

**LICENSING ACT 2003 HEARING Thursday, 26 March 2026 @ 09:30HRS**  
**APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE**

**1. Premises:**

Rancheese  
171 Caversham Road,  
Reading,  
RG1 8BB

**2. Applicant:**

Rancheese Limited

**3. Background:**

There is currently no licence in force at the premises.

The premises is located at on Caversham Road in Reading.

The premises currently operates as a fast food takeaway store and has now applied for a late night refreshment Licence.

The application has been submitted by Rancheese Limited and is attached **Appendix BDW001**.

Licensing have agreed a set of conditions and reduced hours with the applicant which is attached as **Appendix BDW002**.

**4. Licensable activities applied for:**

The application (amended post-submission by the applicant) is for the grant of a premises licence for the following activities:

**Late night refreshment:**

Sunday to Thursday - 2300hrs to 0200hrs

Friday to Saturday - 2300hrs to 0400hrs

**Hours the Premises is Open to the Public:**

Sunday to Thursday - 1100hrs to 0200hrs

Friday to Saturday - 1100hrs to 0400hrs

## **5. Temporary Event Notices**

In considering any application the Licensing Authority should be aware of the possible use of Temporary Event Notices to authorise licensable activities. A premises can extend the hours or scope of their operation by the use of Temporary Event Notices. Up to 15 events per year can be held under this provision at a particular premises. These events may last for up to 168 hours provided less than 500 people are accommodated and provided the total number of days used for these events does not exceed 21 per calendar year.

**6. Date of receipt of application:** 30/01/2026

**7. Date of closure of period for representations:** 27/02/2026

## **8. Representations received:**

During the 28-day consultation period for the application, 1 representation was received from:

1. Lin Godfrey – attached as **appendix BDW003**

## **9. Powers of the Authority in determining an application for the grant of a premises licence**

The Licensing authority, when determining an application for the grant of a premises licence may:

- Grant the application as applied for
- Grant the application with modifications
- Refuse the application

## **10. 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.

## **11. The Council's Licensing Policy Statement (2023):**

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.

### 3. Licensing and integration with other legislation

3.1 Many other pieces of legislation impact directly or indirectly on the licensing regime. The Licensing Authority must have regard to the following when it discharges its responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 and in relation to the promotion of the four licensing objectives:

### 5. Licensing Applications

#### Grant and Full Variations

5.6 During the 28-day consultation period, the authority will scrutinise the application along with all of the other Responsible Authorities to judge whether it undermines the promotion of the licensing objectives. The application will be made available to any person who requests to see it. As per Section 18 (6) of the Licensing Act 2003, it will consider the likely effect of granting any licence on the promotion of the licensing objectives. The authority will expect all applicants to have taken cognisance of the Secretary of State's Guidance; local strategies and initiatives; this policy and any other known local issues before submitting their application and that these matters are addressed within the operating schedule of the application.

5.7 Whilst many applications will be resolved without the need for a committee hearing, any matters or representations that are not resolved will trigger a hearing before the properly constituted Licensing Applications Committee for determination.

### 6. Licensing Conditions

#### General Approach

6.1 Conditions shall be appropriate and proportionate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and shall be unambiguous and clear in their stated aims. Conditions will also be tailored to the type, location and characteristics of the particular premises and the relevant licensable activities. Any condition imposed by the Authority shall also aim to avoid duplication of other legislation unless there is a requirement to impose such a condition in order to promote the licensing objectives (for example, a capacity limit for public safety reasons). This shall apply to all relevant applications (grant/variation of a premises licence or club premises certificate)

6.2 The operating schedule within an application should contain an assessment from the proposed licence holder of what they believe are appropriate and proportionate measures to enable them to carry out their proposed licensable activities. This assessment should be arrived at by taking cognisance of this policy and the Secretary of State's guidance which outlines the matters that an applicant should take into account

such as issues in the locality and why their proposed measures are suitable for their proposed operation.

