

Committee: <b>Licensing Sub-committee</b>	Date: <b>19 August 2010</b>	Classification: <b>Unclassified</b>	Report No. <b>LSC 19/011</b>	Agenda Item No.
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Report of: <b>Colin Perrins</b> <b>Head of Trading Standards and Commercial</b>  Originating Officer: <b>Mohshin Ali</b> <b>Acting Senior Licensing Officer</b>	Title: <b>Licensing Act 2003</b>  <b>Application to vary the Premises Licence for          Liberty Lounge, 1A Bell Lane, London E1 7LA</b>  Ward affected: <b>Spitalfields and Banglatown</b>
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## 1.0 Summary

Applicant: **Mr Rachid Radi**

Name and  
Address of Premises: **Liberty Lounge  
1A Bell Lane  
London E1 7LN**

Licence sought: **Licensing Act 2003 – Premises variation**  
**- To add licensable activities**  
**- To extend the hours for licensable activities**

Representations: **Police  
Planning**

## 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Licensing Committee considers the application and objections then adjudicate accordingly.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2000 (Section 97)**  
**LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE DRAFTING OF THIS REPORT**

Brief description of "background paper"

Tick if copy supplied for register

If not supplied, name and telephone number of holder

File Only

Mohshin Ali  
020 7364 5498

### 3.0 **Background**

- 3.1 This is an application for a variation of the premises licence for the Liberty Lounge, 1A Bell Lane, London E1 7LA.
- 3.2 Due to recent directions from Information Governance, personal details have been redacted from the report, however, the original are on file and can be produced by the Licensing Officer.
- 3.3 A copy of the existing premises licence is enclosed for information in **Appendix 1**.

The current hours are as follows:-

#### **The sale by retail of alcohol (On sales)**

- Monday to Friday from 11:00 hours to 22:40 hours
- Sunday from 12:00 hours to 22:30

#### Hours premises are open to the public:

- Monday to Friday from 11:00 to 23:00 hours
- Sunday from 12:00 hours to 23:00 hours

- 3.4 A copy of the variation application is enclosed as **Appendix 2**.

The applicant has described the nature of the variation as follows:

- **To add licensable activities**
- **To extend the hours for licensable activities**

The timings that have been applied for are as follows:-

#### **The sale by retail of alcohol (On sales)**

- Monday and Tuesday, from 12:00 hours to 22:40 hours
- Wednesday to Saturday, from 12:00 hours to 02:00 hours the following day
- Sunday, from 12:00 hours to 22:30 hours

#### **The provision of regulated entertainment - Indoors**

##### Live music

- Wednesday to Friday, from 20:00 hours to 23:00 hours

##### Recorded Music

- Sunday to Tuesday, from 12:00 hours to 22:00 hours
- Wednesday, from 12:00 hours to 20:00 hours and 23:00 to 03:00 hours the following day
- Thursday, from 12:00 hours to 20:00 hours and 23:00 to 03:00 hours the following day
- Friday, from 12:00 hours to 20:00 hours and 23:00 to 03:00 hours the following day
- Saturday, from 12:00 hours 03:00 hours the following day

### **The provision of late night refreshment**

- Sunday to Tuesday, from 12:00 hours to 22:40 hours
- Wednesday to Saturday, from 12:00 hours to 02:00 hours the following day

*For members' information, late night refreshment starts from 23:00 hours. A premises licence is not required prior to 23:00 hours*

### **Hours premises are open to the public:**

- Sunday to Tuesday, from 12:00 hours to 23:00 hours
- Wednesday to Saturday, from 12:00 hours to 03:00 hours the following day

3.5 A map showing the relevant premises is included as **Appendix 3**.

## **4.0 Licensing Policy and Government Advice**

4.1 The Council has adopted a licensing policy and this is available from the Licensing Section, and at the hearing. The revised policy came into effect on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

4.2 Relevant Sections of the policy are brought to the attention of Members within the Licensing Officers report.

4.3 The Government Minister, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has issued Guidance under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003. This is available on the Government's website, [www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk). It was last revised on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

4.4 Relevant Sections of this advice are brought to Members attention within the Licensing Officers report. Members should note however, that in some areas Tower Hamlets, after a proper consideration of local circumstances, has not followed the Government's advice, or has developed it further.

## **5.0 Representations**

5.1 Only a responsible authority or an interested party can make a representation. Both of these terms are defined by statute, in Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003.

- 5.2 All of the responsible authorities have been consulted about this application. They are as follows:
- The Metropolitan Police
  - The LFEPA (the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority).
  - Planning
  - Health and Safety
  - Noise
  - Trading Standards
  - Child Protection
- 5.3 This hearing is required by the Licensing Act 2003, because relevant representations have been made by the Police and Planning Department.
- 5.4 Please see **Appendix 4** for the representation of the Police.
- 5.5 Please see **Appendix 5** for the representation of the Planning Department.
- 5.6 The applicant has agreed reduced timings and also conditions with Environmental Protection. Please see **Appendix 6** for the agreement.
- 5.7 The application was required to be advertised in a local newspaper and by a blue poster. In addition the licensing section consulted on a 40 m basis.
- 5.8 Only objections that relate to the following licensing objectives are relevant:
- the prevention of crime and disorder
  - public safety
  - the prevention of public nuisance
  - the protection of children from harm
- 5.9 Essentially, the responsible authorities oppose the application because the applicant has not explained how within the context of the variation they will meet the licensing objectives, particularly:
- the prevention of crime and disorder
  - the prevention of public nuisance
- 6.0 **Licensing Officer Comments**
- 6.1 The Licensing Section is not a responsible authority and therefore has no ability to make any relevant representations. The following therefore is intended simply to advise Members of the relevant aspects of the Boroughs Licensing Policy, guidance from the Secretary of State, legislation and good practice(See 6.2). Members may depart from the Council's Licensing Policy and/or Government advice, provide they consider it appropriate to do so, and have clear reasons for their decision.

