

**LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTIFICATION OF HEARING
(Regulations 6 and 7)**

Date of Notification: 27 August 2025

Type of Hearing: Application to Review a Premises Licence

Premises: Oak Tree Inn
Middleton St George,
DARLINGTON, DL2 1HN

Hearing Details: 10.00 am, Thursday 11 September 2025

Location: Darlington Borough Council,
Town Hall, Darlington,
DL1 5QT

Copy of notice sent to:

- Punch Taverns Plc (Premises Licence Holder)
- Home Office (Immigration Compliance and Enforcement) (Responsible Authority)

Attendance: All parties may attend this hearing. You may find it useful to be accompanied by your legal representative(s) or any other person who may be able to assist you. Please complete the attached form and return it to the Licensing Section **no later than 4 September 2025**.

Non-attendance: If you notify the Licensing Authority that you will not be attending this hearing and that you will not be legally represented in your absence, the hearing may proceed in your absence. If you do not notify your non-attendance and then do not attend this hearing, the Licensing Sub Committee will decide whether it is in the public interest to adjourn the hearing to enable you to attend or whether to hold the hearing in your absence. If the hearing does proceed in your absence, your representations will still be considered.

Procedure at the Hearing: You will find attached the procedure that will be followed at the Hearing. The Hearing will take place in public unless it is deemed in the public interest to exclude the public or any party to the Hearing from all or part of the Hearing. If a party is excluded from the Hearing (s)he will be able to provide written information to cover any verbal representations (s)he may have made if (s)he had not been so excluded. The Hearing will take the form of a discussion, and each party will be permitted an equal period of time to provide information, make comments, and express their views.

Withdrawal of Representations: Anyone wishing to withdraw representations should do so as soon as possible. Although this can be done at the Hearing, you are requested, where

possible, to give at least 24 hours' notice, as it may no longer be necessary for the Hearing to proceed.

Outcome of Hearing: A decision will be made as soon as possible after the hearing and must be within the period of five working days beginning with the day or the last day on which the hearing was held.



Services Group
Licensing
Town Hall
Darlington DL1 5QT
Tel: 01325 405888
Email: licensing@darlington.gov.uk

NOTICE OF ATTENDANCE
APPLICATION FOR REVIEW OF PREMISE LICENCE

Please complete the following notice and return it to the address detailed below:

DATE OF HEARING: 11 September 2025

NAME OF PREMISES: Oak Tree Inn
Middleton St George,
DARLINGTON DL2 1HN

YOUR NAME:

I will* ☐ will not* ☐ be attending the meeting

I will* ☐ will not* ☐ be legally represented

NAME OF LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE
(IF APPROPRIATE):

(*please ✓ where appropriate)

If you wish to be accompanied by any other person, please provide details of their name and an outline of what they wish to say and how this will assist you:

Name:

Details:

**Please return to: Licensing
Darlington Borough Council
Block D, Town Hall
Feethams
DARLINGTON
DL1 5QT**

Or email licensing@darlington.gov.uk

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEES

FULL HEARING PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEWS OF PREMISES LICENCES/CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATES WHERE RELEVANT REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

1. The Chair will welcome all parties who are present and introduce the Members. The Chair will explain to the parties at the beginning of a hearing the procedure that it is proposed to follow. The hearing will take the form of a discussion. Cross-examination will not be permitted without the consent of the Chair.

Any Members who know the Premises Licence holder or any of the objectors will declare this fact and not take part in the hearing of the application. This is in addition to the declaration of any personal or prejudicial interest.

(NB. The Secretariat will endeavour to ensure that Ward Members and Members that are personally known to the applicant are not included on the Sub Committee.)

All hearings will usually be in public. The Sub Committee may however exclude the public from all or part of a hearing where it considers that the public interest in so doing outweighs the public interest in the hearing, or that part of the hearing, taking place in public.

The Licensing Manager will outline the application.

2. **The Application for the Review**

NB: Where the application comes from Interested Parties, i.e. local residents or businesses within the vicinity of the premises, the Sub Committee will expect that wherever possible a spokesperson be elected to speak on behalf of the group. This person will make the application. At the conclusion of the application the Chair will ask the group if there is any information which is additional to the application made by the spokesperson and if so will permit this information to be given.

- [1] The Applicant for the review or their representative will give their reasons for making the application.
- [2] The Applicant for the review or their representative will then call any witnesses and/or give reasons for their objection.
- [3] The Premises Licence Holder or his/her representative may then question the Applicant for the review [if they have given evidence] and any witnesses.
- [4] The Chair or any member of the Licensing Sub Committee, through the Chair, may ask questions of the Applicant for the Review and any witnesses.

If several applications/representations have been received and the Applicants for the Review have not agreed to present the case jointly, this procedure will normally be repeated for each individual Applicant.

3. **The Premise Licence holder's (PLH) Case**

- [1] The PLH or their representative presents their response to the application for review.
- [2] The PLH or their representative will then call any witnesses and/or give evidence in support of his/her response.
- [3] The Applicant(s) for the Review may then question the PLH if they have given evidence and any witnesses.
- [4] The Chair or any Member of the Licensing Sub Committee, through the Chair, will ask questions of the PLH and any witnesses.
- [5] The PLH or their representative will then be given a final opportunity to ask any further questions of any witnesses to clear up any points raised in the earlier questioning.

4. The PLH will be asked by the Chair of the Sub Committee whether, in the light of the information heard in relation to the review, they wish to amend the operating schedule, change the designated premises supervisor (Premises Licences only) or offer additional conditions, as when they retire, Members will consider only the information before them at that time.

If the PLH wishes to amend the operating schedule, change the designated premises supervisor (Premises Licences only), or offer additional conditions, the Applicant(s) for the Review will be given the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

5. **Closing Statement or Summary**

- [1] **By or on behalf of the Applicant(s) for the Review.** The Applicant(s) for the review may summarise any points they wish to make and comment briefly on the Applicant's replies to questions. They cannot introduce new issues.
- [2] **By or on behalf of the PLH.** The PLH will be invited to summarise any points they wish to make and comment briefly on the Applicant for the Review's replies to questions. They cannot introduce new issues

6. **Conclusion**

All decisions will be made in private.

The Legal Officer will repeat, in summary form, any legal advice given to Members when the public is re-admitted.

Once a decision has been reached, the press and public will be re-admitted to the meeting together with the Premises Licence Holder, Responsible Authorities, and Other Persons. At this stage, the Chair will announce the Sub Committee's decision, will give reasons for the decision, and advise all parties of their rights of appeal. The decision will subsequently be formally notified to the Applicant(s), Responsible

Authorities, and Other Persons in writing, including their rights of appeal as soon as possible after the Hearing.