
APPLICATION FOR SUMMARY REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE

Purpose of Report

1. To invite Members to consider an application from Durham Constabulary for a summary review of the 'Highland Laddie' Premises Licence, 88 The Green, Haughton, Darlington, DL1 2DR, on the grounds of serious crime and disorder, which undermines the crime and disorder licensing objective. A summary review is a quick process for attaching interim conditions to a licence and a fast-track licence review when the police consider that the premises concerned are associated with serious crime or serious disorder (or both).

Background Information

2. Under section 53A to 53C of the Licensing Act 2003, the chief officer of police for the area in which the premises are situated may apply to the licensing authority for an expedited review of a premises licence where a senior police officer has issued a certificate stating that in his/her opinion the premises are associated with serious crime or serious disorder (or both);
3. On receipt of the application and the certificate, the licensing authority must, within 48 hours of the time of its receipt, consider whether it is necessary to take interim steps pending determination of the review of the premises licence; the authority must, in any event, undertake a review within 28 days after the day of receipt of the application.
4. The licensing authority may respond to this application by taking interim steps, where it considers it is necessary, pending a full review.
5. At 3.37 pm on Monday, 22 September 2025, Darlington Borough Council Licensing Department received a certificate signed by Supt Bickford and a statutory application form for a summary licence review, which outlines the grounds for this review.
6. On 24 September 2025, Members held a meeting to discuss interim measures and decided to suspend the licence pending a full licence review.
7. This application is to review the premises and complete the process under the Licensing Act.

Legal Implications

8. There are no issues that the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

9. One of the four licensing objectives of The Licensing Act 2003 is the prevention of crime and disorder. The attached application in this report directly relates to this objective.

Recommendation

10. Members are requested to determine this application made by the police

Trevor Watson
Executive Director for Economy and Public Protection

Background Papers

The Licensing Act 2003
Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (Revised August 2023)
The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005
Home Office Summary Review Guidance 2012

Appendices

1. Premises Licence for the Highland Laddie
2. Application for summary review
3. Signed certificate by Supt Bickford
4. Notice of review on premises
5. Determination letter of interim measure
6. Responses for support of PLH
7. Hearing review notice
8. Relevant Licensing Policy extracts
9. Relevant sections of S182 Guidance

Colin Dobson Extension: 405988

FOR CHAIR AND MEMBERS
OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 SUB COMMITTEE
16 OCTOBER 2025

APPLICATION TO REVIEW PREMISES LICENCE ON THE GROUNDS OF THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

Licence holder	Steven Heseltine	Ref No: LAPREM00161
Premises:	Highland Laddie 88 The Green, Haughton, Darlington, DL1 2DR	
Licensable Activities:	1. Sale of Alcohol for consumption ON & OFF the Premises 2. Regulated Entertainment 3. Late Night Refreshment	
Current Hours:	Sale of Alcohol:	11.00 to 00.00 Mon - Sat 12.00 to 23.00 Sun
	All Regulated Entertainment:	11.00 to 00.00 Mon- Sat 12.00 to 23.00 Sun
	Late Night Refreshment:	23.00 to 00.00 Mon - Sat
Premises opening Times	11.00 to 00.30 Mon - Thur 11.00 to 01.30 Fri and Sat 12.00 to 23.30 Sun	
Police Application	Summary Review of Premises Licence on the grounds of Crime and Disorder	

Notification to Responsible Authorities/Other Persons:

Notice of this application to the following, subject to a 10-day consultation period:

Environmental Health	Chief Fire Officer
Durham Constabulary	Trading Standards
Planning	Public Health
The Licence Holder	The Licensing Authority
Darlington Safeguarding Partnership	

Information on the Premises 23 September 2025

Information on Council's web site: 23 September 2025

LEGISLATION:

1. The Licensing Act 2003 requires the Licensing Authority to carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four Licensing Objectives:
 - The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
 - Public Safety
 - The Prevention of Public Nuisance
 - The Protection of Children from Harm
2. The Licensing Authority must also have regard to its Licensing Policy and any guidance issued by the Secretary of State, which was last revised in August 2023. The Licensing Authority may depart from its own policy or the Secretary of State's Guidance if it has good cause, but must be able to give full reasons for such a departure.

DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES

3. When the premises licence application was originally made, the applicant described the premises as follows:

Established public house with food trade as identified on deposited plans and also with rights to provide regulated entertainment inherent with the LA 1964.

These premises are entitled to sell to residents and supply their bona fide guests 24 hours pursuant to section 63 (2) LA 1964.

These premises are entitled to provide entertainment.

2 AWP Machines under S 34 Gaming Act 1968 Permit

These premises have an existing external area available to patrons for consumption of off supplies.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

4. To invite Members to consider an application for a summary review of the premises licence submitted by Durham Constabulary brought under Section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003, based on the grounds that it undermines the prevention of crime and disorder objective relating to serious crime and disorder associated with the premises.
5. Members are requested to consider any appropriate action available.

BACKGROUND OF THE PREMISES

6. This was a former Camerons Brewery-owned premises, which was taken over by Marstons and then D&G Pub Company, before being transferred to Steven Heseltine on 7 February 2020.
7. A copy of the current licence and plan is in **Appendix 1**.

APPLICATION TO REVIEW THE PREMISES LICENCE

8. On 22 September 2025, Durham Constabulary made an application to review this premises licence under Section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003, which is in **Appendix 2**. An application can be made under this section where a senior police officer issues a certificate stating that, in his/her opinion, the premises are associated with serious crime or serious disorder (or both). This review is often referred to as a summary review or an expedited review and provides a fast-track process for serious incidents.
9. On receipt of this application and certificate signed by Superintendent Bickford in **Appendix 3**, the licensing authority was required to consider whether it was necessary to take interim steps within 48 hours of the time of its receipt, pending determination of the review, which must take place within 28 days after the day of receipt of the application.
10. In summary, this application relates to an incident of violent disorder that took place at 7.44 pm on Tuesday, 16 September, within the premises involving several people, where some assaults took place, with stools, glass, and a garden parasol holder being used as weapons. There appeared to be little management control, and the police investigation was frustrated by a lack of cooperation from staff at the time. To date, this remains a live investigation where suspects are actively being sought for interview.
11. The application was deemed relevant by the Licensing Authority and has been advertised in accordance with the regulations.
12. On 23 September 2025, a review notice was placed on the premises by the licensing authority as required under the Licensing Act 2003, and a copy of this is in **Appendix 4**.
13. On Wednesday, 24 September 2025, and within the required 48-hour time scale, a Licensing Sub-committee was convened to determine if it was necessary to take any interim steps pending the full review. This was an in-person meeting, and the following people were present:
 - Sgt Caroline Dickenson – Police
 - PC Gavin Rutter - Police
 - PCSO Nichole Bell – Police
 - Colin Dobson – Licensing Manager
 - Brian Murray – Assistant Licensing Manager
 - Steven Heseltine – Premises Licence Holder
 - James McAllister – Democratic Officer
 - Jim Langley – DBC Solicitor
14. A member of the press was also present, but excluded from part of the proceeding, at the request of police, under Regulation 14 of the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005, where video of the incident was shown.
15. The Licensing Manager presented a report, and Members were given an account of this incident from Sgt Dickenson. They also heard from Steven Heseltine, the premises licence holder. During the meeting, Members were shown CCTV footage of the incident captured on cameras both inside and outside the premises.

16. Sgt Dickenson explained that police officers had been called to the Highland Laddie public house in Darlington at 19:44 hrs on Tuesday, 16th September 2025, following reports of a fight at the premises, which had spilled outside.
17. On viewing the CCTV, it shows that an altercation takes place between a male and a female, where punches are thrown. At this point, numerous people become involved, and items including a parasol holder, bar stools, and chairs are used as weapons by the people involved in the incident.
18. The start of the incident is witnessed by the only member of bar staff on duty; however, there is no call to the police. The member of staff later informed police officers that she did not know what happened regarding this incident, as the music was so loud that she did not even know that people were arguing.
19. She has stated that she was behind the bar when it started and panicked, so she ran upstairs to get the landlord's wife, who, in turn, rang the police. The member of staff said she did not wish to provide a statement as she did not witness anything due to running away.
20. CCTV does show a member of bar staff witnessing some of the disorder; she also has her phone in her hand, but at no point has she contacted the police.
21. It was several minutes into the violent disorder that the call to police was made by the wife of the designated premises supervisor (DPS), and police officers attended the premises at 19:55hrs, where there was nothing ongoing, and all the suspects had left.
22. CCTV footage of the incident was viewed when officers attended the premises, and the caller (wife of DPS) provided a list of names of those she was aware were involved in the incident.
23. During the altercation, the group caused damage to furniture and some of the window panes; however, it is recorded on the investigation log that the caller was not supportive of police action and did not want to provide a statement.
24. On 20th September 2025, police officers attended the pub and spoke with the premises licence holder and DPS Steven Heseltine, who stated that he was not at the pub at the time of the incident and was only made aware by his wife when she rang him.
25. He stated that he had managed to repair the damaged barstools/chairs and had them back in use. He also said that there has been slight damage caused to one of the windows (a little crack), which he had temporarily repaired, as the pub is due for a refurb very soon by the brewery, and they have informed him that all the windows and doors will be a part of that.
26. When asked if he was willing to provide a statement, he said no and that he was happy that all persons involved are now barred from the pub.
27. Due to the serious nature of the incident and the crime of violent disorder being committed, a CID team is leading the investigation.
28. The investigation was in the early stages and had been frustrated by the delay in reporting the incident, and all the suspects had left prior to the police attending the venue.

29. Also, despite being given names of potential suspects, due to staff refusing to give witness statements where they could have identified people involved, it is now necessary for the investigating team to carry out further inquiries so that formal identification can be made of the suspects prior to any arrests.
30. CCTV shows the incident in its entirety, and several people involved appear to have injuries. Durham Constabulary has had an incident reported from the NHS of a male suffering facial injuries (still to be confirmed level of injury) due to being hit in the face with a bar stool. Pub furniture and a glass are used as weapons throughout this incident, and it is sheer good luck that everyone was able to walk away from this, with no one being knocked unconscious or even killed.
31. From the CCTV, the female who appears to be the instigator of the incident is seen wandering behind the bar, and it is apparent that she seems familiar with the venue. After the incident, she is in conversation with the caller and at no point challenged about why she is behind the bar. It was later established that she is a regular at the premises.
32. When the only member of bar staff goes upstairs to get the wife of the DPS, the people involved in the violence are left to 'get on with it', and although it is only a short period of time, they effectively have free reign of the bar and access to further weapons, which could have been used.
33. Sgt Dickenson explained that due to the seriousness of the incident reported and the contributory factors around the management at the premises, there is a significant risk to public safety, and the application for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 is justified. She asked for an immediate suspension of the premises licence.
34. Members asked for clarification on timings, and it was established that the fighting took place over an 8-minute period. They also asked about progress with the investigation and were informed that all but one of the suspects had now been identified, and Mr Heseltine was able to provide a part name to identify the outstanding person.
35. Mr Heseltine was asked for his account, and he explained that he had been a landlord there for nine years and in that time, there had been only a handful of incidents. He was not present on the premises at the time, and when his wife received information from the member of bar staff about the fighting, she was upstairs with their 8 ½ month old child. She waited for the member of staff to go upstairs to look after their child before going down, getting the people out, and calling the police.
36. He said that since Covid, staff had not been trained, and this was something he would address. He went on to say that he had now banned all those involved, four of whom were regulars. Further information he received was that the four non-regulars had been to another pub looking for trouble just before this incident.
37. After deliberation, Members put in place the following interim measure with immediate effect pending a full review
38. .
- Premises licence suspended

39. Members also requested that licensing officers make at least three checks to ensure compliance before the full review hearing.
40. This decision was pursuant to Section 53B of the Licensing Act 2003, and the reason for the decision was that with the information presented to the Sub-committee by the police, Members felt it was necessary for this step to promote the licensing objectives of ensuring public safety and preventing crime and disorder following the incident that took place at the venue. This was confirmed in writing to the premises licence holder and the police, and is in **Appendix 5**.
41. Following the implementation of interim measures, police have been working with the premises licence holder and will present a number of potential conditions that, if agreed, are necessary and will be proportionate to promote the licensing objectives.

