

# Licensing Sub Committee



Tuesday, 13 September 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

The Council Chamber, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG

## Supplemental Agenda

This meeting is open to the public to attend.

### Further Information

For further information including Membership of this body and public information see the main agenda.

#### Contact for further enquiries:

Simmi Yesmin, Senior Democratic Services Officer,  
1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, E14 2BG  
Tel: 020 7364 4120  
E-mail: [simmi.yesmin@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:simmi.yesmin@towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
Web: <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee>

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**Licensing Sub Committee**

**Tuesday, 13 September 2022**

**6.30 p.m.**

**PAGE  
NUMBER(S)**

**4 .2 Application for Variation of a Premises Licence for Liberty Lounge,  
1A Bell Lane, London, E1 7LA**

**3 - 28**

**Supporting documents submitted on behalf of the Applicant.**

**LICENSING ACT 2003 APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE FOR  
DISCOUNT SUIT COMPANY (LIBERTY LOUNGE), 1A BELL LANE, LONDON E1 7LA**

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANDREW KERR**

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I, **ANDREW KERR**, of The Umbrella Projects Limited of 24 Old Bond Street, London, United Kingdom, W1S 4AP (**the Company**) say as follows:

1. I am a joint founder and director of the Company, a position I have held since 2013 when the Company was founded. My remit within the Company includes oversight of the licensing of each of the Company's venues as well as general management of operations.
2. I have 24 years of experience in the hospitality industry including numerous positions in high end restaurant and bar operations in the UK, plus designing, building and opening a hotel in Mexico and many other consultancy roles. I have been a personal licence holder for 10 years. The licence for the discount Suit Company (DSC) is in my own name.
3. The Company was set up by me and my two business partners, Alistair Tatton and Stephen Thompson. We now run three establishments with a view to expanding. We currently employ 20 staff across three sites and brewery operations (Discount Suit Company, The Sun Tavern, The Umbrella Workshop and Umbrella London).
4. The DSC has been open since January 2014. It is a basement cocktail bar with a speakeasy atmosphere. It has no signage or advertising outside and sits beneath a formal wear clothes shop. The capacity is 60 people, with 41 people seated. We are currently open from 5:00pm until midnight on Sunday to Thursday and until 1am on Friday and Saturday.
5. We are requesting an extension of our licensed hours by one hour on Thursday to Saturday.

**Background**

6. The DSC has a small menu which serves up to nine high-end, vintage-inspired, cocktails with a limited wine list and bottle beer selection.

7. We serve some small plates intended as accompaniments to the cocktails; these include a cheeseboard, hummus and breadsticks and olives. All our menu items are dine-in only, meaning there is a low risk of patrons littering. A copy of our menu is appended to this statement (Annex A).
8. Our patrons tend to be aged between mid-twenties to those in their sixties. In the week, our customers are likely to be professionals finishing work and, on the weekend, it is a mix of local people and tourists. Our customers come to DSC as a destination to have artistically made cocktails with good music, as opposed to a low-cost late-night place where the volume of alcohol to be consumed may be more of a priority.
9. The DSC very rarely has issues with intoxicated customers. We would notice immediately if someone was arriving having had too much alcohol – the staircase entrance would make this apparent. We have had very few incidents where people have had to be removed from the premises. At the end of the night, our staff log any issues in our till system so a record is made. The nature of our menu is such that our customers are most unlikely to leave in an intoxicated state.
10. We have never received any direct noise complaints from any of the nearby residents and have a good relationship with the other business owners in the area. This is in part due to DSC's small capacity and basement location.
11. When leaving the premises, our security personnel point customers towards Commercial Street (A1202) to decrease the noise levels affecting residents. Departing customers are advised to hail taxis or Ubers from this road as opposed to waiting outside the bar to further decrease the risk of excessive noise.

## **Representations**

### **(a) *The Police***

12. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets' Statement of Licensing Policy (**the Licensing Policy**) recommends that the police are consulted when considering their plans for licensing schedules (para 7.2).
13. Prior to submitting the application, we consulted with the police licensing officer Mark Perry and met with him on 27 April 2022. We discussed the proposed extension and the modernisation of the current licence. Following agreement on conditions, PC Perry

confirmed that he would not make a representation. The police conditions are included in the application.

