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| <b>Name of Officer</b>  | Katie Heath                                     |
| <b>Type of Application</b>  | Review of Premises Licence - Licensing Act 2003 |
| <b>Name of Premises</b>   | The Pheasant Inn                                |
| <b>Address</b>  | 225 Southampton Street                          |
|   | Reading   |
| <b>Postcode</b>   | RG1 2RB   |
| <b>Content of Application:</b>  |   |
| Representation by Environmental Health (Food & Safety) on 15/10/2020 in relation to review of the premises licence for the above premises.  |   |
| <b>Officer's Comments:</b>  |   |
| <p>Environmental Health/Food &amp; Safety wish to make comment regarding the current licence review for the Pheasant Inn, 225 Southampton Street, Reading, RG1 2RB. We consider that continuation of this licence would undermine the licensing objectives and present both a risk of harm to the public and does not prevent crime and disorder.</p> <p>The Food &amp; Safety Team received a service request on 3 September 2020 from Thames Valley Police (TVP) concerning an incident at the Pheasant Inn on 28 August 2020. TVP attended the incident and observed issues at the premises relating to insufficient implementation of controls relating to Covid-19, in particular absence of social distancing. Information received from TVP states that there were between 100-150 persons in the rear garden of the premises and that no social distancing was observed.</p> <p>We have received and reviewed footage recorded from TVPs attendance at the scene. The footage shows the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No management or security at the main entrance/exit or garden entrance/exit;</li> <li>• No visible hand sanitising points throughout the premises including at the pool table and</li> <li>• No reception point visible for obtaining customer details for the purposes of track and trace</li> <li>• Persons were vertically drinking inside the premises</li> <li>• Persons were not socially distancing within the premises whilst queueing to exit to the rear garden;</li> <li>• Persons were congregating at entry/exit points;</li> <li>• There was no visible one-way system in place;</li> <li>• There was no visible staff members within the rear garden;</li> </ul> |   |

- There was no segregated smoking area for persons who were situated within the premises to exit to for those purposes;
- There were large numbers of persons vertically drinking in close proximity to each other;
- It was not possible to distinguish groups of persons from each other and seating provided (socially distanced) was not being utilised;
- Persons were not socially distancing when exiting the premises.

Following this referral an authorised officer attended the premises in the afternoon of 14 September 2020 and conducted a reactive inspection in relation to Covid-19 controls. This identified the following:

- The risk assessment identifying controls to mitigate Covid-19 in the premises for staff and patrons did not include:
- The provision of hand sanitiser on entry to the premises
- No mitigation to safeguard staff working behind the bar, i.e. screens where less than 2m distance was in place between staff and patrons
- No inclusion of venue capacity
- No measures for socially distancing staff
- No signposting for test and trace
- Handwashing facilities in the W.C's were not fully functional.

At the time of the initial visit by TVP the rules on gatherings for hospitality venues including licensed premises permitted two households to meet inside a premises and up to six persons from up to six households to meet outside. Government guidance applicable to this premises required the following to be considered and which would demonstrate good practice:

- All businesses/premises are legally required to have a risk assessment in place demonstrating their consideration of and control measures in relation to Covid-19, this should risk assess the risk to employees and customers;
- Tables/seating and order areas at bars should be arranged to accommodate 2m distance between them or 1m where additional mitigation, e.g. screens, in place;
- Maximum venue capacity to allow social distancing;
- Enhanced cleaning procedures, particularly of contact points, including pool cues and games machines;
- Measures to keep staff socially distanced from customers;
- One way or priority access systems for entrances/exits and pinch points;
- One-way routes around premises to prevent congestion and breach of social distancing;
- Table-service is encouraged;
- Social distancing of staff in work areas, e.g. behind the bar
- Measures in place to obtain customer contact details
- Additional hand washing or hand sanitising points;

- Reduction of background music/tv levels to prevent persons from shouting/raising their voice;
- Not permitting vertical drinking.

At the time of TVPs visit to the premises and at present legislation and further government guidance is in place to require and enforce social distancing in relation to the current global pandemic of Covid-19 Coronavirus. Failure to risk assess a business premises for Covid-19 or to implement the required controls to prevent transmission of Covid-19 is a breach of the Health and Safety at Work Etc Act 1974 and presents a serious risk to public health and safety.

**Summary and Recommendation:**

From the information available for the 28 August 2020 the Pheasant Inn did not appear to have sufficiently implemented the required controls to prevent transmission of Covid-19 and was not adequately enforcing social distancing on the premises. Continuing failure to implement the necessary controls will present a serious risk to public health and safety.

**Officer Name:** Katie Heath

**Role:** Senior Environmental Health Officer

**Date:** 15/10/2020

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| <b>Date Received</b> |  | <b>Date Due</b> | 15/10/2020 |
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| <b>Date</b> |  |  |  |
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