FULL HEARING

42. The regulations relating to hearings are set out in the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/44). They apply to final hearings under section 53A(2)(b) in a similar way to hearings following closure orders under section 167 of the 2003 Act, in that a review must take place within 28 days. It should, however, be emphasised that the truncated version of the hearings only applies to interim measures.
43. The issues they address include who can make representations and what those representations can be about. It is therefore possible for responsible authorities or any other persons to make representations for this hearing in relation to any of the licensing objectives, not just crime and disorder.
44. Notice of this review was submitted to all responsible authorities within the required timescales. No representations were made by responsible authorities, and 45 people submitted notices of support for the premises licence holder. Those providing this support are listed below, and the emails/letters have been reproduced in **Appendix 6**.

- Lindsay Curle
- Robyn Sowerby
- Andrew Park
- Ebony Webb
- Jake Spence
- Paul Heseltine
- Janet Stubbs
- Maxine Todd
- Sarah Hussain
- Ruben Nimmo
- Bill Bailey
- Mr Davies
- Mrs Davies
- Thomas Roughan
- Mick Jones
- Dawn Story
- Deborah Bailly

- Lauren Pattison
- Samantha Smith
- David Coleman
- Kevin Donegan
- Vicky Donegan
- Tracy Liddle
- David Liddle
- Gary Wilson
- Andrew Webster
- Nathan Fookes
- Mr Wilson
- Mrs Wilson
- Stuart Heseltine
- Bethany Reynoldson
- Andrew Challis
- Kevin Johnstone
- Paul Gregg
- Tania Jackson
- Karen Fuller
- Jason Fuller
- Nichole Heseltine
- Mr Roberts
- Mrs Roberts
- Coleen Johnson
- John Langley
- Mike
- Terry Glasper
- Leanne Pattison

45. On 2 October 2025, a full hearing review notice was sent to the premises licence holder and police, which included the procedure for Licensing Sub-committee reviews. This is in **Appendix 7**.

THE LICENSING POLICY

46. Members are referred to the following relevant sections of the Council's Licensing Policy, which are reproduced in **Appendix 8**.

Section 1.2 – 1.3	Purpose
Section 6 – 7.3	Premises licence and impact of licensable activities
Section 11.3 to 11.5	Steps to address Crime and Disorder

THE GUIDANCE

47. Members are referred to the Secretary of State's Guidance (Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003) in relation to the prevention of crime and disorder and the review process. This was last amended
Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises licence

in August 2023, and the relevant sections of the Guidance are provided in this review pack at **Appendix 9**.

MEMBERS' OPTIONS

48. At the hearing, the licensing authority must:

- consider what steps it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives; and
- decide which interim steps cease to have effect altogether or become the subject of any steps which it considers are appropriate when making its determination on the review.

49. The steps the licensing authority can take are:

- modification of the conditions of the premises licence;
- exclusion of a licensable activity from the scope of the licence;
- removal of the designated premises supervisor from the licence;
- suspension of the licence for a period not exceeding 3 months; and
- revocation of the licence.

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

51. If Members are minded to add additional conditions, they must be appropriate to promote the licensing objectives outlined earlier. Members are reminded that any such conditions should not duplicate existing legislation.

52. Members are further reminded that any party to the review who is aggrieved at the decision of the Licensing Sub Committee (i.e. Premises Licence Holder or Police) may appeal the decision to the Magistrates' Courts. In the event of such an appeal, any determination by the Sub-committee will not take effect until the appeal is disposed of.

53. The licensing authority's determination does not have effect until the end of the 21 days given for appealing the decision, or until the disposal of any appeal that is lodged. To ensure that there are appropriate 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, namely the premises licence suspension, and consider whether it is appropriate for this suspension to remain in place,

or if it 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.

RECOMMENDATION

54. The Sub-Committee is asked to determine the review application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives, giving appropriate weight to:

- a) The representations (including supporting information) presented by all parties;
- b) DBC's Statement of Licensing Policy;
- c) The Guidance issued to local authorities under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Contact Officer: Colin Dobson x 5988

Trevor Watson

Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection

For admin use only:
Sub Committee Decision:

Date of Sub Committee:

Reasons:



Appendix 1

Licensing Act 2003 – Part A

PREMISES LICENCE – LAPREM00161

Premise Details:

Highland Laddie

88 The Green Haughton DARLINGTON DL1 2DR

Date Granted: 7 February 2020

Duration of Licence:

Not Time Limited

Licensable Activities

Activity	Days of Week	Open	Close
Sale of Alcohol for consumption both on and off the Premises	Monday to Saturday	11:00	00:00
	Sunday	12:00	23:00
Films, Indoor Sporting Events, Live Music, Recorded Music, Performance of Dance, Provision of facilities for making Music, Provision of facilities for Dancing	Monday to Saturday	11:00	00:00
	Sunday	12:00	23:00
Late Night Refreshment	Monday to Saturday	23:00	00:00
Opening Hours	Monday to Thursday	11:00	00:30
	Friday and Saturday	11:00	01:30
	Sunday	12:00	23:30

Non-standard/seasonal timings:

The licensable activities specified in this licence may be provided from 10:00 on any day, which is New Year's Eve to the terminal hour on the following day (New Year's Day).

The Sale of Alcohol and Regulated Entertainment specified in this licence shall be extended to 01:00 on the following days:

Friday to Monday on Bank Holiday Weekends, Christmas Eve and Boxing day and on 10 other event days per annum with 10 working days notice given to Police and Licensing Authority and only with prior agreement from the Police.

The premises will close 30 minutes after the end of the non-standard timings.

Premises Licence Holder:

Mr Steven Heseltine

Highland Laddie 88 Haughton Green DARLINGTON DL1 2DF

Details of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises for the supply of alcohol	
Name and Address:	Mr Steven Heseltine
Licence Number:	DL12/00926/PERSON
Licensing Authority:	Darlington Borough Council

Annex 1 – Mandatory Conditions

1. Every Supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made by or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.
2. No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence:-
 - (a) at a time when there is no Designated Premises Supervisor in respect of the premises licence or
 - (b) at a time when the designated Premises Supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended.
3. (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).

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

5. (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.

6. 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: ½ 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

7. 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.

8. For the purposes of the condition set out at 7 —

a) “duty” is to be construed in accordance with the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979(6);

b) “permitted price” is the price found by applying the formula—

$$P = D + (D \times V) \text{ where—}$$

i) P is the permitted price,

- ii) D is the amount 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) “value added tax” means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994.
9. Where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 8 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.
- (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.
- (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.
10. The admission of children to film exhibitions must be limited to those films classified as suitable for children by the film classification body. Where no classification has been made the licence holder must approach the Licensing Authority who will then classify the film. The same restriction will then apply

Annex 2 – Conditions consistent with the operating schedule

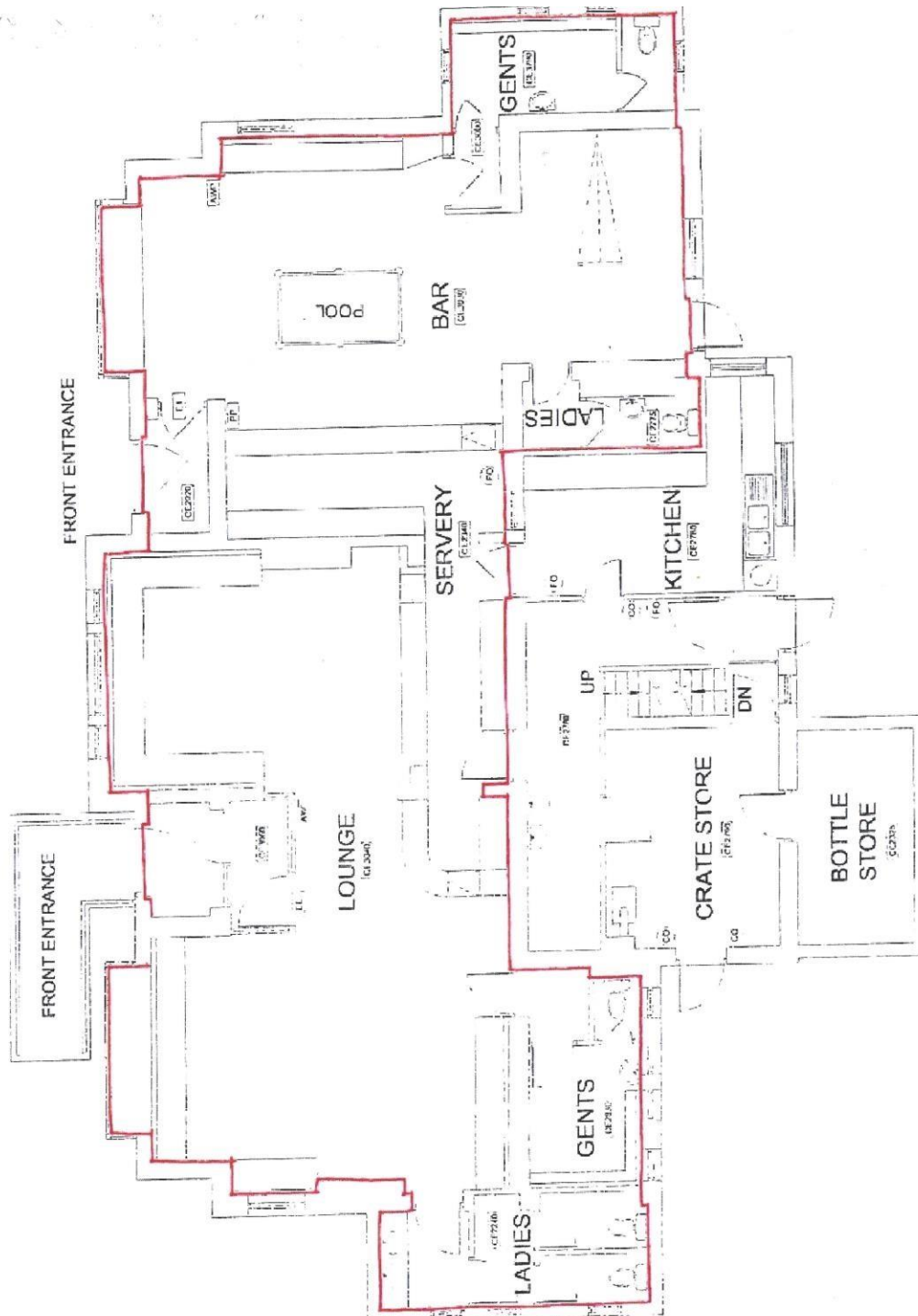
1. The current CCTV system will be in operation at all times the premises is open to the public. The tapes shall be properly stored and kept for a minimum of 30 days and made available on request to the Police and Authorised Officers of this Council.
2. No person carrying an open bottle will be given entry to the premises at any time it is open to the public.