**(b) *Environmental Health***

14. Similarly, the Licensing Policy requires that we consult with the Borough's Environmental Health Officers (para 8.2) prior to making an application.
15. We arranged to meet with the environmental health officer, Nicola Cadzow, on 27 June 2022. Ms Cadzow had no comment on the operating schedule but, as the premises are within the Brick Lane Community Impact Zone (CIZ), stated she would like the application to be heard by the licensing sub-committee.

**(c) *Other representations***

16. I further understand that the Licensing Authority has consulted all residents and businesses within 40 metres of the premises.
17. We have taken the representations from residents seriously. In the light of the concerns raised we instructed an independent licensing consultant, Adrian Studd to review the likely impact of our existing operation on nearby residents on a Thursday and Saturday night. We also asked Mr Studd to consider the likely impact of the variation of hours. Mr Studd's report is at Annex B.

**The Licensing Policy**

18. We have considered the Licensing Policy and are conscious that the premises fall within the Brick Lane CIZ.
19. I am pleased to note that the Licensing Authority recognises the positive benefits that the leisure industry brings to the Borough. We believe that the DSC is contributing to the rich mixture of cultural diversity and creativity that exists in the Borough (para 4.16).
20. The Licensing Policy simultaneously recognises that the activities taking place at licensed premises should also have little impact on members of the public who are working and engaged with normal activity (para 4.9). The report of Mr Studd demonstrates that the DSC is having a limited impact on local residents and that there is "little discernible difference in the area between the premises being open and the premises being closed".
21. Para 14.6 deals with extended hours. I do not believe that our existing operation has resulted in alcohol related antisocial behaviour persisting into the night and early hours of

the morning. Mr Studd's report supports this assertion and reports no antisocial noise or behaviour at the premises or in the vicinity.

22. Para 14.8 sets out factors that the Licensing Authority will consider when applications fall outside of framework hours. Mr Studd described the area as "generally quiet" and expressed he could not see how the behaviour he observed "would cause disturbance or nuisance to residential premises." Mr Studd further notices a lack of queues for the bar (as it is largely bookings only on Thursdays to Saturdays) and no large dispersal of customers at closing time. Our operation of the premises demonstrates that the amendments to our licence will not have an adverse impact on crime in the area.
23. Para 8.3 encourages licence holders to train staff in spotting signs of harassment and to report this to management. I personally train all our staff. We are in the process of formalising our training regime with an external consultant.
24. In the light of the resident representations we have proposed an additional condition that the ground floor door be kept closed from 11pm save for when customers enter or depart.
25. We submit that the grant of the application will have no negative impact on local residents or businesses.

### **Special Cumulative Impact Policy for Brick Lane**

26. The CIZ was reviewed pre-pandemic in 2017/2018. The hospitality industry was hit heavily by the pandemic and has changed significantly from the date of this review. I hope the CIZ, and this application are considered in light of the new landscape.
27. In para 19.7, the Licensing Policy states there is a presumption of refusal for licensing conditions where the premises falls within the CIZ. The following are given as examples of characteristics that would rebut this presumption:
  - a. **Genuinely exceptional circumstances** – DSC is itself exceptional. It is a specialist cocktail bar. It is small both in terms of physical size and capacity. It does not encourage excessive consumption of alcohol. We have no history of causing any sort of alcohol related disturbance.
  - b. **Relevant good practices** – despite the SIA licenced security not being part of our licensing conditions, we have employed one on our busiest nights. We have had no complaints about noise throughout our operation. Please refer to Mr Studd's report for further details.

- c. **Other good operational/practice arrangements in respect of any outside drinking and smoking to control potential impact in the area** – we keep smokers limited to five at a time and drinks are not permitted outside the premises. In fact, we rarely have even five customers smoking. Very few now leave the premises to smoke. We have put forward a detailed list of measures in our operating schedule which has been approved by the police.
- d. **Measures used to promote the licensing objectives** – as detailed in paras 19 to 24 of this statement.

28. I consider that DSC operates in an exceptional manner and that granting the requested hours, outside the core hours, will not negatively add to the cumulative issues within the CIZ and the impact on the licensing objectives would be minimal.

