a high capacity and fast paced workplace, but I wouldn't trade it for anything as everyone that works there makes it feel like a family and we are all close and that would not of been possible without Gun Street Garden.

From: piper kelsey
Sent: 11 May 2025 14:53
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Summary review of Gunstreet Gardens premises licence- representation in support of venue

Good afternoon,

I am writing in regards to the situation involving Gunstreet Gardens and it's potential discussion on safety.

I have worked at gunstreet for almost 7 months, 2 of which were during my early stages of pregnancy until we collectively decided on my temporary leave. It is an environment I am extremely excited to be back at, due to its sense of social nature, safety measures and an organised and professional team. The standards in which Gunstreet's staff, managers and security team work with, makes me feel safe and secure to be at work every weekend, as well as visiting on social occasions, and I have no concerns when on shift, or out socialising.

I understand concerns have been voiced on the safety and well-being of customers during their visit to Gunstreet, however I know with the commitment and professionalism from our team, safety is the main priority for all inside and outside the venue, and I know a great deal of our community rely on our venue as a community, bringing people together.

Thank you so much for your time.

From: Osric Carvalho
Sent: 11 May 2025 21:34
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Statement in Support of Gun Street Garden

Hello

I am writing as a regular customer of Gun Street Garden to express my strong support for the venue and my concern about the current review of its licence.

I have attended Gun Street Garden on multiple occasions and have always found it to be a well-managed, safe, and welcoming environment. The door staff and venue team have consistently acted professionally and prioritised customer safety. It is clear to me that the management take their responsibilities seriously and have created one of the most premium nightlife experiences in the South West.

Losing this venue would be a real loss for Reading's night-time economy and the wider community. Gun Street Garden brings people together in a positive way and has become a favourite for many who simply want to enjoy music and socialise safely.

I hope the committee will take into account the many positive experiences of customers like myself and allow this venue to continue operating under fair and reasonable conditions.

Yours Sincerely,

Osric Carvalho

From: Clarence Monteiro
Sent: 11 May 2025 21:43
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Support for Gun Street Garden – A Responsible and Valued Venue

Dear Licensing Committee,

I'm writing as a customer who has visited Gun Street Garden on several occasions and wanted to share my experience in support of the venue.

In every visit I've made, I've found the staff to be friendly, professional, and committed to keeping the environment safe. The security team always carry out checks at the door, and I've personally seen staff step in calmly and responsibly whenever minor issues arise. It's a well-run venue, and I've never felt unsafe or uncomfortable.

It would be incredibly disappointing to see a venue like Gun Street Garden have its license revoked. Not only is it one of the few premium clubs in the area, but it also plays an important role in Reading's nightlife by giving people a safe and high-quality place to enjoy themselves.

I truly hope the council will recognise the efforts the management has made and the positive experiences many of us as customers have had.

Sincerely,

Clarence Monteiro

From: Leander Almeida
Sent: 11 May 2025 23:25
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Customer Support for Gun Street Garden

Dear Licensing Committee,

I'm writing as a customer who regularly visits Gun Street Garden. I've always found it to be a safe, well-managed venue with professional staff and a positive atmosphere.

It would be a real shame to lose one of Reading's best nightlife spots, especially one that puts genuine effort into customer safety and experience.

I hope you'll take into account the support from customers like myself when reviewing the licence.

Kind regards,

Leander De Almeida

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 5, 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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