3. No person will be allowed to exit the premises carrying any drinks in an open container other than for consumption in a designated area.
4. Conspicuous and legible signage will be prominently displayed in the premises, at each exit, requesting patrons leave the establishment in a quiet and orderly manner.
5. The Licence Holder shall ensure that noise or vibration generated by the use of the premises shall be inaudible at the nearest noise sensitive properties.
6. Children under the age of 16 years will not be admitted to the premises after 21:00 hrs

Annex 3 – Conditions attached after a hearing by the licensing authority

NONE

Annex 4 – Plans



Issued in accordance with the application for the transfer of a premise licence and the application to vary the premise licence to specify a Designated Premises Supervisor

Authorised Officer

Date of Issue 9 April 2020

PREMISES LICENCE GUIDANCE

1. Your Premises Licence has been granted and is enclosed.
2. The annual fee is due on the anniversary of its grant, unless you are exempt (e.g. community premises). Please ensure that the annual fee is paid on time.
3. Your Premises Licence has been granted for an unlimited period of time and is subject to the conditions mentioned in the licence.
4. You must ensure that the Premises Licence, or a certified copy of it, is kept at the premises in the custody or under the control of yourself or a person (“the nominated person”) who works at the premises and whom you have nominated in writing for these purposes. A person commits an offence if he or she fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with these requirements. The maximum fine is £500 on conviction.
5. You must ensure that a Summary of the Premises Licence, or a certified copy of that Summary, is prominently displayed at the premises. If you have nominated a person (“the nominated person”), under 4 above, you must prominently display at the premises a notice specifying the position held at the premises by that person. A person commits an offence if he or she fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with these requirements. The maximum fine is £500 on conviction.
6. A Police Constable or an Authorised Person may require the holder of the Premises Licence or the nominated person to produce the Premises Licence, or a certified copy of it, for examination. A person commits an offence if he or she fails, without reasonable excuse to comply with these requirements. The maximum fine is £500 on conviction.
7. Where a Premises Licence or Summary is lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed, the holder of the licence may apply to the Council for a copy of the licence or Summary. A fee of £10.50 is payable.
8. Subject to reinstatement in certain circumstances, a Premises Licence lapses if the holder the licence dies, becomes mentally incapable, becomes insolvent, or is dissolved.
9. Where the holder of a Premises Licence wishes to surrender their licence they may give the Council notice to that effect. The notice must be accompanied by the Premises Licence or, if that is not practicable, by a statement of the reasons for the failure to provide the licence. The Premises Licence lapses on receipt of the notice by the Council.
10. The holder of a Premises Licence must, as soon as reasonably practicable, notify the Council of any changes in:
 - Name and address
 - Name and address of the Designated Premises Supervisor (unless that Supervisor has already notified the Council)

The notice must be accompanied by the Premises Licence or, if that is not practicable, by a statement of the reasons for the failure to provide the licence. The Premises Licence lapses on receipt of the notice by the Council. A fee of £10.50 is payable. A person commits an offence if he or she fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with these requirements. The maximum fine is £500 on conviction.

11. The holder of a Premises Licence may apply to the Council at any time for variation of the licence. Amongst other things, an application form will need to be completed, a fee will need to be paid and the application will need to be advertised and served on the Responsible Authorities. Please contact the Council for an application form and a guidance leaflet on how to apply for a variation. Please note that a Licence may not be varied to extend the period for which a licence has effect, or to vary substantially the premises to which it relates – in those cases an application for a new Premises Licence will need to be made; please contact the Council for further details.
12. The holder of a Premises Licence may, if the licence authorises the supply of alcohol (or if it is intended to vary a licence so that it authorises the supply of alcohol), apply to vary the licence so as to specify the individual named in the application as the Designated Premises Supervisor. Amongst other things, an application form will need to be completed, a fee will need to be paid and the notice of the application must be given to the Police. It is possible for the applicant to ask for such a variation to have immediate effect on an interim basis. Please contact the Council for an application form and guidance leaflet on how to apply for a variation.
13. The Premises Licence may be transferred following an application made to the Council for a transfer of the Licence. Amongst other things, an application form will need to be completed, a fee will need to be paid and notice of the application must be given to the Police. It is possible for the applicant to ask for a transfer to have immediate effect on an interim basis. Please contact the Council for an application form and a guidance leaflet on how to apply for a transfer.
14. Where a Premises Licence has effect, and Interested Party or a Responsible Authority may apply to the Council for a review of the licence. You will be notified if an application is made to review your Premises Licence and you will have the opportunity to make representations about a review and to attend before the Council's Licensing Committee.
15. Your attention is drawn in particular to Part 7 of the Licensing Act 2003 which concerns offences under the Licensing Act 2003.

FORM FOR APPLYING FOR A SUMMARY LICENCE REVIEW

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

Darlington Borough Council

**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 Sgt 484 Caroline Dickenson [on behalf of] the chief officer of police for the Durham Constabulary 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:

**HIGHLAND LADDIE
88 The Green**

Post town: Darlington

Post code (if known): **DL1 2DR**

2. Premises licence details:

Name of premises licence holder (if known): Steven Heseltine

Number of premises licence holder (if known): DL15/01056/PRETRA

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]

Police officers have been requested to an immediate response to THE HIGHLAND LADDIE public house in DARLINGTON at 19:44 hrs on Tuesday 16th September 2025 following reports of a fight

at the public house which has now spilled outside.

Having viewed the CCTV, it shows that an altercation takes place between a male and a female where punches are then thrown. At this point numerous persons become involved and items including a parasol holder, bar stools and chairs are used as weapons by the people involved in the incident.

The start of the incident is witnessed by bar staff however there is no call to the police. The member of bar staff has told police officers that she does not know what happened regarding this incident starting as the music was so loud that she did not even know that people were arguing.

She has stated that she was behind the bar when it started and panicked so ran upstairs to get the landlords wife, who in turn has rang the police.

The member of bar staff has said she does not wish to provide a statement as did not witness anything due to running away.

CCTV does show the member of bar staff witnessing some of the disorder, she also has her phone in her hand but at no point has contacted the police.

It has been several minutes into the violent disorder that the call to police was made by the wife of the designated premise supervisor.

Police officers have attended the HIGHLAND LADDIE at 1955hrs whereby there was nothing ongoing and all the suspects had left the location.

CCTV footage of the incident has been viewed when officers attended the premises, and the caller (wife of DPS) has provided a list of names of those she is aware were involved in the incident.

During the altercation, the group have caused damage to the furniture and some of the window panes, however it is recorded on the investigation that the caller is not supportive of police action and does not want to provide a statement.

On 20th September 2025 police officers have attended the pub and spoke with the premise license holder and designated premise supervisor Steven HESELTINE who stated that he was not at the pub at the time of the incident and was only made aware by his wife when she rang him.

He has stated that he has managed to repair the damaged bar stools/chairs and has them back in use. He stated that there has been slight damage caused to one of the windows (a little crack) which he said that he has temporarily repaired as the pub is due for a refurb very soon by the brewery and they have informed him that all the windows and doors will be a part of that.

When asked if he was willing to provide a statement he said no and that he was happy that all persons involved are now barred from the pub.

Due to the serious nature of the incident and the crime of violent disorder being committed, CID are leading the investigation.

The investigation is in the early stages and has been frustrated by the delay in reporting the incident and that all the suspects had left prior to police attending the venue.

Also, despite being given names of potential suspects, due to staff refusing to give witness statement whereby they could have identified people involved it has been necessary for the investigating team to carry out further enquires and police tactics so formal identification can be made of the suspects prior to any arrests.

CCTV shows the incident in its entirety and shows that several people involved appear to have injuries. Durham Constabulary have had an incident reported from the NHS of a male suffering

facial injuries (still to be confirmed level of injury) due to being hit in the face with a bar stool. Pub furniture and a glass are used as weapons throughout this incident, and it is sheer good luck that everyone was able to walk away from this and no one was knocked unconscious or even killed.

From the CCTV, the female who appears to be the instigator of the incident is seen wandering behind the bar and it is apparent that she seems familiar with the venue. After the incident she is in conversation with the caller and at no point challenged around why she is behind the bar

When the only member of bar staff goes upstairs to get the wife of the DPS, the people involved in the violence are just left to get on with it and albeit it is only a short period of time they effectively have free reign of the bar and access to further weapons which could have been used.

Due to the seriousness of the incident reported and the contributory factors around the management at the premises there is significant risk to Public Safety and the application for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the licensing Act 2003 is justified as we will be asking for an immediate suspension of the premises licence

Signature of applicant: Caroline Dickenson

Date: 22nd September 2025

Capacity: Licensing Sgt

Contact details for matters concerning this application:

Address: **Durham County Council, Licensing Services**

St Johns Road North, Meadowfield,

DH7 8RS

Telephone number(s): 0191 3752351

Email: caroline.dickenson@durham.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

Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises licence

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.

Durham Constabulary
Force HQ
Aykley Heads
DH1 5TT

CERTIFICATE UNDER SECTION 53(a)(B) OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003

I hereby certify that in my opinion of the premise described below are associated with serious both serious crime and serous disorder.

Premises:
Highland Laddie
88 The Green
Darlington
DL1 2DR

Premise licence no: DL15/01056/PRETRA

Name of Premises licence holder: Steven Heseltine

I am a superintendent in Durham Constabulary

I am giving this certificate because I believe the other procedures under the licencing Act 2003 are inappropriate in this case, and that it is proportionate in the circumstance for the following reasons:

There has been an incident involving serious crime and disorder at the premises namely violent disorder at 19:30hrs on Tuesday 16th September 2025. Police officers have attended as an immediate response to THE HIGHLAND LADDIE public house following reports of a fight at the venue.

I am informed the CCTV, it shows an altercation at the venue which quickly escalates, and numerous patrons of the bar become involved. I note as part of this incident, various items including a parasol holder, bar stools and chairs are used as weapons by the people involved in the incident.

The circumstances around this incident bring into serious question the management and running of this premise. It is clear from the cctv footage the only member of bar staff does witness some of the incident but is clearly panicked and does not contact police, instead she leaves the bar unattended to get help from the DPS's wife who is in the living quarters of the pub.

It is a concern that the member of bar staff, caller and DPS will not provide witness statements which could assist the police with identifying those responsible and the refusal to do so has frustrated the ongoing investigation.

There is a clear failure to promote the licensing objectives, in particular the prevention of crime and disorder and public safety.

I have considered a standard review of the premises licence; however, I do not feel this step to be appropriate due to the length of time it take to come before a licensing subcommittee.

I feel a summary review is appropriate at this stage due to the seriousness of the offence and it is felt that immediate steps are necessary to prevent licensable activity being conducted at the premises.