#### **Temporary Event Notices (TENs)**

- 29. We applied for three TENs extending our hours to 2am on 26 August, 2 September and 10 September 2022. As of the date of this statement there have been no incidents of disorder and no complaints have been received from neighbours.
- 30. I submit that this further demonstrates that the licence variation will have a limited impact on the surrounding area of the DSC.

#### **Licence Conditions Amendments**

- 31. The existing licence includes no obligation for SIA door supervisors. The following condition is included in the submitted operating schedule:

*“An SIA licensed door supervisor shall be on duty at the premises from 2100 hrs to the close of business and they must correctly display their SIA licence(s) when on duty so as to be visible.”*

- 32. Our intention is that this condition applies only to the days on which the extended hours are sought. For clarity the condition should read:

*“On Thursday Friday and Saturday an SIA licensed door supervisor shall be on duty at the premises from 2100 hrs to the close of business and they must correctly display their SIA licence(s) when on duty so as to be visible.”*

- 33. The police licensing officer has indicated that this was his understanding of the condition. A copy of his email dated 29 July 2022 agreeing to this is annexed to this statement (Annex C).

34. As stated above we propose the following additional condition:

*“At 2300hrs the public entrance to the premises will be closed save for access and egress from the premises.”*

**Reason for application**

35. It is our experience that some customers leave our premises early in order to frequent venues with later terminal hours. This means that we lose significant trade not only in the additional hour but in the hours before we close. Our customers would prefer to remain at DSC rather than to move around the area looking for a late-night venue.

36. In the London Borough of Tower Hamlet’s (LBTH) report on ‘Understanding the impact of Covid-19 in Tower Hamlets’ (extract at Annex D), the LBTH recognised that the hospitality and entertainment industries were the most severely impacted by the pandemic.

37. Since the pandemic, we have seen increasing costs across the board. Not only energy prices, but stock prices have increased, and wages have needed to remain in step with inflation in order to retain staff. We are looking to the licensing sub- committee to support us and believe accepting the licensing variation will positively impact the Borough and its rich culture.

Signed

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**Andrew Kerr**

Date 7 September 2022

**Annex A – Discount Suit Company Menu**

**Annex B** - Adrian Studd – Liberty Lounge report of Observations

**Annex C** - 29 July email from PC Mark Perry

**Annex D – Extract of LBTH Impact Statement**

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1. COCKTAILS

**MONEY RUNNER (£9.50)**

Slane Irish Whiskey, Cider Brandy,  
Cynar, Miso Caramel



IF YOU LIKE THIS, TRY THIS...  
TIPPERARY & BOULEVARDIER

**SOLERO (£9.50)**

El Dorado 3yr Old Rum, Agricole Rhum,  
Rum Fire, Pimento Dram, Coconut,  
Mango, Citrus, Whipped Horchata



IF YOU LIKE THIS, TRY THIS...  
HURRICANE OR HOTEL NACIONAL

**CALEDONIAN SLEEPER (£9.50)**

Sesame Washed Dewar's 12yr Old Scotch,  
Apricot, Oat Milk



IF YOU LIKE THIS, TRY THIS...  
ATHOLL BROSE OR BRANDY ALEXANDER

**COOL JERK (£9.50)**

Seven Tails Brandy, Yoghurt Soju, Lavender, Soda



IF YOU LIKE THIS, TRY THIS...  
HORSE'S NECK OR CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES

**MR. LUCKY (£9.50)**

Bombay Sapphire Gin, Manzanilla Sherry,  
Chinotto Nero, Cantaloupe, Passionfruit, Citrus



IF YOU LIKE THIS, TRY THIS...  
LONDON CALLING OR JAPANESE SLIPPER

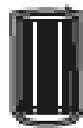
**I RECKON (£9.50)**

Evan Williams Bourbon, Pommeau, Demerara,  
Empirical Spirits The Plum I Suppose



IF YOU LIKE THIS, TRY THIS...  
GODFATHER OR ANGEL FACE

**WATERMELON SUGAR (£5.50)**  
 Cacha Blanco Tequila, QuiQuiQui Mezcal, Watermelon,  
 Pampallo Grapefruit Aperitif, Agave, Soda