## 6.2 Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003

❖ As stated in the guidance it is “provided for licensing authorities carrying out their functions.” It is a key mechanism for promoting best practice, ensuring consistent application and promoting fairness (1.6).

Also “so long as the guidance has been properly and carefully understood and considered, licensing authorities may depart from it if they have reason to do so.” When doing so licensing authorities will need to give full reasons for their actions (1.7).

❖ Also Members should note “A Licensing Authority may depart from its own policy if the individual circumstances of any case merit such a decision in the interests of the promotion of the licensing objectives.” (1.10)

❖ Conditions may not be imposed for the purpose other than the licensing objectives.

❖ Necessary conditions should emerge from a risk assessment by the applicant, which should then be reflected in the operating schedule (10.7).

❖ The Licensing Authority may only impose such conditions as are necessary for meeting the licensing objectives.

❖ It is Government policy that facilities for people and performers with disabilities should be provided at places of entertainment. (S.10.24).

❖ The Government has stated “there is no general presumption in favour of lengthening licensing hours and the four licensing objectives should be paramount at all times. Where there are objections to an application and the committee believes that changing the licensing hours would undermine the licensing objectives, they may reject the application or grant it with appropriate conditions and/or different hours from those requested.” (10.20)

6.3 The Licensing Act 2003 permits children of any age to be on the premises providing they are accompanied by an adult. It is not necessary to make this a condition.

6.4 In all cases the Members should make their decision on the civil burden of proof, that is “the balance of probability.”

6.5 In all cases Members should consider whether or not primary legislation is the appropriate method of regulation and should only consider licence

conditions when the circumstances in their view are not already adequately covered elsewhere.

- 6.6 The Government has advised that “In the context of preventing public nuisance it is again essential that conditions are focused on measures within the direct control of the licence holder. Conditions relating to public nuisance caused by anti-social behaviour of customers once they are beyond the control of the licence holder or premises management cannot be justified and will not serve the licensing objectives.” (2.38)
- 6.7 The Council’s licensing Policy generally expects applicants to address the licensing objectives and discuss how to do this with the relevant responsible authorities.
- 6.8 Members will find advice on the Council’s Licensing Policy, Government advice and other legislation relating to the matters in the representations as follows:

- Appendix 7** Licensing Officer comments on crime and disorder on the premises
- Appendix 8** Licensing Officer comments on crime and disorder from patrons leaving the premises
- Appendix 9** Licensing Officer comments on noise while the premise is in use
- Appendix 10** Licensing Officer comments on egress problems
- Appendix 11** Planning
- Appendix 12** Licensing Policy relating to hours of trading

## 7.0 Exemptions

- 7.1 There are a number of statutory exemptions from the operation of the Licensing Act 2003, and Members need to bear these in mind.
- 7.2 Schedule 1 Part 2 of the Act states that entertainment in churches, Morris dancing (and accompanying music if live and unamplified) and incidental music are not licensable activities-that is no conditions can be set for them.
- 7.3 Acts of religious worship, wherever performed are not licensable.
- 7.4 Section 177, (1) and (2) of the Act provides that where a premises (or club) is licensed for alcohol consumption on the premises and is primarily thus used, and the permitted capacity does not exceed 200, additional conditions relating to the music should only relate to public safety or the prevention of crime (or both). That is they should not relate to any “noise nuisance.”

7.5 Section 177 (4) provides that where a premises licence (or club) has a capacity of not more than 200 and the only music is unamplified live music between 08 00 hrs and midnight, no additional conditions should be set relating to the music.

7.6 Section 177 can be disapplied on a licence review if it is proportionate to do so.

## 8.0 **Legal Comments**

8.1 The Council's legal officer will give advice at the hearing.

## 9.0 **Finance Comments**

9.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

## 10.0 Appendices

<b>Appendix 1</b>	A copy of the current premises licence
<b>Appendix 2</b>	A copy of the application for variation
<b>Appendix 3</b>	Maps of the premises in the surrounding area
<b>Appendix 4</b>	Representation of the Police
<b>Appendix 5</b>	Representation of the Planning Department
<b>Appendix 6</b>	Conditions agreed with Environmental Protection
<b>Appendix 7</b>	Licensing Officer comments on crime and disorder on the premises
<b>Appendix 8</b>	Licensing Officer comments on crime and disorder from patrons leaving the premises
<b>Appendix 9</b>	Licensing Officer comments on noise while the premise is in use
<b>Appendix 10</b>	Licensing Officer comments on access/egress problems
<b>Appendix 11</b>	Planning
<b>Appendix 12</b>	Licensing Policy relating to hours of trading