The summary review process would enable the police to seek the removal of the designated premises supervisor and the suspension of the premises licence whilst the criminal investigations are ongoing and to fully determine the suitability of persons involved in the ongoing running of this premise.

Due to seriousness of the incident the case must be put before a licensing committee as soon as possible for measures to be put in place to address the risk this premises poses, and I feel this is the only proportionate action available at the time to prevent any further crime and disorder at the premises.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'N' followed by 'Bickford'. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Dated 22nd September 2025

Print Name Neal Bickford

Title Superintendent

Appendix 4

LICENSING ACT 2003 APPLICATION FOR SUMMARY REVIEW OF PREMISES LICENCE

PREMISES NAME: Highland Laddie

PREMISES ADDRESS: 88 The Green

Haughton
Darlington
DL1 2DR

Notice is hereby given that Darlington Borough Council has received from Durham Constabulary on 22 September 2025, an application for a review of the Premises Licence in respect of the above-named premises.

Grounds of Review

This review has been prompted due to concerns relating to Crime and Disorder objective of the Licensing Act 2003.

This Notice must be displayed on the premises for a minimum of 7 days, commencing from the day after the date the request for review was submitted to the relevant authority, this being Darlington Borough Council, Licensing Section, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT.

Anyone wishing to make representations/comments regarding this review must do so in writing to Darlington Borough Council by;

29 September 2025

Grounds for the review may be inspected at the office stated above or by visiting: www.darlington.gov.uk

It is an offence, knowingly or recklessly, to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine of £20,000 for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence.



Mr Steven Heseltine
The Highland Laddie Public House
88 The Green,
Haughton,
Darlington, DL1 2DR

01325 403137 Phone
Jim.langley@darlington.gov.uk
29 September 2025

Our ref: Our ref Highland Laddie
Review
Your ref: uk
Please ask for: Jim Langley

Dear Mr Heseltine

Application For Summary Review of a Premises Licence
The Highland Laddie, 88 The Green, Haughton, Darlington DL12DR

On the 24 September 2025, Members of the Darlington Borough Council Licensing Committee met to consider an application from Durham Constabulary for a Summary Review of the Highland Laddie Premises Licence on the grounds of serious crime and disorder, which occurred at the premises and which undermines the crime and disorder licensing objectives.

The grounds for convening a Committee for a Summary Review are granted under section 53A to 53C of the Licensing Act 2003, which states, the Chief Officer of police for the area in which the premises are situated may apply to the Licensing Authority for an expedited review of a premises licence where a senior police officer has issued a certificate stating that in his/her opinion the premises are associated with serious crime or serious disorder (or both). On receipt of the application and the certificate, the licensing authority must, within 48 hours of the time of its receipt, consider whether it is necessary to take interim steps pending determination of the review of the premises licence; the authority must, in any event, undertake a review within 28 days after the day of receipt of the application.

On Monday, 22 September 2025, Darlington Borough Council Licensing Department received a certificate signed by Supt Bickford of Durham Police and a statutory application form for a Summary Licence Review under the above legislation. This application related to an incident on the 16 of September 2025 concerning violent disorder within and immediately outside of the Highland Laddie premises involving several people, where a number of assaults took place involving the use of: chairs, glass, and other objects being used as weapons.

At the convened Hearing on the 24 September 2025, which you attended but were unrepresented, Members considered the Report and heard from Colin Dobson the Licensing Manager at Darlington Borough Council and Sgt Dickenson of Durham Police Licensing Department, regarding the above incident. This incident involved serious crime and disorder at the Highland Laddie premises namely violent disorder and several assaults. The members were also shown an altercation at the venue recorded on CCTV which

Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises licence

involved several patrons, who had armed themselves with various items including but not limited to: a parasol holder, bar stools and chairs as weapons

After considering the information provided, the Committee decided with immediate effect that:

- a) The premises licence is suspended

This decision was pursuant to Section 53B of the Licensing Act 2003, and the reason for the decision was on the information presented to the Members who believed this was necessary to promote the licensing objectives of ensuring public safety.

Yours Sincerely



James Langley
Principal Litigation Lawyer

Appendix 6

Lindsay Curle

Dears Sir/Madam

I am writing as a local resident who lives in the village close to Highland Laddie, and I would like to express my concern regarding its recent closure.

The Highland Laddie has always been a friendly, welcoming, and well-run establishment that plays an important role in our community. As someone who lives nearby, I have never experienced any issues with the pub or its regular customers. On the contrary, it has always been a safe and enjoyable place for local people to meet and also enjoy food.

It is disappointing to hear that the closure appears to have resulted from trouble caused by individuals who are not regular patrons. From my experience, the pub itself and its regular customers are not the source of any problems, and it feels unfair that the venue has been penalised in this way.

I hope the council will take into account the positive impact The Highland Laddie has on our community and reconsider its decision. The pub is a much-loved local space, and many of us would like to see it reopen as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Lindsey

Robyn Sowerby

Good Morning,

I am emailing to appeal the closure of the Highland Laddie in Darlington. My family have been going here for years, we have also had many private functions here. The owners and atmosphere have always been warm and welcoming. It would be a massive shame to the regulars and local community for this closure to continue due to one unfortunate event that the establishment had no control over.

Kind Regards,

Robyn Sowerby

Andrew Park

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the decision to close The Highland Laddie pub following a recent incident involving non-regular patrons.

I've been a frequent visitor to The Highland Laddie for over 30 years and have always found it to be a welcoming and safe environment. The landlord, along with his family, runs a tight ship, and the pub is a true hub of the community. It has a friendly atmosphere and is deeply respected by its regulars. In all the years I've been a customer, I have never witnessed a single incident of this magnitude.

Punishing the landlord and the local community by closing the pub will not achieve a positive outcome. It will only serve to drive away loyal customers, who will be forced to find an alternative pub, and it will jeopardise the landlord's livelihood. In a time when pubs are closing at an alarming rate, it seems counterproductive to penalise a well-run establishment that is so vital to its community.

I urge you to reconsider this decision and to resolve the full review as swiftly as possible. The closure of The Highland Laddie, even for a short period, will have a significant and detrimental impact on a beloved local business and its patrons.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Park

Ebony Webb

Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises licence

Good evening!

I hope this email finds you well, I emailing you on this occasion regarding the Highland Laddie, Darlington. I worked in this pub for some time and within this time I can truly say there was absolutely no fighting/violence towards any customer or staff, it's a friendly village pub with some brilliant regulars who make you feel welcome as soon as you pass that day.

The mangement are absolutely fantastic and are really down to earth people, who really have created that fantastic homely feel you get when you go in to the highland laddie. Whether it's for food or drinks. It's absolutely disgraceful, that non regular customers have caused this pub to close effecting the true people that really help create that pub. It's absolutely disgusting.

I hope this matter is resolved quickly.

Ebony webb

Jake Spence

I was shocked to learn that The Highland Laddie had been ordered to shut. We have recently become regulars since our son moved to the area and always found it quiet and friendly

Paul Heseltine

Dear sir/madam

I find this decision very harsh, as in 9 years of running this establishment my son has never had anything like this happen before.

Now Steven and his young family have no income to support themselves and my 9 month old grandson. The people who caused this trouble are the ones you and the police should be penalising.

I've used this pub ever since my son took it over and it's been run by the rules from day one, but it seems the committee and police are just looking for a scapegoat.

This decision not only affects Steven and family but also the staff and the team who every week provide Sunday lunch who will also suffer thanks to a few mindless idiots.

I understand the police know most of the perpetrators of this incident, who should be brought to justice I could understand if this was a town centre pub, but it was a quiet Tuesday night in a lovely family run pub, by a very responsible and lovely couple.

Regards

Paul Heseltine

Janet Stubbs

Good Afternoon, regarding the above we would like to appeal the closing of our local village pub, this is a family run pub, in the 9 years since we have been going to the pub we have never had any issues or trouble , It is this little family business and this could crush their lives especially as the economy at the moment is frightening.

Local person from the pub Jan Stubbs John Allinson and our dog Boris.

Maxine Todd

To whom it may concern

I just wanted to share my concerns about the closure of the Highland laddie for the next few weeks.

I whole heartedly wish this could be reconsidered, this public house as been over many years but more so the past 9 years a place where my family and close friends have regularly dined and drank in, from myself, my children and now my grandchildren.

We do not go far but must always we will use this place as it is so family orientated and close by, the landlord and his wife are the most friendly kind people I have met.

I have never and I mean never in all the many years of going here seen any trouble occur.

I would much rather my children and grandchildren visit here than go else where IE town centre etc.

Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises licence

I can assure you this is most definitely an isolated incident and does not warrant the closure of such a lovely pub and upset such a lovely family, which is not only their home but profession. Again I can only appeal to you to please reconsider the closure of the Highland laddie public house, Darlington.

Kind regards
Maxine Todd

Sarah Hussain

I am deeply disappointed and saddened that the Highland Laddie has been closed. It is a very friendly and welcoming pub ran by very respected Landlord Steven and his wife Nicole. Steven and Nicole welcome all there customers old and new and make people feel at ease and to have a good time. There is never any trouble in the public and the incident was isolated and one off. Me and my partner are regulars and there is never any trouble.

There's trouble in pub's in the town nearly every weekend, you don't shut them down.

The Northern Echo has exaggerated the facts of what had happened.

The Highland Laddie should never have to close and hope a review is made, Steven and Nicole don't deserve this they are very much respected in the community.

From a very unhappy customer.

Ruben Nimmo

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Closure of The Highland Laddie Public House

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent closure of The Highland Laddie, a longstanding and valued public house within our community.

For many years, The Highland Laddie has served not only as a local business but as a vital social hub for residents. It has hosted community events, supported local initiatives, and provided a welcoming space for people to gather and connect. Its closure represents a significant loss to the cultural and social fabric of our neighbourhood.

While I understand that recent disturbances may have influenced this decision, it is important to note that these incidents appear to have been driven primarily by individuals from outside the local area, rather than by members of our community. The vast majority of local patrons have always treated the venue with respect and appreciation, and I believe it would be unfair for the actions of a few outsiders to jeopardize a space that means so much to so many.

I respectfully urge the Council to consider any possible avenues to support the reopening or repurposing of this venue in a way that continues to serve the local community. Whether through heritage protection, business support schemes, or community-led initiatives, I believe there is still hope for preserving what The Highland Laddie represents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and any information you can provide regarding future plans for the site.

Yours faithfully,
Ruben Nimmo

Bill Bailey

The highland laddie is a great pub and has such a great friendly environment from all the locals and the landlords to great place to sit and watch football play pool and even have a pint I've never had any issues in there and this is the first I've heard, this happens in every pub and it's normal for drunken people to break out in fights it shouldn't be held against the landlords and it's certainly not bad management they run that pub amazingly and it's a joke how it's been interpreted on the northern echo dramatising it as always.

Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises licence

Mr Davies and Mrs Davies

Dear licensing

I am writing to you in regard to the incident at Highland Laddie last week.

It is my understanding that during the evening of the incident, a violent brawl took place, resulting in a frightening situation for both staff and customers in the venue.

I am also currently aware that the pub in question is temporarily closed pending investigation. This to me is unfair and perhaps unlawful to the owners and their employees as they are now financially affected due to the actions of others.

My husband and me frequent that pub regularly with our family and friends and can vouch for the owner's warm and friendly service, which is in no way a reflection of the actions of the customers who chose to act in conflict and violence to settle their dispute.