6.5 Any conditions imposed upon a premises licence or club premises certificate will be tailored to that type of premises and the style of operation. Consideration will also be given to the locality of the premises; issues in the locality; the issues set out in the Guidance and any policy, initiative or other matter the licensing authority wishes to take into account in order to promote the four licensing objectives.

#### Late Night Refreshment (takeaways) and Conditions – General Approach

6.19 Late night food outlets are a major contributor to crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour within Reading. Applicants who wish to provide hot food or drink after 2300hrs and up to 0500hrs, will need to demonstrate that their proposed operation will not exacerbate issues of crime and disorder in that locality.

6.20 Applicants for late night refreshment are expected to take cognisance of the Secretary of State's Guidance and to include appropriate and proportionate measures within their operating schedule to assist in actively promoting the licensing objectives.

6.21 The licensing authority will expect all applicants who wish to provide late night refreshment to include measures for adequate staff training; measures to ensure that no public nuisance occurs from the premises as well as additional measures to assist in crime prevention such as CCTV and door supervisors.

6.22 Public nuisance can often occur from takeaways being sited in residential areas. This could be in relation to the use of delivery vehicles and the congregating of customers outside the premises. Applicants are expected to make an assessment of their proposed locality and implement measures to avoid disturbing local residents such as the use of electric bikes and the implementation of a dispersal policy.

6.23 Where it is practical, the authority will also look to ensure that all packaging used for the provision of hot food and drink shall be made of recyclable materials or be biodegradable. This will include all fixed premises and static vans.

#### Licensed Premises in Residential Areas

7.6 When dealing with applications and issuing licences, the authority is likely to impose stricter conditions on premises operating in residential areas if it considers it appropriate and proportionate to do so. This will apply to all premises types.

7.7 Generally, any licensed premises looking to open past 11pm (2300hrs) in a residential area will need to demonstrate clearly in their operating schedule that public nuisance will not result from later operation. As part of the operating schedule, applicants should read the Secretary of State's Guidance, this policy and any other relevant document and ensure that robust measures are included in any application.

#### 10. Administration, Exercise and Delegation of Functions

10.1 The powers of the Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 may be carried out by the Licensing Committee; by a Sub Committee or by one or more officers acting under delegated authority. The Licensing Committee will consist of between 10-15 members and the committee may establish one or more sub-committees consisting of two or three members.

10.3 A Licensing Sub-Committee shall hear all applications where relevant representations have been received and applications for the review of a premises licence that may have been submitted by Responsible Authorities or any other persons.

## **12. Amended Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (December 2023)**

### 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
- 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.

### Steps to promote the licensing objectives:

8.41 In completing an operating schedule, applicants are expected to have regard to the statement of licensing policy for their area. They must also be aware of the expectations of the licensing authority and the responsible authorities as to the steps that are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, and to demonstrate knowledge of their local area when describing the steps they propose to take to promote the licensing objectives. Licensing authorities and responsible authorities are expected to publish information about what is meant by the promotion of the licensing objectives and to ensure that applicants can readily access advice about these matters. However, applicants are also expected to undertake their own enquiries about the area in which the premises are situated to inform the content of the application.

8.42 Applicants are, in particular, expected to obtain sufficient information to enable them to demonstrate, when setting out the steps they propose to take to promote the licensing objectives, that they understand:

- the layout of the local area and physical environment including crime and disorder hotspots, proximity to residential premises and proximity to areas where children may congregate;
- any risk posed to the local area by the applicants' proposed licensable activities; and
- any local initiatives (for example, local crime reduction initiatives or voluntary schemes including local taxi-marshalling schemes, street pastors and other schemes) which may help to mitigate potential risks.

8.43 Applicants are expected to include positive proposals in their application on how they will manage any potential risks. Where specific policies apply in the area (for example, a cumulative impact assessment), applicants are also expected to demonstrate an understanding of how the policy impacts on their application; any measures they will take to mitigate the impact; and why they consider the application should be an exception to the policy.