IF YOU LIVE DASH, GET THIS...  
 RAJONS DE BROCAS PINE COGNAC

**WICKED PICKET (£5.50)**  
 43 Below Vodka, Raspberry, Strawberry & La Fête,  
 Black Aperitif, Raspberry



IF YOU LIVE DASH, GET THIS...  
 CHEVY CLUB DE LUCKY COGNAC

**2. SHARED**

**TO SHARE... SPANISH HARLEM (£25)**

Pisco, Pampallo Grapefruit Aperitif,  
 Lemon Soda, Rock Wine

(Serves 4)



NO ONE TO SHARE WITH?  
 WE ALSO DO SPITFIRE GLASS (£6.00)

**3. BAKERY**

**CHEESEBOARD (£11.50)**  
 Camé, Taleggio, Boursin, My Brie, Cheddar,  
 Cheese Jelly, Grapes

**HUMMUS AND BREADSTICKS (£5.00)**

**SICILIAN GORDAL OLIVES (£3.50)**

**DRY ROASTED PEANUTS (£2.00)**

**4. WINE & FIZZ**

**RED**  
 ROULIN CARUS, MERLOT, LOIRE, 2017  
 Glass £5 (175ml)  
 Bottle £20

**RED**  
 MAI THEO, PETIT CABY, RHONE, 2018  
 Bottle £20

**WHITE WINE**  
 ROULIN CARUS, MUSCADET, LOIRE, 2017  
 Glass £5 (175ml)  
 Bottle £20

**WHITE WINE**  
 TRAILER, PUEBLO, SOUTH WEST, 2019  
 Bottle £20

**ROSE**  
 CHATEAU FORTVET, ROUGEAL, PROVENCE, 2019  
 Glass £5 (175ml)  
 Bottle £20

**ORANGE**  
 MAI THEO, ROQUE, VDF, RHONE, 2018  
 Bottle £20

**FIZZ**  
 DURANTE, PROSECCO DOC LA SPIRE, VENETO, 2019  
 Glass £5  
 Bottle £20

**5. BEERS**

**BRAYBROOKE KELLER LAGER 4.8% (£5.50)**  
**UMBRELLA LONDON RHUBARB CIDER 4% (£5.50)**  
**UMBRELLA LONDON GINGER BEER 5% (£5.50)**  
**UMBRELLA LONDON WHISKEY FINISHED GINGER BEER 5% (£5.50)**

**6. CLASSICS**

**PINA FUMADA (£10.00)**  
 QuiQuiQui Mezcal, Pineapple,  
 Falernum, Honey, Citrus



**BAKLAVA (£10.00)**  
 Pampallo Better Washed Irish Whiskey,  
 Amaretto, Berry, Honey,  
 Orange Blossom, Stevia



**KNEECAPPER (£10.00)**  
 Big Papa's, Lemon, Honey, Alouche



**DISCOUNT  
 SUIT  
 COMPANY**

**Report of Observations at****Liberty Lounge****1A Bell Lane, London, E1 7LA****By****Adrian Studd, Independent Licensing Consultant.****Introduction and summary of conclusions.**

1. I have been instructed by Robert Botkai, solicitor, of Winkworth Sherwood solicitors who has instructed me to conduct observations at the above premises in connection with the application to increase the alcohol terminal hour by One (1) hour on Thursday to Saturday nights. The premises is small, with a maximum capacity of 60, with 41 seated. It has a small menu of high-end vintage inspired cocktails, a small wine list and bottled beers and serves a selection of small plates as accompaniments.
2. The Liberty lounge has been open since January 2014 and operates in a basement beneath a formal clothes wear shop at the Bell Lane junction with Wentworth Street. It has no external signage and there is no indication that there is a licensed premises in the building. Due to the discrete nature of the premises on more than one occasion I observed individuals and couples walking up and down the road past the entrance before they located it.
3. I conducted observations in the area over Two (2) nights on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 between 21.00 and 01.00 hours and on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 between 21.00 and 02.00 hours. The area is popular with tourist walking tours and I saw a couple of large groups on both occasions I conducted observations. The streets are mainly retail shops at ground level with residential above. The area is generally quiet, however, there is a steady flow of people walking through from nearby night-time economy areas such as Bishopsgate, there are some late-night licensed premises

such as massage parlours and restaurants in the area and delivery riders waiting for orders or cycling through.