The pub owners have been a pride to the local community and are respected by their regular guests.

I am appalled to hear how they are now affected as a result of this and would appreciate it if my statement could be taken into account in regards to the investigation now pending for the sake of the pub owner's reputation.

I hope this is informative and helpful as you continue to look further into this.

Kind Regards

Mr & Mrs Davies

Thomas Roughan

Good afternoon,

I hope you are doing well.

I am writing to you to express my concern over the decision to ask the Highland Laddie to close pending a licensing review. The Highland Laddie is an asset to our community, it provides a space for people in our neighbourhood to come together and enjoy each-others company.

Its closure would cause significant harm to the community. I urge you to not request it to close, nor to make any changes to its licensing.

Nightlife and pubs are under attack in Britain and we should be acting to protect them, rather than punish them for the actions of individuals whom the management have no control over.

I look forward to hearing that you will allow the Highland Laddie to continue to operate as usual, without any restrictions and that you will continue to support this pub, which is a community asset.

Best regards,

Thomas

Mick Jones

Dear Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing to you about the recent incident at the Highland Laddie, which is currently being investigated. Having been a dedicated patron of this pub for over twenty years, I feel it's important to share my thoughts.

The Highland Laddie has always been a warm and inviting family pub. It's a place where the atmosphere is friendly, and the regulars are some of the nicest people you could meet. The pub has been a cornerstone of our community, providing a safe and enjoyable space for everyone.

The altercation that happened recently is truly unfortunate, but I believe it's crucial to understand that this incident doesn't reflect the true character of the Highland Laddie, its customers, or its staff. Such events are certainly not the norm.

I firmly believe that the Highland Laddie will continue to be a positive and vital part of our community. I hope this isolated incident will be seen in light of the pub's long-standing reputation as a friendly, family-oriented venue.

Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises licence

Thank you for taking the time to read my message.

Best regards,

Mick Jones

Dawn Story

Morning I'm sending this email with regard to licencing review of the Highland Laddie Haughton Village Darlington.

I have personally visited this put for over 47 years. The Highland laddie has always been a family orientated friendly Pub.

My late father was a member of the 5 and 3,s domino team back in the 60,s until his passing 17 years ago.

I have been to many social occasions there

(Christening, Engagements 18ths, Funerals. 21sts Halloween events etc) some of these occasion's small children were in attendance. I have never felt uncomfortable or in any danger there. I would certainly never take vulnerable people to the Highland laddie if I thought it was a threat or a danger to them.

The Highland laddie is a friendly and safe place to socialise and a safe venue for family celebrations.

The incident that occurred on that unfortunate day is definitely not the norm for the Highland laddie.

Kind regards

Dawn Storey

Deborah Baily

Good afternoon

I am writing to appeal the decision to temporarily close the Highland Laddie.

This pub is run by a well respected couple who have the best interest of their locals from the village.

To hear this devastating news regarding strangers who came into the pub and have caused such violence in a family ran establishment and that the couple who run the pub have had to suffer the consequences.

In this day and age shutting them down will have such an impact on them.

Steven and Nicole have been running this pub for years with no incidents.

They have an amazing relationship with their regulars by hosting family events on a regular basis.

I have frequented the pub on Many occasions and have never witnessed any kind of violence only a friendly atmosphere.

I hope this appeal will be looked at and the result end in favour of Steven and Nicole.

Thanks

Deborah Bailey

Lauren Pattison

Hello,

I am writing this letter in relation to the incident which took place in the highland laddie which has unfortunately led to the closure until hearing.

As a regular customer of 15 years, I can safely say the highland laddie is one of the only pubs in Darlington I actually have a positive opinion of. My family have drank in this pub for years as well as myself, and over time we have become friends with all the regulars in the establishment.

I find it truly upsetting that the FAMILY led business is being ostracised and effected by this, the fight which broke out, I have been told off several regulars in at the time, was by an unknown customer (a new face and not at all one who reflects the attitude or atmosphere of the highland laddie) and therefore the outcome should in no way reflect the establishment or its ongoing business.

In the 9 years Steven and his wife have been license holders at the Laddie, I have never once seen a fight, brawl or trouble, simply because they are well respected and liked people. If you were to ask any of their returning customers, they'd all tell you the same.

Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises licence

In the year 2018 we lost my dear step mother, a regular known to all the locals and staff. Steven and Nicole were the FIRST people to offer us as a family their condolences, allowed us to grieve, and offered us a comfortable and a loving pub to share memories and reflect on Jo's time as a valued customer in there. That is the sort of pub it is, a family led, family based pub who treat their customers as not just that but friends too.

Please do not allow the actions of one irresponsible person (who might I add was handled in great time respectfully and calmly) to effect such a well ran pub in the village locale. The Laddie offers many people a great place of comfort and solace, a place where regulars old and new go to socialise and feel safe, a trait reflected in very few pubs across the borough overall, and therefore should be respected and adhered to. Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Lauren Pattison

Samantha Smith

To whom this may concern.

I have seen the Highland laddie has had a minimum 3 week closure put in place due to a incident in September.

I've been to the Highland laddie on Many occasions and never once have I witnessed any trouble or untoward behaviour. It's a really nice pub with a great atmosphere and Steve is great landlord.

I myself work in a pub and you get to know your regulars but in all pubs you also do have non regulars and not familiar faces. It's really sad to see the doors close because of other people's behaviour. None of the locals/regulars would act in this manner and I don't think it's fair on Steve or the regulars to not be able to go to their local because of other people's behaviour. As I mentioned I often go to the Highland laddie and I'm not even from the area. It's that much of a great pub with nice regulars and a great atmosphere that I travel there for a fun night out.

Kind regards Samantha Smith

David Coleman

Sent with mail.com Mail app I want to appeal the closure of the Highland laddie I use the pub regularly in the summer and have never seen 1 bit of trouble

Kevin Donegan and Vicky Donegan

Dear DBC Licensing

We have lived at the side of The Highland Laddie Pub for 38 years as neighbours and have seen publicans come and go.

We have found Steve to be an excellent landlord, always friendly, polite and approachable.

He takes pride in maintaining his property and providing a high standard of service to the local village clientele. In the nine years he's been in charge we can count on the fingers of one hand the number of incidents that have occurred all of which have been dealt with swiftly by Steve and his management team.

Normally we would not have put pen to paper but feel in this instance Steve justifies our support and hope the current situation can be quickly resolved to all interested parties satisfaction

Kind regards

Kevin and Vicky

Tracy Liddle

Good afternoon,

I'm emailing you regarding the proposed closure of the Highland Laddie pub in Haughton village, Darlington,

Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises licence

We have lived locally in the area for over 20 years, and over the past 9 years when Mr Heseltine has become landlord, we have become regulars visiting the pub, we have had many family parties held there over the years, with absolutely no issues whatsoever, we consider the place to be more than a "pub", we are all friends and family there and look out for one another, Mr Heseltine is a fantastic landlord, we consider him and his wife and family our friends too, they are a huge part of our community and we feel it would be a great shame if a one of incident, with non regulars, are to cause the place to be temporarily closed, Not to mention that Mr Heseltine has a family to support, this is his livelihood, and also that of his staff, Kind regards
Tracy Liddle

David Liddle

Good evening,
I'm emailing you regarding the closure of the Highland Laddie Pub, Haughton, Darlington.
As a regular visitor along with my family on many occasion, I am contacting you to reconsider the closure, or at least look into reducing the time,
For many years I have visited the pub, which is far more than that, it's the heart of the community, I consider the landlord Steven Heseltine and his wife as good friends over the years,
It doesn't seem fair that their livelihood and the wellbeing of a lot of people should suffer due to the stupid and dangerous actions of strangers who don't ever venture into the pub,
I'm hoping this email will be received with the intention intended.
Regards,
David Liddle

Ps,
In addition to my previous email,
I would also like to point out that there are at least 10 pubs and restaurants a day closing down, another small business cannot afford to be without any income for 3 weeks without any knock on effect.
Regards
David Liddle

Gary Wilson

To whom it may concern
I wish to convey my disappointment in hearing about the closure of my local the highland laddie.
I have visited these premises for numerous years, not only for the last 9 years of the current landlord been here but many many more and I must stress how Steven heseltine and his wife Nicole are by far the best landlords I have known.
They do alot for charity work in many areas and run a family run pub with great responsibility and care.
I am in total shock at the way they are been treated over a one time isolated issue.
As I stated previous I have been a regular for many years and live locally as do my family and close friends and none of us have seen anything happening this before.
My children and grandad visit regularly for food and have always and will continue to feel safe in them doing so.
Losing this pub would be a great loss to the community.
Kind regards
Gary wilson

Andrew Webster

Good Afternoon,

This email is regarding the closure of the highland Laddie in Darlington I would like to say I think is a unfair decision for numerous reasons firstly this will have a detrimental effect on the owner his wife and their child as this is their lively hood.

Secondly my self and my husband have been regulars of this pub and I can say their is very rarely and trouble it is a close knit community of regular clientele and because of a incident which involved non regulars this is a very unfair decision which does not make no sense whatsoever.

The incident was reported instantly to the police and the people were removed.

Thank you.

Nathan Fookes

Formal Representation Opposing Suspension of Premises Licence – The Highland Laddie, Darlington

Dear Chair and Members of the Licensing Committee,

I write as a local proprietor and a long-standing member of the Darlington community to register my firm objection to the continued suspension/closure of The Highland Laddie public house ("the Premises"). I know the landlords, Steven and Nicole Heseltine, personally and professionally. They are responsible operators who have worked tirelessly over the past nine years to run a safe, welcoming, and truly community-focused venue.

I fully support the Licensing Objectives, particularly the prevention of crime and disorder and public safety. However, the current sanction is disproportionate to the overall track record of the Premises and the operators' good character. The Licensing Act 2003 and its statutory guidance emphasise tailored, proportionate measures that address specific risks without imposing unnecessary burdens. In practical terms, this means conditions and targeted improvements should be preferred to blanket suspension where operators are willing and able to comply—which Steven demonstrably is.

Suspension is not an abstract penalty—it directly removes the family's sole trading income. As you will be aware, public houses operate on tight margins. Removing trade, even for a short period, triggers immediate and cascading financial hardship:

- Fixed overheads continue: rent/mortgage, utilities (already elevated), insurance, business rates, waste services, music licensing, maintenance contracts.
- Finance obligations: equipment leases, cellar/gas contracts, supplier credit terms fall due irrespective of turnover.
- Employment costs: staff lose hours and income immediately; reinstating a team after a closure is difficult and costly.
- Perishable stock: write-offs represent sunk losses; returning to trade requires fresh cash to re-stock.
- Creditworthiness: a forced closure harms relationships with suppliers and lenders, pushing up costs or restricting access to essential credit lines.

For a small, owner-operated pub, even a short interruption can create arrears that take months (or never) to recover. In today's environment, a suspension can become an existential threat to a lawful livelihood for a couple who are simply trying to make a living and support local jobs.

The Committee will know that hospitality businesses—especially independent pubs—are experiencing sustained cost pressures and reduced consumer spending. Pubs are closing in significant numbers nationally. Independent operators in towns like ours face rising wage costs, national insurance, energy, Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises licence

insurance, and supply prices. In short: this sector is fragile. Imposing a closure on a compliant, community venue multiplies that fragility. The loss of a pub like The Highland Laddie weakens local trade, removes a social hub, and harms the night-time economy.

