

“MH1”

Professional Experience and Qualifications – Mark Halton

I have retired from the Metropolitan Police Service, completing 30 year's exemplary service.

During my service I was involved with a variety of licensed premises under both the Licensing Act 1964 and from 2005 under the Licensing Act 2003. I worked within Westminster for a significant period of my time with the police, which has some of the highest footfall in England and the most licensed premises of any local authority area.

I also worked in the London Borough of Richmond which is much more residential in nature. I have also been involved with planning for significant sporting events from a police licensing and crime reduction perspective.

I was also seconded to the Home Office to advise on licensing matters and as head of the licensing that contained the most licensed premises. I was and continue to be involved in training for the police, local authorities, and operators in relation to licensing legislation, best practice, and crime reduction matters.

My experience includes field-based work and therefore I believe that I am well qualified to conduct the observations which I undertook and make comments and draw reliable conclusions.

My brief resume is set out below:

- 1985-1987 Westminster Response team police officer
- 1987-1997 Central Clubs & Vice Unit CO14 posting within as follows
- 1987-88 Street Offences Squad dealing with street prostitution, brothels, massage parlors, illegal gaming/casino and both licensed and unlicensed venues for the sale of alcohol.
- 1988-90 Obscene Publications Unit.
- 1990- 93 Field Intelligence officer Westminster CO14 Clubs & Vice. Covert policing, surveillance.

A drugs test purchaser and financial investigator used primarily in the night club economy specialising in nightclub/late night economy specialising in nightclubs and bars.

- 1993-97 Westminster Clubs & Vice Licensing Unit.

Supervising and dealing with licensing prosecutions, administration, and applications. This included dealing with applications to revoke Justices Licences or whether to oppose the grant or variation of such licences or the renewal of Public Entertainment Licences.

- 1997-01 Westminster Borough Licensing Co-Coordinator.

Supervising all licensing teams within the Borough, modifying police processes and policies particularly in respect of taking enforcement action, including prosecutions.

- 2002-06 Westminster Police Licensing Team.

Set up the unit and supervised, wrote the Metropolitan Police crime prevention and effective management document (still contained and unchanged within the City of Westminster Statement of Licensing Policy). Assisted with devising and implementing the Cumulative Impact policy. This included preparing for and overseeing the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, dealing with the transition period, and developing the response to applications for new licences or variation applications and whether to object to them on the basis that they may undermine the licensing objectives or whether suitable conditions or the basis of the operation would not be likely to undermine those objectives.

- 2007-10 Camden Borough Police Response Team.

- 2010-12 Police Licensing Advisor Home Office.

Secondment. Ran and supervised the *Home Office Intensive Support Visit program (ISV) supplying training on legislation, powers and practical implementation to police forces and local authorities nationally in relation to licensing matters, pre-dominantly under the Licensing Act 2003. Completed submissions for response to Prime Ministerial Questions (PMQs), advice to various ministers including the Home Secretary on numerous occasions. Wrote the then Home Office guidance on expedited reviews and section 19 closure notices. Sat on the boards of Best Bar None, Pub Watch and Purple Flag (which included developing and promoting best practice in licensed venues). During this time I assisted in the licensing of the Olympics 2012 - this included not only licensing within the Olympic Park and other Olympic Venues but in surrounding areas and how to mitigate and reduce impacts.

- 2013-15 Richmond Borough Police Licensing Team.

I was in charge of the day to day running of the team which involved consideration of applications received, dealing with enforcement issues, and liaising with the local authority. Supervised and organised

the police licensing approach for the Rugby World Cup 2015, not only in relation to licensing applications made in connection with it but promoting best practice and overseeing the operation of licensed premises during this sporting event.

During my time with the police, I achieved the rank of acting Inspector but had a wide experience during my time of not only operational matters but devising strategies, policies, and training as well as managing teams. I was often involved in multi-agency approaches to reducing the impact of licensed premises through the most appropriate means.

Since retirement I have conducted risk reduction and crime scene preservation training for well-known national chains. Conducted investigations into incidents arising at licensed venues and provided expert witness testimony. I have further been commissioned to implement operational procedures at licensed premises within London and nationally and impact studies for applications.

I am a Home Office qualified Crime Reduction Officer, Crime Prevention Design Advisor and CCTV systems approved officer. An expert in crime reduction design measures and getting venues experiencing such problems back on track.

*The Home Office Intensive Support Visit (ISV) programme.

I oversaw a team including solicitors, police officers, local authority officers and civil servants. I attended, supervised, and assisted in policing all these 3-day events at 53 different town and city centre locations from Hartlepool to Plymouth. The ISV consisted of training local police and local authorities on licensing legislation and powers, problem solving and partnership working. It further included visiting one night without local officers and a further night with local officers within the various nighttime economies. (Where problems are likely to be concentrated).

I believe this has given me a knowledgeable viewpoint and expertise on not just the police force area I came from but a view and expertise on town and city centres nationally.

Having spent a year and a half on the road investigating many nighttime economies I have a knowledge I believe not many expert witnesses possess.