4. Customers I observed at Liberty Lounge were a diverse mix, mainly couples with a few small, mixed sex, groups and in the 30 plus age range. I understand many had booked prior to arrival. Customers arrived and left on foot in couples or small groups over an extended period. There was no waiting outside or queuing for entry and no large dispersal at closing time, just a slow steady dispersal that had negligible impact on the area. Customers made their way away on foot or via uber/mini cab vehicles, I did not see any go to parked vehicles.
5. **In Conclusion, I did not observe any alcohol related noise or anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the Liberty Lounge from either the Liberty lounge or any other premises nearby. The premises voluntarily engages a door supervisor on the nights that this application covers which is best practice. I would describe the area in the evening and night-time as generally quiet. This was the same across the whole period I observed, including earlier in the evening when customers were arriving, later when the Liberty lounge was closing and after it had closed and all the customers had left the area.**
6. **It is a small premises, serving speciality drinks and small plates of food as an accompaniment and does not attract large groups or the type of young, often all male groups, which are likely to cause noise, nuisance and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity. There is good access to public transport nearby. Due to these factors I consider that this premises does operate in an exceptional manner and that granting the requested hours, outside the core hours, will not negatively add to the cumulative issues within the CIZ.**

#### **Summary of expertise – Adrian Studd.**

7. I retired from the police service on 2nd November 2012 having completed 31 years exemplary service with the Metropolitan Police in London. Between January 2012 and

my retirement, I was employed as the Chief Inspector in charge of licensing for the London Olympic Games 2012. In this role, I headed up a team of officers with responsibility for supervision of licensing compliance at all the Olympic venues, including the Olympic Park. In addition, I was responsible for ensuring that any associated events were properly licensed, sufficiently staffed and operated in accordance with the licensing legislation and best practice in order to ensure the safe and effective delivery of the Olympic Games.

8. In addition to leading my team, I visited and worked with both the Olympic Park management and many other venues, reviewing their policies and procedures and ensuring that the Games were delivered safely and securely. The success of this operation not only protected the reputation of the MPS but provided positive benefits for the profile of the MPS and the United Kingdom. I was awarded an Assistant Commissioners Commendation for this work.
9. Prior to this role, between January 2002 and January 2012, I was employed first as an Inspector and then as a Chief Inspector on the MPS Clubs and Vice Unit (Now SCD9 Serious and Organised crime command). My responsibilities over this period focussed on licensing and included day to day supervision of the licensing team that had a London wide remit to support the Boroughs with licensing activity.
10. Providing both Overt and Covert support for policing problem licensed premises across London, my team worked with premises when licensing issues were identified, to address these problems through the use of action plans in order to raise their standards. Where this failed, I would support the Boroughs with evidence for use at review hearings if required. I devised and implemented the MPS strategy 'Safe and Sound' which seeks to improve the safety of customers at licensed premises by reducing violent and other crime, in particular gun crime and the most serious violence. I also developed the Promoters Forum and risk assessment process, and together these initiatives contributed to an overall reduction in violence in London of 5% and of the most serious violence and gun crime at licensed premises by 20% whilst

I was there.

11. From 2004 until 2008, my role included representing the MPS and ACPO licensing lead both in London and Nationally. In this role, I developed key partnerships with industry, NGOs and Government departments in order to improve the standards at licensed premises. I sat on the BII working party and helped develop the national training for Door Supervisors and worked with the SIA to successfully introduce the new regime within London. I sat on several Government working parties and worked closely with the alcohol harm reduction team on identifying best practice and ensuring this was used both within London and nationally by police and local authorities.
12. I was involved with Best Bar None for several years and successfully helped several boroughs to implement the initiative. I was a trained Purple Flag and Best Bar none assessor and, until my retirement, I sat on the Board for Best Bar None in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. For the last five years of my service, I was in charge of licensing for the Notting Hill Carnival, the largest street carnival in Europe. During this time, I contributed to a reduction in violence overall at the Carnival and delivered increased seizures of illegal alcohol, reduction of unlicensed alcohol sales and a reduction in alcohol related violence. In addition to the above, I have attended many internal MPS training and qualification courses, and I am trained in conducting health and safety risk assessments and hold the National Certificate for Licensing Practitioners, issued by the British Institute of Inn keeping (BII).
13. Following my retirement, I set up a licensing consultancy to improve standards and provide independent advice for premises requiring a local authority licence. Since then, I have provided evidence gathering services and advice to a broad range of licensed premises on a variety of issues, including crime and disorder, cumulative impact, sexual entertainment, street drinking, rough sleepers, age related products, betting and gaming and planning. This work has involved premises that benefit from licences for activities such as alcohol on and off licences, betting premises licences, SEV licences and late-night refreshment. I have provided expert witness evidence at both local authority and appeal court hearings.