What cannot be overstated is the real role The Highland Laddie plays in Darlington. Over nine years, Steven and Nicole have built more than a business: they have built a community. The pub is a place where friendships are formed, families gather, and local causes are supported. It is a safe, friendly environment where everyone is welcome. It is not a rowdy late-night hotspot, but a trusted local hub that has earned its reputation through years of consistent, responsible management.

- It is a friendly, well-run establishment that welcomes families and regulars alike.
- It is a contributor to local causes and community life, regularly hosting events that bring neighbours together.
- It has become a trusted, reliable space where residents feel comfortable and safe.
- Steven and Nicole take pride in their premises, act quickly when issues arise, and have always shown their willingness to cooperate with authorities.

This is a pub with deep roots and a positive nine-year track record—qualities that cannot be ignored. One isolated incident, however regrettable, should not outweigh years of good work and dedication. To allow closure in these circumstances feels less like proportionate enforcement and more like the Council unfairly “having it in” for the operators, which risks undermining public confidence in the fairness of the licensing process.

For the reasons set out above, I respectfully urge the Committee to lift the suspension and reinstate the Premises Licence for The Highland Laddie with any proportionate conditions you consider appropriate. This approach will protect the public, support local employment, and uphold the principle that sanctions should be tailored to risk—not punitive beyond necessity.

I would be pleased to provide any further information or to attend a hearing to expand on this representation.

Yours Faithfully,
Mr Nathan Fooks
Everything AV Group N.E
Director

Mr Wilson and Mrs Wilson

Dear Sir /Madam

I would just like to add a few words to support the Highland Laddie, public house.

Myself and my husband have on many occasions spent happy times in the Laddie, we have never experienced any fights, only a welcome from the regular patrons and Steve and Nicole

We have been invited to many occasions, we had our late mams funeral in their function room and also baby shower and birthday events and hen party, if we ever thought that there would be a chance of trouble or we thought that it was not a friendly safe place to be , we would never invite our family and friends.

I have seen first hand that customers are treated with respect, by the team

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It is sad to see it closed even if for a short time, there will be so many members of the community young and old missing a warm caring welcome because of people who can not behave themselves.

Kind regards

Mrs and Mr Wilson

Stuart Heseltine

To whom it concerns

RE: Highland Laddie Closure

This decision is ludicrous, to close a family run family friendly pub because of some randoms looking for trouble is a disgrace. Steve is not only my nephew but a bloody good landlord. I have drank in here for years. Steve has got a regular customer base which is the friendliest bunch of people you could ever meet. My wife worked for Steve for a few years in the laddie and loved it, the customers were always courteous and was loved by them all. Please reconsider your decision to this Closure and let us all get back together and support our local.

Stuart Heseltine..

Bethany Reynoldson

Dear Darlington Licensing Government,

I am writing to express my support for The Highland Laddie, which has been a well-respected and valued part of our community for the past nine years. Managed by Steven and Nicole Heseltine, this pub has consistently provided a safe, welcoming, and friendly environment for both local regulars and new visitors alike.

Over the years, The Highland Laddie has built a strong reputation as a cornerstone of the village – a place where people gather not just for a drink, but for community, conversation, and comfort. The staff are attentive, professional, and have always taken the responsibility of running a public house seriously, with a clear commitment to safety and hospitality.

It's extremely unfortunate that a recent isolated incident, involving individuals unfamiliar to the pub and its regular patrons, has led to such serious consequences. As someone who knows the character and atmosphere of The Highland Laddie well, I can confidently say that what occurred does not reflect the culture or values that this establishment upholds.

I sincerely hope that this matter is reviewed with full context in mind. Closing a longstanding, responsible business over the actions of a few individuals would be a great loss to our community.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if any further comment or support is needed. Thank you for taking the time to consider this email.

Kind regards,

Bethany Reynoldson

Andrew Challis

To whom it may concern

As a regular in the Highland Laddie Haughton Green Darlington I'd like to express my dismay in the temporary closure. Although evidently there was a recent incident, personally I can't remember any other incident in the time that the current landlord has had the premises and I have been present for large periods since the start of his tenure. Not only is it a well run and vibrant pub, it provides jobs for
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local people in terms of bar staff and also the kitchen which on a Sunday is very popular . It also caters for people's needs when holding functions and it's sad that one incident has led to the temporary closure . Sure there are incidents in and around many of the pubs in the borough of Darlington (which won't of been subjected to closure)when certain people may have a disagreement and alcohol is concerned but this seems very rash and will upset the usually well behaved regulars of the pub not to mention affecting the livelihood of the landlord and his family including young children , who work hard to provide an enjoyable environment and also put food on the table for his family. I hope many people voice their discontent and normal service can be resumed asap !

Kind regards

Andrew Challis

Kevin Johnstone

Afternoon,

Firstly, I would like to stress my disappointment at your decision to close the Highland Laddie as one of the regulars who Drink in the pub, Although I wasn't present that evening all I can give you is my validated opinion on the establishment. This pub is the heart and soul of Haughton Village and loved by all the regular local drinkers,

Unfortunately that evening some non-regular drinkers cause some trouble in there as I am told it's fair to say in my nine years of knowing Steve and Nicole I have never witnessed or never seen any antisocial behaviour in that pub.

This was simply just a one off caused by some individuals who I'm told were looking for trouble. My sheer disappointment is the fact that one incident in nine years has led to the closure of the pub for so many weeks and a review of the license. Absolutely outrageous decision as I'm quite often in the town centre the amount of fights and trouble and antisocial behaviour that happens on a regular basis in the town centre pubs goes unnoticed.

I hope this is not the case, but it seems to me as if the Laddie has been made out to be an Escape goat and bullied into these outrageous decisions.

Like all locals and regulars of Haughton Village We sincerely hope That you make the correct decision to uplift the closure of the pub and to let Steve and Nicole get back to work and for us to get back into our loving And friendly pub.

Kind regards Kevin.

Paul Gregg

I am writing as a regular customer of The Highland Laddie Stockton Road Darlington to express my concern and surprise at the decision to enforce its closure.

The landlord, Steven Heseltine, has been in charge for 9 years and he, along with his wife, Nicole and their staff run a friendly and welcoming pub. I visit the pub several times a week and have never witnessed any violence or disorder. I, along with the many other regulars, have never felt anything other than welcomed and safe.

This closure not only affects Steve and his family but a small business that employs others including bar staff, cleaners and kitchen staff who are now unable to work and I believe this, along with the previous good record of the establishment and management should be taken into consideration when reviewing this decision.

Thank you.

Paul Gregg

Tania Jackson

Hello

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It's Tania I am a local at this pub on most weekend and I have not seen one bit of bother in this pub, Steve and Nicole are very well family run pub! They put their heart out to make this place a happy and amazing atmosphere to the locals. So I am very saddened that they have had to close for 3 weeks when this never ever happens especially when it was not there locals who started.

3 weeks of earning lost right on top of Christmas. I totally disagree and i definitely appeal. There's good food we are all good customers and this shouldn't of affected them with people who never come into the pub

Thanks

Tania

Karen Fuller and Jason Fuller

Good Morning,

I am writing to appeal the Decision to temporarily close the Highland Laddie Darlington.

This pub is a Family ran pub with the most respectful couple running it, the fact that you have chose to close this amazing little pub is a travesty, the affect this will have on a small business is huge.

Steven and Nicole have been running this pub for many years with no trouble at their door.

They hosted my 50th Birthday back in 2021 and we have been to many family events in this pub including Christmas Lunch and family Parties.

The pub is frequented by local regulars who all respect and have time for each other.

The fact that non regulars came in and caused this trouble which has now turned into this closure is devastating for the family.

I hope this decision is overturned as this family does not deserve this worry.

Thank you

Karen & Jason Fuller

Nichole Heseltine

To whom this may concern,

I am emailing in regards to the temporary closure of The Highland Laddie Darlington.

My name is Nicole Heseltine and I am the landlord/DPS wife.

I would like to express how this incident was a very rare occasion. We are a very quiet neighbourhood pub, usually filled with a regular friendly and sensible clientele from the local area. We have been running this pub for 9 years in December, and from your police records you would be able to see that any disturbances are at a very minimum.

On this occasion a fight has broken out started by one of our regulars. It can be seen there has been some history between her and the non regulars that entered on this night. I will agree that's the bar staff did not act in a timely manner nor call the police immediately which we also know should have happened. Regardless of it being a regular I made sure I gave all names of those involved, whose names I was aware of. One of those being the starter of the fight. I also gave a description of the clothes those named were wearing to assist. I am fully supportive of the police and their role in the community, knowing they are there to keep everyone safe and therefore wanted to help with the ongoing investigation in any way I could- feeling we have a responsibility to do so with the roles we play at The Highland Laddie.

When I came downstairs I wanted to remove the non regulars from the business as fast as possible before ringing the police to prevent any further fighting from breaking out which I believe it could have. This is why I chose to get them out and secure the doors before making this call.

Since this all staff have been trained and informed on protocol if any altercations look like they may break out, to not serve any alcohol and to ask them to leave, if they refuse and bar staff, myself or DPS cannot defuse the situation the police should be called. If a fight was to break out again police would be called immediately by staff. All staff understand this fully.

With regards to the bar staff not calling the police immediately she had panicked. In a moment when the fighting had broke out she has reacted with fight or flight, and chose flight. A natural body reaction. When hiring Gemma we found her to be an ideal barmaid, she has always been a great barmaid, friendly with regulars, forthcoming enough to speak her mind and tell customers when they are being disrespectful and to keep them in their places and keep order in the pub. On this occasion Gemma has panicked and ultimately caused a delay in the police phone call. After watching the cctv you will see that the situation has been very distressing and she has done the next best thing and got help elsewhere. Gemma, along with all other bar staff are under full understanding to call police immediately if fighting is to occur again. Gemma does suffer with anxiety and therefore was not with-holding information when asked to provide a statement she simply was blurred about what happened and did not feel her account would be very helpful. Gemma was also worried that those involved would come after her if she made a statement. This again due to her anxiety. We cannot penalise Gemma for her anxiety, she is an all round great bar maid, liked and respected by many. On this occasions she made a misjudgement which has cost us dearly. We are respected members of our local area, and run the pub to a high standard. We respect our neighbouring community by keeping music to a low volume, ensuring those entering and exiting the building do so in a quiet respectful manor. We have always adhered to the laws of the pub trade. I myself, work in the local primary school RedHall as a SEMH teaching assistant. I am passionate about my role within the school and show these qualities within the pub too. I understand the importance of following the rules, adhering to professional advice and multiagency working therefore myself and Steven are completely open to taking on board recommendations for improvement in order to be able to open again- hopefully as soon as possible.

Myself and Steven are very family oriented and unlike some landlords and landladies we do not often drink alcohol in the pub but treat it as a professional business. We have a family and the pub is our main income and provides us our stable home. Steven and I have a 9month old baby and Steven has another 4 children and 1 granddaughter who we provide for, this coming from the wages he is paid from the pub. A wage Steven is now not getting while we are closed. I am currently in my 9th month of maternity, therefore my maternity wage is basically non existent and will be £0 for the next 3 months as I am returning after 1 year. Being closed now means I may have to return to work early to be able to help with bills that would have been covered had the pub still been trading.

