



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

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23 February 2022

Mr George Maxwell Sowerby
The George
107 Bondgate
Darlington
DL3 7LB

Our ref: Legal/BS
Please ask for: Beth Symonds

Cc: Mr Lewis Metcalf
Mr Stephen Birkett
Durham Constabulary

Dear Mr Sowerby

Meeting of Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committee on 23rd February 2022
Review of premises licence for The George, 107 Bondgate, Darlington DL3 7LB

On 21st February 2021, the Council received an application by Durham Constabulary for a review of the premises licence for the above venue which the police consider is associated with serious crime / disorder. The application was submitted under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 which means that the Council were obliged to review the police's application, and the licence, within 48 hours of the application and determine whether any interim steps are necessary pending a full review of the licence.

The Licensing Act 2003 sub-committee met at 9.30am on 23rd February 2022 via Microsoft Teams to discuss the matter. You were not at the meeting, and it is understood that this is because you were on holiday abroad, however the following people were present and all presented information and spoke to the members about the issues outlined in the police's application:

- Colin Dobson – Licensing Manager at Darlington Borough Council
- Sgt Caroline Dickenson – Durham Constabulary
- Stephen Birkett – Admiral Taverns
- Lewis Metcalf – Manager at The George

After considering the information provided by the people listed above, the committee decided with immediate effect that:

- A) The premises licence is suspended; and
- B) You are removed as the designated premises supervisor

This decision was pursuant to Section 53B of the Licensing Act 2003, and the reason for the decision was that the information presented to the sub-committee members suggested that these steps was necessary to promote the licensing objectives of ensuring public safety and preventing crime and disorder. The members were particularly concerned about the safety of people visiting the town centre.

Although Mr Metcalf and Mr Birkett were present to speak on your behalf, you as the premises licence holder have the right to make representations about the interim steps taken by the committee today. Should you wish to do so, another hearing will be held within 48 hours to review the decision in light of your representations. You will be invited to attend this, however if you fail to attend then the meeting will go ahead in your absence.

In any event, a full review of the licence will take place during the week commencing 14th March 2022. Once the day, time and location are confirmed you will be notified and invited to attend. The purpose of this hearing will be for the committee to review the interim steps, and consider appropriate measures to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives. You are invited to attend this meeting, and you must make any representations no later than 7th March 2022. You must let us know no later than two days before the hearing if you are planning to attend or if you would consider that any other interested parties should be invited to attend the hearing.

Copies of this letter will be sent to Durham Constabulary, Mr Metcalf and Mr Birkett.

Yours sincerely



Beth Symonds
Solicitor
Darlington Borough Council