8.44 It is expected that enquiries about the locality will assist applicants when determining the steps that are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. For example, premises with close proximity to residential premises should consider what effect this will have on their smoking, noise management and dispersal policies to ensure the promotion of the public nuisance objective. Applicants must consider all factors which may be relevant to the promotion of the licensing objectives, and where there are no known concerns, acknowledge this in their application.

8.45 The majority of information which applicants will require should be available in the licensing policy statement in the area. Other publicly available sources which may be of use to applicants include:

- the Crime Mapping website;
- Neighbourhood Statistics website;
- websites or publications by local responsible authorities;
- websites or publications by local voluntary schemes and initiatives; and
- on-line mapping tools.

8.46 While applicants are not required to seek the views of responsible authorities before formally submitting their application, they may find them to be a useful source of expert advice on local issues that should be taken into consideration when making an application. Licensing authorities may wish to encourage co-operation between applicants, responsible authorities and, where relevant, local residents and businesses before applications are submitted in order to minimise the scope for disputes to arise.

8.47 Applicants are expected to provide licensing authorities with sufficient information in this section to determine the extent to which their proposed steps are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives in the local area. Applications must not be based on providing a set of standard conditions to promote the licensing objectives and applicants

are expected to make it clear why the steps they are proposing are appropriate for the premises.

8.48 All parties are expected to work together in partnership to ensure that the licensing objectives are promoted collectively. Where there are no disputes, the steps that applicants propose to take to promote the licensing objectives, as set out in the operating schedule, will very often translate directly into conditions that will be attached to premises licences with the minimum of fuss.

8.49 For some premises, it is possible that no measures will be appropriate to promote one or more of the licensing objectives, for example, because they are adequately covered by other existing legislation. It is however important that all operating schedules should be precise and clear about the measures that are proposed to promote each of the licensing objectives.

### The role of responsible authorities

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<sup>5</sup>. 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.

### Hearings

9.38 In determining the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives in the overall interests of the local community, the licensing authority must give appropriate weight to:

- the steps that are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives;
- the representations (including supporting information) presented by all the parties;
- this Guidance;
- its own statement of licensing policy.

9.39 The licensing authority should give its decision within five working days of the conclusion of the hearing (or immediately in certain specified cases) and provide reasons to support it. This will be important if there is an appeal by any of the parties. Notification of a decision must be accompanied by information on the right of the party to appeal. After considering all the relevant issues, the licensing authority may grant the application

subject to such conditions that are consistent with the operating schedule. Any conditions imposed must be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives; there is no power for the licensing authority to attach a condition that is merely aspirational. For example, conditions may not be attached which relate solely to the health of customers rather than their direct physical safety. Any conditions added to the licence must be those imposed at the hearing or those agreed when a hearing has not been necessary.

9.40 Alternatively, the licensing authority may refuse the application on the grounds that this is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. It may also refuse to specify a designated premises supervisor and/or only allow certain requested licensable activities. In the interests of transparency, the licensing authority should publish hearings procedures in full on its website to ensure that those involved have the most current information.

#### 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.

### **13. The Licensing Act 2003**

The Licensing Act 2003 under Section 18 (6) also states that any relevant representation should be considered in the context of:

(a) the likely effect of the grant of the premises licence on the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Therefore, in the context of the grant of a licence, it is reasonable for the Licensing Authority to base its decision on an application on what the likely effects of granting a licence would have on the promotion of the licensing objectives.

### **14. Relevant Case law for consideration:**

East Lindsey District Council v Abu Hanif (t/a Zara's Restaurant) (2016) this underpins the principles widely acknowledged within the Licensing Act 2003 that the licensing objectives are prospective, and that the prevention of crime and disorder requires a prospective consideration of what is warranted in the public interest, having regard to the twin considerations of prevention and deterrence.

### **15. Appendices**

**Appendix BDW001: Premises Licence Application Form**

**Appendix BDW002: Conditions and hours agreed with Licensing**

**Appendix BDW003: Representation by Lin Godfrey**