

Committee: Licensing Sub-Committee	Date: 16 December 2014	Classification: UNRESTRICTED	Report No. LSC 56/145	Agenda Item No.
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Report of: David Tolley Head of Consumer and Business Relations	Title: Licensing Act 2003 Application to review the premises licence for Café Bangla – 128 Brick Lane, London, E1 6RL
Originating Officer: Andrew Heron Licensing Officer	Ward affected: Spitalfields and Banglatown

1.0 Summary

Name and Address of premises: **Café Bangla
128 Brick Lane
London
E1 6RL**

Licence under review: **Licensing Act 2003**

- **Sale by retail of alcohol**
- **Regulated entertainment**
- **Late night refreshment**

Representations: **- LBTH Licensing Authority
- Metropolitan Police**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Licensing Committee considers the application for review and then adjudicates 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance Issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 • Tower Hamlets Licensing Policy • File 		Andrew Heron 020 7364 2665

3.0 **Review Application**

- 3.1 This is an application for a review of the premises licence for Café Bangla – 128 Brick Lane, London, E1 6RL. The review was triggered by John McCrohan of LBTH Licensing Department.
- 3.2 A copy of the review application is attached in **Appendix 1**.

4.0 **The Premises**

- 4.1 The premises licence was issued on 28th November 2005. A copy of the current licence is contained in **Appendix 2**.
- 4.2 The premises licence was transferred to the present licence holder Mr Daras Miah on 18th January 2013. It is noted that the Licensing Authority had never received any complaints from members of the public or Responsible Authorities in regards to the conduct of the premises until 31st January 2013. Since that time, complaints of touting and aggressive behaviour by employees of the premises have been made.
- 4.3 On 8th November 2013 Licensing Officer Andrew Heron and Metropolitan Police (Licensing) PC Mark Perry were stopped by an employee directly outside the premises and solicited for custom. A warning letter was sent to the premises licence holder reminding them of the existing conditions on the licence.
- 4.4 On 20th July 2014 Metropolitan Police (Licensing) PC Brendan O'Rourke witnessed touting by employees of the premises.
- 4.5 On 3rd September 2014 the premises was written to in order to ask them to voluntarily amend their licence via Minor Variation in order to update the CCTV condition within the licence. No response was received and no Minor Variation was initiated. In that correspondence, the premises licence holder was advised that if they failed to respond, a review of the premises licence would be initiated.
- 4.6 Maps showing the premises, surrounding area and vicinity of local residents are included in **Appendix 3**.

5.0 **Representations**

- 5.1 This hearing is required by the Licensing Act 2003, because a review has been triggered by the Metropolitan Police.
- 5.2 The review is also supported by the Metropolitan Police. Please see **Appendix 4**.
- 5.3 Only representations 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

5.4 In the view of the interested party and the responsible authorities it is necessary to achieve the licensing objectives of the prevention of public nuisance and prevention of crime & disorder.

6.0 Review Explained

6.1 The Licensing Act 2003 was described by the Government at the time as “light touch” but as Baroness Blackstone stated in the Lords at the time of the second reading (26 Nov 2002) “Local residents and businesses as well as expert bodies, will have the power to request that the licensing authority review existing licences where problems arise. Such a review could result in the modification of the licence, its suspension, or ultimately, revocation.”

6.2 The Home Office has issued guidance under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 in relation to reviews and that is contained in **Appendix 5**. It is available on the Government’s website, www.homeoffice.gov.uk. It was last revised 1st November 2013.

6.3 Members are particularly asked to note the comments in relation Crime and Disorder. In particular the home office advice is that “The role of the licensing authority when determining such a review is not therefore to establish the guilt or innocence of any individual but to ensure that the crime prevention objective is promoted.”

6.4 In relation to its advice on representations the home office has also advised that “there is no requirement for an interested party or responsible authority to produce a recorded history of problems at a premises to support their representations.” It has also issued revised guidance about Crime and Disorder, and the pool of conditions which might be considered in relation to any identified problems. **See Appendix 6.**

6.5 The home office has also issued guidance about the prevention of public nuisance and the pool of conditions which might be considered in relation to any identified problems is contained in **Appendix 7.**

6.6 Members should also note the Council’s Licensing Policy in relation to Crime and Disorder, the relevant parts of which are contained in **Appendix 8**. The Council’s Policy on Public Nuisance is contained in **Appendix 9**.

