



Licensing Observations Report

The Poet 82-82 Middlesex Street London E1 7EZ

1 Introduction

1.1 I am a licensing consultant with Licence Consultants Ltd. I was a licensing officer with the Metropolitan Police Clubs and Vice Unit (CO14) from 1994 to 2001 and was also a licensing officer at the London Borough of Islington from February 2001 to June 2004. I have attained the Certificate of Higher Education in Licensing Law from Birmingham University and am a member of the Institute of Licensing. I have been a Director of Licence Consultants Ltd since June 2004. I have been instructed by Thomas O'Maoileoin, Davenport Lyons solicitors to conduct a survey of the activity in the area outside The Poet.

2 Background

2.1 The Poet holds a Premises Licence enabling the provision of regulated entertainment and the sale of alcohol by retail until 2300 hours Monday to Saturday and until 2230 hours on Sundays.

2.2 There are 9 conditions attached to the Premises Licence in addition to mandatory conditions.

2.3 The Poet is situated on the corner of Middlesex Street and Cobb Street, E1. Middlesex Street is a one way street running north to south. Middlesex Street appears to be mainly used as a cut through by black cabs. There is a busy Chinese restaurant at 88 Middlesex Street, next to the Poet, and an Indian restaurant opposite the Poet in Cobb Street.

3 Observations

3.1 I conducted two observations between 2058 and 2250 hours on Thursday 11th September 2008 and between 1739 and 1930 hours on Thursday 18th September 2008.

3.2 The weather was warm and dry throughout both observations.

3.3 There was minimal vehicular traffic along Middlesex Street in the early evening. Later in the evening there was more traffic and I counted 24 vehicles pass the Poet in a 15 minute period between 2145 and 2200 hours.

3.4 During the first observation the premises did not appear very busy and there were very few customers. The premises were closed and empty before 2300 hours.

3.5 The premises were busier during the second observation which took place earlier in evening. However, the most customers seen outside at any one time were 7 people.

3.6 There were no glasses or bottles left discarded outside the Poet.

3.7 The external doors remained closed at all times other than for the ingress / egress of customers.

3.8 Customers outside the premises were quiet and barely audible where I was positioned opposite the Poet.

3.9 There was no music noise audible outside the Poet.

3.10 I took digital photographs throughout the two observations. These are date and time stamped and attached as an appendix to my report.

Throughout my observation on Thursday 11th September 2008 I made notes as follows:

There were 24 cars passing along Middlesex Street between 2145 and 2200 hrs.

There were 17 cars passing along Middlesex Street between 2245 and 2300 hrs.

2058 Arrive outside the Poet. The weather is mild, dry and people are in shirt sleeves outside. There are 5 people standing on the steps at the entrance of the Poet drinking and smoking. It is very quiet in the street with little pedestrian or vehicular traffic. There is no music noise emanating from the Poet at all, even when standing immediately outside the windows into the bar.

2115 There are now 2 people standing on the steps outside the entrance of the Poet.

2122 The same male and female are standing outside.

2132 The male and female are still standing outside drinking and smoke. They are inaudible from my position opposite at the junction of Middlesex Street and Harrow Place.

2135 Two males and a female join the couple standing outside to smoke.

2136 One of the males re-enter the Poet.

2138 Four females walk north along Middlesex Street talking and laughing loudly.

2140 3 of the people outside the Poet re-enter leaving a sole female outside.

2141 A male leaves the Poet and rejoins the female on the steps.

2142 2 males leave and walk north along Middlesex Street.

2142 The female re-enters the Poet leaving the male outside.

2145 The female rejoins the male outside.

2148 A male and female leave quietly and walk across Middlesex Street and away into Harrow Place.

2150 The same male and female are standing outside.

2153 A male not associated with the Poet urinates against a wall beside the public convenience. He walks away, talking very loudly, with another male into Harrow Place.

2155 A member of staff from the Poet comes outside and collects a single glass on the steps.

2156 One male leaves and walks north along Middlesex Street.

2158 Two males and a female leave, one of the males is surreptitiously carrying a half full pint glass, and walk off along Cobb Street. They are quiet and I cannot hear them from my position.