I am in agreement that logs need to be made in the pub regarding all refusals, this being no ID, underage, already intoxicated and many other reasons. We also should have logs for any incidents that occur, whether it be minor where no police assistance is needed and those in which involvement of the police is needed. This is something we are willing to keep in place and on top of. Doing so will keep standards high with all staff and expectations of what to do in these situations fresh in the mind. These logs will be checked frequently and signed by Steven the DPS. It is a downfall on our behalf that these weren't kept before this incident- it is a shame that it has taken such an incident like this to happen for us to realise. I can only apologise for this.

All staff training and refreshers have also began taking place, reminding of procedures relating to refusal, incidents, drug misuse, challenge 25, music levels and others. We completely understand the importance of this in order to keep the public safe when in The Highland Laddie.

I would really appreciate you taking these factors into consideration.

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Thankyou,
Nicole Heseltine

Mr Roberts and Mrs Roberts

To whom it may concern.

We are very sad to learn of the temporary closing of The Highland Laddie.

We only recently (May 2025) started to frequent. We were made to feel so welcome by staff and patrons. Everyone is friendly and gets along. We have never witnessed any trouble whatsoever.

Hope this can be resolved easily and quickly.

Mr and Mrs Roberts.

Coleen Johnson

To whom this may concern.

I am writing this email in regard to the temporary closure of the pub.

I would like to appeal this decision, I have been a local for 10+ years now living in the local area and all the time i have been visiting the pub there has been no trouble. If any minor incidents have ever happened the bar staff and Steven have always sorted it out promptly, swiftly and professionally. I have never felt unsafe in this pub as a middle age woman.

I used to work in this pub under Steven and also never felt unsafe, the customers have always been respectful of the staff and property. This is the first time something of this seriousness has happened which is a real shame that the pub has been closed due to this.

Steven and Nicole run this pub very professionally always making sure all customers are happy, comfortable and feeling safe. 99% of the time when we frequent the pub Steven is often around making sure all is well in the pub, when he is not it is clear the bar staff have a good handle on the pub. The bar staff are well respected by the customers.

Please take these comments into consideration when making decisions regarding the Highland Laddie future.

Thankyou

Coleen Johnson

John Langley

Good Afternoon,

We are writing in support of appealing against the closure of the above premises. We have been in The Highland Laddie on many an occasion and have always found it a warm and friendly atmosphere. Also always found the staff friendly and helpful. Reading the details in the media of what happened it seems the situation was out of the staffs/manager's control, which it often is when a fight breaks out in a pub so closing the place to people who like to go there, and taking away someone's livelihood through a situation out of their control, seems quite harsh and an excessive response. Fights break out in pubs all the time but they don't get closed down.

We would ask that you to read the article in The Northern Echo of 31st May 2021 because that is the real spirit of The Highland Laddie, the manager and the locals who go there - taking part in community events in memory of local people and raising money for the local hospital.

Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises licence

Thank you

Mike

Hi ,

As a local business operating in the area and neighbour to the Highland laddie in Haughton Village. I would like to say how i am shocked and appalled at the treatment of Steven and Nicole Heseltine. This is not a venue with a history of problems. It's one with nine years of consistent, positive operation — something that should carry meaningful weight. One unfortunate incident, no matter how serious, should not erase nearly a decade of responsible management and service to the community.

To impose closure under these circumstances feels not like measured enforcement, but rather an overly harsh response that could undermine public trust in the licensing system. It gives the impression that the Council is unfairly targeting the operators, which I sincerely hope is not the case.

I respectfully urge the Committee to reconsider the current suspension and work constructively with the operators to implement any reasonable improvements that may be necessary—without resorting to actions that could permanently close the doors on a valued local institution. Never mind the jobs the venue has provided in the local community.

As the Committee is well aware, the hospitality sector—particularly independent public houses—is under immense pressure. Operators are contending with rising wages, higher National Insurance contributions, surging energy and insurance costs, and declining footfall. The sector is fragile, and when a local pub is closed—especially one that operates responsibly—it adds more strain to an already vulnerable ecosystem. Losing a venue like The Highland Laddie doesn't just impact its owners; it affects local trade, removes a vital community asset, and erodes the night-time economy

I fully endorse the licensing objectives, particularly those concerning the prevention of crime and disorder, as well as public safety. However, I believe the current measure imposed on the premises is excessive, especially when considered against its solid track record and the commendable character of its operators. The Licensing Act 2003 and its accompanying guidance call for proportionate, risk-focused responses. In situations like this—where the operators have clearly demonstrated a willingness and ability to meet their obligations—targeted conditions should be favoured over sweeping suspensions.

Regards, Mike
The Phase One Team

Terry Glasper

Would just like to put a statement out with regards to the future closing of the premises due to an incident..i have always used the laddie and found the atmosphere and its customers so welcoming and fun ..nothing but good times a day friendly with no incidents occurring normally...

Leanne Pattison

Hello,

I'm writing to give my opinion on the matter revolving the Highland Laddie pub in Darlington. I am a long time customer of over ten years and I am deeply upset about the matter at hand. Steven and Nicole are fantastic license holders and are always very welcoming and forthcoming for all custom, and I find it a shame that one bad experience has been used to tarnish the reputation of the pub. Personally, for me and my family, we have never seen any commotion or issue that could not be handled calmly and in a

respectable manner within the pub, and therefore find it such a shame to know one person could possibly ruin that for all.

Please do not allow the behaviours of the individual to effect the license or running of such a lovely pub, where I've only ever known people to feel at ease and safe. I have visited several pubs within Darlington over the years that have continuously had troublesome custom and they have never had this issue, I find it hard to understand how this can be the case for Steven and Nicole after just one incident that was, by all accounts, handled with grace.

Kind regards,
Leanne.

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

Date of Notification: 1 October 2025

Type of Hearing: Application for a Premises Licence Review

Premises: Highland Laddie
88 The Green
Haughton
DARLINGTON
DL1 2DR

Hearing Details: 09.30 on Thursday, 16 October 2025

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

Copy of notice sent to: Steven Heseltine (Premise Licence Holder)
Durham Constabulary (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 to the Licensing Section **no later than 13 October 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 comment 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 at the end of the hearing, although this may take some time.



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

**NOTICE OF ATTENDANCE
APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE REVIEW**

Please complete the following notice in block capitals and return to the address detailed below:

DATE OF HEARING: Thursday 16 October 2025 at 09.30
NAME OF PREMISES: Highland Laddie
88 The Green
Haughton
DARLINGTON DL1 2DR

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 brian.murray@darlington.gov.uk and licensing@darlington.gov.uk

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEES

**FULL HEARING PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 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 Representor's Case**

NB: Where representations come from "Other Persons", i.e local residents or businesses or representatives of such groups, 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 Representor or his/her representative will give their reasons for objecting to the application.
- [2] The Representor or his/her representative will then call any witnesses and/or give reasons for their objection.
- [3] The Applicant or his/her representative may then question the Representor [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 Objector and any witness.

If several objections have been received and the Representors have not agreed to present their objection jointly, this procedure will normally be repeated for each individual Representor.

3. **The Applicant's Case**

- [1] The Applicant or his/her representative presents his/her application for a licence.
- [2] The Applicant or his/her representative will then call any witnesses and/or give evidence in support of his/her application.
- [3] The Representor(s) may then question the Applicant 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 Applicant and any witnesses.
- [5] The Applicant or his/her representative will then be given a final opportunity of asking any further questions of any witnesses to clear up any points raised in the earlier questioning.

4. The Applicant will be asked by the Chair of the Sub Committee whether, in the light of the information heard in relation to the application, they wish to amend the application, as when they retire, Members will consider only the information before them at that time.

If the Applicant wishes to amend the application or indicates that they are prepared for Members to consider an amended application if they are minded to refuse the original application, the Objectors will be given the opportunity to comment on the amended application.

5. **Closing Statement or Summary**

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

6. **Conclusion**

All decisions will be made in private.

If Members, when considering the application, are minded to grant on a different basis than that requested, the Applicant, the Responsible Authorities and Interested Parties will be asked for their views, which will be taken into consideration.

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

If the Licensing Sub-Committee has excluded the public, once a decision has been reached, the press and public will be re-admitted to the meeting together with the Applicant, 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 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.

**EXTRACTS FROM DARLINGTON COUNCIL'S LICENSING POLICY
(Effective FROM 01 January 2021)**

1.2 The Licensing Act 2003 supports a number of other key aims and purposes.

These include:

- a) Providing the Police and the Council with powers to effectively manage and police the night-time economy and take action against any premises that are causing problems.
- b) Protecting local residents and visitors to Darlington from crime, anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance caused by irresponsible licensed premises.
- c) Recognising the important role which pubs and other licensed premises play in the local economy by reducing, where possible the regulatory burden on businesses and supporting responsible premises.
- d) Providing a regulatory framework for alcohol which enables the Council to make and enforce appropriate decisions about the most appropriate licensing strategies for the borough of Darlington; and
- e) Encouraging greater involvement in licensing decisions by local residents the opportunity in respect of licensing decisions which may affect them.

1.3 In addition this Policy also aims to:

- promote more responsible attitudes to alcohol and responsible drinking.
- raise awareness of the level of alcohol related health problems.
- protect children and residents from the negative impact of alcohol.
- reduce the rate of alcohol related crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- promote a responsible licensed trade.

6.0 PREMISES LICENCES AND CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATES

NB This Policy concentrates on premises that provide multiple licensable activities. Further information is provided at Section 12.7 - 12.8 in respect of premises to which many parts of this Policy do not fully apply.

In many cases it may be helpful to all concerned for applicants and/or their advisers to discuss with Licensing Authority Officers the draft-operating schedule before it is formally submitted. This will help to ensure it properly addresses all issues of concern to the Licensing Authority (see glossary of terms in respect of "grandfather rights" for current licensees).

6.1 Policy: Applicants for Premises Licences will be expected to address the licensing objectives. It may assist to consider Local Crime Prevention Strategies, Planning and Transportation Policies and Tourism and Cultural Strategies when determining their operating schedule.

The Licensing Authority will expect the operating schedule to have regard to the nature of the area in which the premises are located, the type of premises, the licensable activities to be provided, the hours of operation, impact on the locality and the needs of the local community.

In this respect the Licensing Authority will expect the applicant to demonstrate how the premises will be a “good neighbour” both to residents and other venues and businesses. The applicant will be required to demonstrate that he/she has satisfactorily addressed each of the licensing objectives as part of any application to vary the operation of the premises.

Reason: To comply with the legislative requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.

7.0 THE IMPACT OF LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES

7.1 Policy: When considering whether a licensable activity should be approved the Licensing Authority will, if relevant representations are received, assess the likelihood of it contributing to unacceptable, adverse impact in terms of crime and disorder and public nuisance, in particular to local residents and businesses.

