
TO **Licensing and Safety Team**

FROM **Charlotte Basten**

REFERENCE: **Oasis Spa**

DATE **9th January 2019**

Re: Redbud London Limited
T/A Oasis Spa, 1 Whites Row, London, E1 7NF

Reference is made to the Special Treatment License for the above premises. Currently the business holds a special treatments licence to carry out massage, acupuncture, tui-na, reflexology and facials. The premises made an application to renew their licence which was received by the council on the 19th December 2018 See **CHB.OS.1** for a copy of the application and supporting documents.

An objection to the renewal of the special treatment licence is being made for the following reasons;

1. On the 15th of November 2018 at Thames Magistrate Court, Redbud (London) Limited pleaded guilty to using Oasis Spa as an establishment for special treatments otherwise than in accordance with the terms, conditions or restrictions to which the licence is held in that treatment was given by a person who was not approved by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (the Council). (See Court Attendance notes in **CHB.OS.2**)
2. The Licensing and Safety team obtained evidence that Oasis Spa was being used as an establishment for special treatments otherwise than in accordance with the terms, conditions or restrictions to which the licence is held by allowing the premises to be used for the purposes of soliciting services of prostitution in breach of Condition 7B of the prescribed standard conditions.
3. An operative from the Surveillance Group visited Oasis Spa on the 27th of March 2018 and requested a deep tissue massage. A therapist of Eastern European origin asked him to undress completely, but he left his underwear on. The therapist complimented him on his physique during the massage and towards the end of the massage started grazing his crotch area. The therapist asked him if he wanted any extras and to turn over and lay on his back for a cost of £40.00. The operative declined these services. Refer to his Witness Statement in **CHB.OS.3**.
4. An online surveillance report prepared by NetWatch Global (refer to **CHB.OS.4**) found that the premises had been advertising on gumtree, with the massage therapists being described as young, attractive and open minded. Other deep web searches located on a punting forum where it was mentioned that a non-Chinese female therapist called "Stephanie" offered services of a sexual nature at Oasis Spa and her prices were £30 for a service called 30 and hand relief for £20; while another therapist who charged £30 for 30, £40 for topless and £30 for hand relief (pages 8-9 of the Netwatch Report).

5. Redbud (London) Limited does not employ any female masseuses that are registered with a professional body approved by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and therefore are not allowed to massage anyone of the opposite sex below the neck and above the knee unless expressly permitted by the Council in writing. The Council has not granted permission to the company to allow therapists to massage members of the opposite sex below the neck and above the knee.
6. These matters have been brought to the courts for prosecution by the council. The summons shows the charges that have been made against the company in relation to the business at the premises of Oasis spa, 1 Whites Row, London, E1 7NF. See Appendix **CHB.OS.5**. The next court hearing is on the 27th of March 2019.
7. The director of the company, Redbud (London) Limited Ltd is Ying Zhou See the list of appointed officers as **CHB.OS.6**. Ms Zhou has been secretary of the company since 2009. Ying Zhou has been director since December 2017. Ms Zhou is the applicant on the special treatment licence renewal application and has also identified herself as the director of the company in Part 4 of the application. (See **CHB.OS.1**). At the time of the test purchase in March 2018, Ying Zhou was listed on the application form as the director of the company. (See **CHB.OS. 7**). Ying Zhou is listed on Companies House as a person with significant control of the company. See **CHB.OS.8**. As the persons concerned in the conduct and management of the premises used for special treatment, Ms Zhou could be reasonably regarded as not being fit and proper persons to hold such a licence. (Section 8c) as they were in control of the business at the time of the test purchase.
8. Under Section 8 of the London Local Authorities Act 1991 the Borough Council may choose not to renew a licence for grounds mentioned in Section 8 (e) which includes premises being improperly conducted and the licence holder not being a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

Charlotte Basten
Environmental Health Officer
Licensing and Safety

List of Appendices

CHB.OS.1 = 2018 Special treatment licence renewal application and supporting documents.
CHB.OS.2= Court Attendance note detailing guilty plea to one of the charges
CHB.OS.3 = Witness Statement detailing test purchase carried out on 27th March 2018.
CHB.OS.4 = Witness Statement detailing information obtained from deep web searches
CHB.OS.5 = Court Summons
CHB.OS.6 = List of Appointed officers on Companies House
CHB.OS.7= 2017 Special Treatment Licence Application form showing Ying Zhou as director
CHB.OS.8= List of persons with significant control of the company on Companies House