**Observations.**

14. I conducted observations in the area on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 between 21.00 hours and 01.00 hours and on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 between 21.00 hours and 02.00 hours.
15. On arrival in Bell Lane at 21.00 hours on both nights the vicinity of the premises was quiet with the door supervisor the only indication that there is a licensed premises nearby. The premises is located at the Bell Lane junction with Wentworth Street, there are no signs or other indications that there is a bar in the basement. Due to the discrete nature of the premises on more than one occasion I observed individuals and couples walking up and down the road past the entrance before they located it.
16. Around the premises at street level are mainly shuttered shops, many covered with graffiti and some of which appear closed down or for let. Above these appears to be flats although I saw few residents and few people coming or going to them. The area is on various 'walking tour' tourist routes, and I saw large groups on both nights with leaders talking about Jack the Ripper and similar 'East End' legends.
17. There are other licensed premises in the area that were open during my observations, including two massage parlours close by, The Bell public house and various speciality, mainly quite small restaurants, many of which appeared to use Deliveroo and other delivery services as there were riders waiting in the streets and riding through. A short distance away is the busy Commercial Street that generates road noise through the night and also has busy licensed premises such as The Culpepper public house. Four or Five minutes' walk away is Bishopsgate and Liverpool Street Station.
18. I walked to Bishopsgate a few times during my observations, it is a busy late night economy area with many bars, restaurants and takeaway premises in addition to the rail, tfl and road transport hubs. I observed people walking through the Bell Lane area throughout my observations from the Bishopsgate area apparently making their way home to nearby residential areas.

19. On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August I went into the liberty lounge at about 21.30 and met with the assistant manager Paul. The premises is small and was busy but did not appear overly crowded. There was a diverse mix of customers mainly in the 30 plus age range and quite a few couples. The atmosphere was good, and I did not see any signs of drunkenness, large groups, all male groups or disorderly behaviour. Many customers were drinking cocktails and there was evidence of small plates of food being consumed with the drinks.
20. A maximum of Five (5) customers are permitted to smoke outside the premises but I saw very few smokers, no more than a couple at a time, and those that did smoke were quiet and unobtrusive.
21. From about 23.30 hours on both nights the area was quiet with just a few pedestrians walking through and a few vehicles. While there was still background noise from Commercial Street as the ambient noise declined it was possible, in the immediate vicinity of Liberty Lounge, to just hear the music and chatting coming from the basement. The door from the street to the premises is kept open and so it is open directly down the stairs into the basement. I doubt that this noise is audible in any nearby residential premises and a reduction in music volume and/or the addition of some sort of acoustic barrier would prevent this completely.
22. Towards the premises closing time, 24.00 on Thursday night and 01.00 hours on Saturday night, I observed a steady egress of customers. Most left in couples or small groups and either made their way away on foot or waited outside a short while for ubers/minicabs. I did not observe excessive noise, any anti-social behaviour or any drunkenness from customers leaving.
23. On a couple of occasions it was possible to hear the voices of customers, waiting outside the premises for their transport, above the ambient background noise. They were only talking and laughing outside the premises for a short while, but I did not observe the door supervisor intervene, which I consider would be enough to ensure that they kept their voices down.

24. It would also assist if customers leaving towards the end of the night were encouraged to call their transport prior to leaving as this would minimise waiting time on the street. Overall I did not consider that the behaviour I observed would cause disturbance or nuisance to residential premises and it caused significantly less noise than, for example, the refuse collection truck that collected refuse in Bell Lane at 01.20 hours on Saturday night.
25. By midnight on Thursday and 01.00 on Saturday the last few customers were drifting away from the premises and the entrance door was closed soon after this. I remained in the area until about 01.00 on Thursday night and 02.00 on Saturday night, it was quiet but still had a small number of pedestrians making their way through the area, presumably from late night premises such as those in Bishopsgate, and a small number of vehicles passing through the area. Overall there was little discernible difference in the area between the premises being open and the premises being closed.

