

Email from mike.nickson@innconfidence.co.uk to Nicola.Cadzow@towerhamlets.gov.uk 17 June 2020

Dear Nicola

I hope you are well.

I represent the premises licence holder in the application that attracted your representation for the variation of hours for the above premises, and now due to be heard by your licensing sub-committee on 23rd June.

I would like to draw your attention to the attached letter that my clients have sent to the resident objectors, which provides a clear context in which we can judge their proposed business. You should note too that OFF sales has been removed from the application, after 1800hrs on any day.

Your representation suggests that we have failed to take account of the potential extra risks of providing on sales of alcohol in the evening within the CIZ area which includes Toynbee Street. However, we did specifically offer the following conditions to those on the existing licence (which was granted despite the CIZ in 2017):

1. Notices shall be prominently displayed at all exits requesting patrons to respect the needs of local residents and businesses and leave the area quietly.
2. The premises licence holder shall ensure that any patrons smoking outside the premises do so in an orderly manner and are supervised by staff so as to ensure that there is no public nuisance or obstruction of the public highway
3. Patrons permitted to temporarily leave and then re-enter the premises, e.g. to smoke, shall not be permitted to take drinks or glass containers with them
4. All windows and external doors shall be kept closed after 21:00 hours except for the immediate access and egress of persons or in the case of an emergency

We accept that the expectations are greater on us being in the defined CIZ area, but there is a rebuttable presumption that an application will fail, as you know. The Tower Hamlets Policy suggests that factors that point towards 'exceptions' to the CIZ rule are:

- Business is not alcohol led
- Operates within Framework Hours
- Small Capacity (of less than 50)

My client's business satisfies all three of these. The capacity is around 30 patrons and you can see from the application and the covering letter to residents that the purpose of wishing to operate in the evening is primarily to allow private dining events; hardly the sort of activity to strike fear into the public. Indeed, it is this type of operation that should be welcomed by Tower Hamlets Council as it will be an antidote to the very businesses that have recklessly caused the imposition of the CIZ policy in the first place. The premises do not have regulated entertainment, nor late night refreshment.

I am reaching out to you now with a respectful request for you to reconsider your representation. It is within your remit to suggest extra conditions that we might have missed that would satisfy your concern surrounding the public nuisance licensing objective.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if we can move on this before next week's hearing.

Kind Regards, Mike

Mike Nickson
DIRECTOR, Inn Confidence



Mike Nickson is the 2011 winner of the national BII NITA training award in respect of 'Social Responsibilities in Licensed Retailing'