6.7 The Home Office has advised that in relation to reviews “It is important to recognise that the promotion of licensing objectives relies heavily on a

partnership between licence holders, authorised persons, interested parties and responsible authorities in pursuit of common aims. It is therefore equally important that reviews are not used to drive a wedge between those groups in a way that would undermine the benefits of co-operation. It would be good practice for authorised persons and responsible authorities to give licenceholders early warning of their concerns about problems identified at the premises concerned and of the need for improvement. It is expected that a failure to respond to such warnings would lead to a decision to request a review.”

- 6.8 The licensing authority itself cannot trigger a review; that can only be done by a responsible authority or an interested party (local resident, business or member of the Licensing Authority).
- 6.9 An interested party or a responsible authority can trigger a review at any time, but the grounds must be relevant to the licensing objectives. The form of the application, and the advertisement of the review are the subject of regulations (The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificate) Regulations 2005). In addition, the licensing authority has to satisfy itself of certain matters in relation to the Licensing Act 2003. The Licensing Services Manager Ms Jacqueline Randall is the delegated officer who deals with this on behalf of the licensing authority. All the matters stated in 5.0 were considered before any representations were accepted for inclusion in this report.
- 6.10 The Licensing Act 2003 requires that the Licensing Authority satisfies itself that it should reject the grounds for a review because:
- The ground is not relevant to one or more of the licensing objectives
 - In the case of an application by a local resident that the application is frivolous, vexatious or repetitious.

7.0 Review Advertisement

- 7.1 The review was advertised by a blue poster, next to the premises, by the Licensing Section. This was periodically monitored by the Section to ensure it was on continuous display, and replaced as necessary. It was also advertised at Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG.
- 7.2 The party that triggers the review must notify the licence holder and responsible authorities. The review documents were sent to the licence holders.
- 7.3 The procedure for a review can be summarised as follows:
- A review is triggered by a responsible authority or interested party
 - Consultation is conducted for 28 full days
 - Other responsible authorities or interested parties may join in the review
 - Members conduct a hearing

- Members make a determination
- All the parties to the review have the right of appeal to the magistrates court (i.e. the licence holder, the person who triggered the review and those who have made a representation).

8.0 Licensing Officer Comments

8.1 The Government's advice in relation to reviews is contained in **Appendix 5**. Members must consider all the evidence and then decide from the following alternatives:

- Take no further action as they do not consider it proportionate to do so
- Impose conditions (including altering existing permissions) that relate to problems which they consider have been identified and which are necessary and proportionate to ensure that the licensing objectives are met
- Suspend the licence for a period
- Revoke the licence completely

8.2 The licence should only be suspended or revoked if Members believe that alterations to the existing licence, including imposing new conditions does not have a reasonable prospect of ensuring that the licensing objectives are met.

8.3 Members should bear in mind that conditions may not be imposed for any purpose other than to meet the licensing objectives.

8.4 In all cases the Members should make their decision on the civil burden of proof that is "the balance of probability."

8.5 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.

9.0 Legal Comments

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

10.0 Finance Comments

10.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

11.0 Appendices

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| Appendix 1 | Copy of the review application |
| Appendix 2 | Current Premises Licence |
| Appendix 3 | Maps of the premises and surrounding area |
| Appendix 4 | Supporting Representation from the Metropolitan Police |
| Appendix 5 | Guidance issued under Section 182 by the Home Office for reviews |
| Appendix 6 | Guidance Issued by the Home Office under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 concerning Crime and Disorder |
| Appendix 7 | Guidance Issued by the Home Office under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 concerning Public Nuisance |
| Appendix 8 | London Borough of Tower Hamlets Licensing Policy in relation to the prevention of Crime and Disorder |
| Appendix 9 | London Borough of Tower Hamlets Policy in relation to the prevention of Public Nuisance |