Adrian Studd

Independent Licensing Consultant.

29/08/2022.



**Charlie Geyton**

---

**From:** MARK.J.Perr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 29 July 2022 08:34  
**To:** Robert Botkai; Corinne.Hollan [REDACTED]  
 Simmi.Yesmin [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Andrew Sanders; Charlie Geyton  
**Subject:** RE: Premise Licence variation - Liberty Lounge, 1a Bell Lane -ref 149633

? This message originated outside Winckworth Sherwood and was sent from email address [mark.j.perry@met.police.uk](mailto:mark.j.perry@met.police.uk)

---

Hi,

Yes I am happy with this, 1 SIA on duty Thursday Friday and Saturday which are the busiest days.

Kind Regards

Mark



PC Mark Perry



---

**From:** Robert Botkai [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 July 2022 12:48  
 [REDACTED] Simmi Yesmin  
 [REDACTED] .uk>; Perry Mark J - CE-CU <MARK.J.P [REDACTED] harlie Geyton  
**Subject:** RE: Premise Licence variation - Liberty Lounge, 1a Bell Lane -ref 149633

Hi Corinne

The application for the above is to extend the hours Thursday to Saturday. We have taken the opportunity to update the operating schedule.

The existing licence includes no obligation for SIA door supervisors.

The following condition is included in the operating schedule:

- An SIA licensed door supervisor shall be on duty at the premises from 2100 hrs to the close of business and they must correctly display their SIA licence(s) when on duty so as to be visible.

The intention of the applicant is that this condition applies only to the days on which the extended hours are sought. For clarity the condition should read:

- On Thursday Friday and Saturday an SIA licensed door supervisor shall be on duty at the premises from 2100 hrs to the close of business and they must correctly display their SIA licence(s) when on duty so as to be visible.

The police licensing officer has indicated that this was his understanding of the condition.

I will address the Committee at the hearing but please can this email be included in the Committee Report.

Kind regards

Robert

**Robert Botkai**  
Partner



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## Business 1/3



- In line with the economic impact described in the previous section, many businesses hit hard by Covid, with a sudden demand & supply shock
- Impact is highly uneven & varies by sector. Hardest hit are those most difficult to function during lockdown: arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation & food services. Market & street traders hard hit. A few areas (e.g. supermarkets) have seen unprecedented demand
- Buying habits have changed, with a bigger proportion spent online
- Number of people working from home has increased but still relative minority of all UK workers.
- Businesses less hard hit will still have been impacted by higher levels staff absence due to sickness &/or self-isolation



- Pre-Covid, LBTH economy growing.
- Impact of Covid on different sectors echoed locally. Approx. 1,200 retail 935 hospitality & 1,000 arts, leisure, entertainment businesses based in LBTH.
- Feedback that main business challenges are paying monthly rent payments, paying staff wages & reduced customers.
- 11% of London's workers are in the two sectors most badly impacted by Covid (arts, entertainment, recreation; & accommodation & food services activities). These sectors make up 6.9% of the jobs in LBTH, but it is likely that a higher proportion of LBTH residents work in these sectors overall.
- Banking, finance & insurance less hard hit. Over half of LBTH jobs in this sector 2016-19, but third of residents work in this sector.



From 6<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020 in the UK, 23% of businesses had temporarily closed or paused trading. 60% of those still trading reported a fall in revenues. 44% of firms responding to a fortnightly national survey said their reserves would last for less than six months.

Buying habits have changed. On 22<sup>nd</sup> May in the UK the proportion spent online rose to a new record of 30.7%.

65% of market & street traders responding to national survey say forced to close (NMTF)

In 2017, LBTH accounted for 7% of economic output in London. 17,355 local enterprises based in LBTH in 2019: 36% more than in 2014, faster growth than London & UK. 98% were micro/small businesses of <50 employees.

350 LBTH businesses responded to survey in early May. Top 3 issues: paying rent (61%), staff wages (61%), reduced customer/footfall (74%)

As of 28<sup>th</sup> April, grants totalling £57.6m awarded to 4,052 LBTH businesses (Small Business Grant - £10k per business, Retail Grant Fund - £10-28k per retail, hospitality & leisure business). Grants totalling 5,773 local businesses projected.