2159 The same male and female are standing outside.

2209 The same male and female are standing outside.

2212 A member of staff from the Poet comes outside and checks the outside area for glasses.

2215 The same male and female are standing outside.

2229 The female standing outside enters the Poet leaving the male outside alone.

2231 The female rejoins the male outside.

2232 There are 3 people smoking outside the Chinese restaurant.

2234 4 males leave and walk away north along Middlesex Street.

2234 There are now 5 people outside the Chinese restaurant.

2235 A member of staff from the Poet comes outside and checks the outside area for glasses. A City of London street sweeping vehicle comes along Middlesex Street and turns into Harrow Place. It is very noisy.

2237 The 5 people outside the Chinese restaurant leave in 2 cars.

2239 The street sweeping vehicle returns and carries on along Middlesex Street.

2244 A City of London Police van speeds along Middlesex Street with lights and siren sounding.

2248 The same male and female are still standing outside.

2251 A member of staff takes the A board that was situated on the corner inside the premises.

2252 The exterior lights are switched off.

2253 The member of staff takes the glasses from the couple standing outside. They walk off north along Middlesex Street.

2255 The lights are switched off inside the premises. The premises are closed and there are no customers inside.

Throughout my observation on Thursday 18th September 2008 I made notes as follows:

1739 There are no customers outside the Poet. There are no glasses or litter outside the Poet.

1750 A male comes out of the Poet and uses his mobile telephone.

1752 The male re-enters the Poet. Another male leaves the Poet and has a cigarette outside.

1753 The male smoking re-enters the Poet. There are no customers outside the Poet.

1758 Four customers come out of the Poet. Two have drinks with them; the other two customers are smoking.

1801 A male comes out of the Poet and smokes a cigarette.

1802 A male comes out of the Poet and uses his mobile telephone.

1802 A female comes out of the Poet and uses her mobile telephone. Two males re-enter the Poet. There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1804 Two males re-enter the Poet leaving three customers outside.

1805 A female comes out of the Poet and uses her mobile telephone. There are 4 customers outside the Poet.

1805 A female comes out of the Poet and uses her mobile telephone. There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1806 A female comes out of the Poet and uses her mobile telephone. There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1810 There are 4 customers outside the Poet.

1816 There are 4 customers outside the Poet.

1819 A female re-enters the Poet leaving 3 customers outside.

1824 There are 3 customers outside the Poet.

1826 Two males come out of the Poet. There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1828 The 2 males re-enter the Poet. There are 3 customers outside the Poet.

1830 There are 4 customers outside the Poet.

1831 There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1831 There are 6 customers outside the Poet.

1837 There are 4 customers outside the Poet.

1839 There are 6 customers outside the Poet.

1842 There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1844 There are 2 customers outside the Poet.

1845 There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1847 There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1850 There are 4 customers outside the Poet. There are no discarded bottles or glasses outside. Only 2 of the 4 customers outside are drinking.

1851 There are 2 customers outside the Poet.

1853 There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1857 There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1859 There are 4 customers outside the Poet.

1903 There are 4 customers outside the Poet.

1908 There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1909 There are 7 customers outside the Poet.

1910 There are 6 customers outside the Poet. A street cleaning machine drives past the Poet. It is very loud and has flashing lights.

1913 There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1918 There are 4 customers outside the Poet.

1920 There are 6 customers outside the Poet.

1923 There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

1926 There are 5 customers outside the Poet.

Conclusions

- During the observations I did not witness any crime or disorder or public nuisance attributable to the Poet or its customers
- Very few customers were seen to drink or smoke outside the premises. The most seen at any one time was 7 persons
- The premises did not remain open to its terminal hour during the later observation and was closed by 2250 hours
- There was no music noise audible outside the Poet and the external doors remained closed at all times other than for the ingress / egress of customers
- There were no glasses or bottles left discarded outside the Poet and staff were seen to regularly patrol the outside area

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