Applicants should therefore consider the following when making an application:

- a) The proposed hours and days of operation and how often an activity occurs.**
- b) The location of the premises, particularly in relation to residential properties and such places as hospitals, hospices and places of worship.**
- c) The number and type of current and future customers.**
- d) The means of access and egress to the premises which should have public access on principal pedestrian routes.**
- e) The availability of public transport for patrons arriving at and leaving the premises compared to the anticipated level of private transport usage.**
- f) The likely effect of car parking demand on both principal roads and residential streets and the impact this may have on local residents and emergency access.**
- g) The need for provision of portable toilet facilities outside of the premises.**
- h) The cumulative impact of licensed premises within the area and the scope for mitigating such impact.**
- i) Waste disposal arrangements including bin storage and the collection and containment of litter from the vicinity of the premises.**
- j) Public nuisance caused by unauthorised advertising and fly-posting**

and, in considering any application from premises which are currently licensed, the Licensing Authority will, if relevant representations are received, take into account any evidence of:

- k) Past demonstrable adverse impact from the activity, particularly on local residents and businesses; or**
- l) If adverse impact has been caused, that appropriate measures have been agreed and put into place to address any future adverse impact. If measures are to be put into effect or**

alternatively if there has been insufficient time to assess their usefulness a licence may be granted for a limited period only.

7.2 Reason: To achieve the licensing objective of preventing public nuisance. To promote this objective the Licensing Authority, in considering the likelihood of adverse impact, will take into account, among other matters:

- The precise nature of the activity, particularly in terms of entertainment, as this may impact in terms of the age of patrons and their behaviour.
- Noise levels and type of noise, which may be acceptable during daytime hours but may have greater impact at times when ambient noise levels are much lower.
- The impact of patrons arriving, queuing and exiting which should take place on main pedestrian routes rather than through residential areas.
- The impact of other sources of nuisance from smells, smoke, refuse storage, vermin and other similar causes of nuisance.

NB Where steps can be taken to mitigate adverse impact and such steps are reliable, practical and robust then an activity may be licensed.

7.3 Additional Information:

The Licensing Authority will focus on matters within the control of the individual licensee and the steps they can take to achieve the licensing objectives.

In making its decisions the Licensing Authority accepts the difficulties that licence holders face in preventing anti-social behaviour once patrons are beyond the direct control of the licensee. However, the licensing objective of preventing public nuisance will not be achieved if patrons from licensed premises regularly behave in an anti-social way which impacts on local residents and/or businesses.

The Licensing Authority recognises a the Council's responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do all it can to prevent crime and disorder. The aim of this Policy therefore is to achieve a balanced approach to these difficult issues.

11.3 Steps to be taken by Licensees to Address Crime and Disorder Issues

Policy: The Licensing Authority will expect the applicant to indicate in his operating schedule the steps proposed to prevent crime and disorder on and in the vicinity of their premises and/or events

Reason: Prevention of crime and disorder is both an objective of the Licensing Act 2003 and a responsibility of the Licensing Authority under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is important, therefore, that the applicant be able to demonstrate to the Licensing Authority the practical steps that will be taken to further this objective in the operating schedule. The factors that impact on crime and disorder may include:

- a) Underage drinking.
- b) Drunkenness on premises.

- c) Public drunkenness.
- d) Drugs.
- e) Violent behaviour.
- f) Anti-social behaviour.

11.3 The following examples of control measures are given to assist applicants who may need to take account of them in their operating schedule, having regard to their particular type of premises and/or activities:

- a) Effective and responsible management of premises.
- b) Training and supervision of staff.
- c) Adoption of best practice guidance (eg Safer Clubbing, the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Toolkit and other Voluntary Codes of Practice, including those relating to drinks promotions eg The Point of Sale Promotions published by BBPA, Security in Design published by BBPA and Drugs and Pubs, published by BBPA).
- d) Acceptance of accredited means of age identification eg DVLA photo driving licence or 'proof of age' cards.
- e) Provision of effective digital CCTV in and around premises.
- f) Employment of Security Industry Authority licensed door-staff.
- g) Provision of plastic or shatter resistant glasses.
- h) Provision of secure, deposit boxes for confiscated items.
- i) Procedures for assessing risk associated with promotions and events such as "happy hours" for the potential to cause crime and disorder and plans for minimising such risks.
- j) Measures to prevent the use or supply of illegal drugs.
- k) Employment of licensed door supervisors and other appropriately trained staff.
- l) Installation of non-retrievable bottle bins at exits and ensuring that patrons do not leave with bottles or glasses (on licence sales).
- m) Provision of litterbins and other security measures, such as lighting, outside premises.
- n) Membership of Darlington 'PubWatch' scheme.

11.4 The Licensing Authority will expect the operating plan to include a risk assessment into the use of door-staff, in terms of the actual need for such a service and also the ratio of such personnel to patrons based on capacity of the premises.

11.5 Policy: The Licensing Authority will normally require a Personal Licence holder to be on the premises at all times when alcohol is being sold.

Reason: It is important that there is an accountable, responsible person present at all times when alcohol is being sold. This is to ensure that alcohol is not sold to persons who have had too much to drink and to ensure that alcohol is only sold to persons over the age of 18 years. In terms of crime and disorder, there is

a need for an identified person with whom the Licensing Authority and Police can discuss any problems/issues arising from the licensable activities offered on the premises.

Section 182 Guidance for Summary Reviews

Application for summary review

12.3 Section 53A of the 2003 Act sets out who may apply for an expedited review and the circumstances in which it can be used. The application is made by, or on behalf of, the chief officer of police and must be made in the form which is set out in Schedule 8A to the Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/42).

12.4 The completed application must be accompanied by a certificate issued by a senior officer of the rank of superintendent or above. The certificate is a formal note which identifies the licensed premises and includes a signed statement by the senior officer that in his/her opinion the premises are associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both. This form is not prescribed in legislation. However, a sample form which forces may wish to adopt is published on GOV.UK.

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 conducted 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.

12.7 In deciding whether to sign a certificate, the senior officer should consider the following (as applicable):

- The track record of the licensed premises concerned and whether the police have previously had cause to give advice about serious criminal or disorderly conduct (or the likelihood of such conduct) attributable to activities taking place on the premises. It is not expected that this power will be used as a first response to a problem and summary reviews triggered by a single incident are likely to be the exception.
- The nature of the likely crime and/or disorder – is the potential incident sufficiently serious to warrant using this power?
- Should an alternative power be deployed? Is the incident sufficiently serious to warrant use of the powers in Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, or section 38 of and Schedule 6 to the Immigration Act 2016, to close the premises? Or could the police trigger a standard licence review to address the problem? Alternatively, could expedited reviews be used in conjunction with other powers (for example, modifying licence conditions following the use of a closure power)?
- What added value will use of the expedited process bring? How would any interim steps that the licensing authority might take effectively address the problem?

12.8 It is recommended that these points are addressed in the chief officer's application to the licensing authority. In particular, it is important to explain why other powers or actions are not considered to be appropriate. It is up to the police to decide whether to include this information in the certificate or in section 4 of the application for summary review. The police will also have an opportunity later to make representations in relation to the full review. In appropriate circumstances the police might want to make representations to the licensing authority suggesting that they modify the conditions of the premises licence to require searches of customers for offensive weapons upon entry. Under the powers in sections 53A to 53D, this could be done on an interim basis pending a full hearing of the issues within the prescribed 28-day time frame or for an appropriate period determined by the licensing authority.

12.9 Similarly, the power could, where appropriate, be used to reduce the risk of injury caused by glass by requiring the adoption of a safer alternative (but see paragraphs 12.15 and 12.16 below). However, it should always be borne in mind that the aim of the powers is to provide a selective tool, to be used proportionately. The licensing authority and interim steps pending the review

12.10 Within 48 hours of receipt of the chief officer's application, the licensing authority must give the premises licence holder and responsible authorities a notice of the review and should include a copy of the application for review and a copy of the certificate, and must also consider whether it is necessary to take interim steps (place temporary conditions on the licence). When calculating the 48 hour period any non-working day can be disregarded.

12.11 The licensing authority may want to consult the police about the steps that it thinks are necessary, pending the determination of the review, to address the immediate problems with the premises, in particular the likelihood of serious crime and/or serious disorder. The licensing authority may consider the interim steps without the holder of the premises licence having been given an opportunity to make representations. This does not, of course, mean that the licensing authority cannot afford such an opportunity if it thinks it appropriate and feasible to do so in all the circumstances.

12.12 The determination of interim steps is not a matter that may be delegated to an officer of the licensing authority. The relevant decisions are likely to be taken by a licensing subcommittee rather than the full committee. It should also be noted that there is no requirement for a formal hearing in order to take interim steps. This means that the relevant subcommittee members can communicate by telephone or other remote means in order to reach a decision. A written record should always be produced as soon as possible after a decision is reached.

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 licenceholder (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.

12.16 In addition, very careful consideration needs to be given to interim steps which would require significant cost or permanent or semi-permanent adjustments to premises which would be difficult to remove if the outcome of the subsequent full review was to withdraw or modify those steps. For example, making structural changes, installing additional CCTV or replacing all glassware with safer alternatives may be valid steps, but might be disproportionate if they are not likely to be deemed necessary following the full review (or any subsequent appeal). The focus for interim steps should be on the immediate measures that are necessary to prevent serious crime or serious disorder occurring.

Making representations against the interim steps

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 or other responsible authority and/or other person asks to withdraw their application or representation (as the case may be). At the review hearing, the licensing authority must consider what steps are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives taking into account the application and any change in circumstances since any interim steps were imposed, consider any relevant representations, and review the interim steps already taken (if any).

12.23 In making its final determination the steps the licensing authority can take are:

- the modification of the conditions of the premises licence;
- the exclusion of a licensable activity from the scope of the licence;
- the removal of the designated premises supervisor from the licence;
- the suspension of the licence for a period not exceeding 3 months; and
- the revocation of the licence.

12.24 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.

12.25 The licensing authority must:

- advertise the review inviting representations from any persons for no less than seven consecutive days, by notice as described in regulation 38 of the Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/42) and, if applicable, on the licensing authority's website (see regulation 38(1)(b) of the above). The relevant notices should be published on the day after the day of receipt of the chief officer's application.
- advertise that any representations which the premises licence holder, responsible authority or any other person want the licensing authority to consider at the review hearing, should be submitted to the licensing authority within 10 working days of the advertisement of the review appearing.
- give formal notice of the hearing no later than five working days before the day or first day on which the hearing is to be held to the premises licence holder and to every responsible authority.

12.26 A party shall give to the licensing authority a notice no later than two working days before the day or the first day on which the hearing is to be held stating –

- whether he intends to attend or be represented at the hearing;
- whether he considers a hearing to be unnecessary.
- whether he would like permission for any other person (other than the person he intends to represent him at the hearing) to appear at the hearing and, if so, explain on which points that person will be able to contribute.

12.27 The regulations relating to hearings are set out in the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/44). They apply to final hearings under the section 53A(2)(b) in a similar way to hearings following closure orders under section 167 of the 2003 Act (it should be emphasised that the truncated version of the hearings regulations described in paragraph 12.18 above applies to interim hearings only). The issues they address include who can make representations and what those representations can be

Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises licence

about. It is therefore possible for responsible authorities or any other persons to make representations in relation to any of the licensing objectives, not just crime and disorder. Similarly, where it is in the public interest, the regulations relating to the exclusion of individuals from hearings, or conducting the hearing in private, will apply.

12.28 The licensing authority must notify its decision and the reasons for making it to:

- the holder of the premises licence;
- any person who made relevant representations; and
- the chief officer of police who made the original application.