

**DECISION NOTICE - LICENSING ACT 2003 SUB-COMMITTEE**

**REVIEW OF THE PREMISES LICENCE – PETERBOROUGH SNOOKER CENTRE – 317 / 321 LINCOLN ROAD, PETERBOROUGH, PE1 2PH**

**Wednesday, 9 August 2023**

This Decision Notice refers to the review of the premises licence Peterborough Snooker Centre – 317 / 321 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 2PH.

The Licensing Sub Committee convened to hear an application to review the premises licence currently held at Peterborough Snooker Centre, 317A Lincoln Road, Peterborough, for breach of the licensing objective:

- The prevention of crime and disorder

The premises sat within the Cumulative Impact Zone (CI Policy Area).

The review application was submitted by Cambridgeshire Constabulary on 10th June 2023.

The Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor was Jawad Ismail.

The licence currently permitted:

Recorded music indoors	0800hrs - 0200hrs
Provision of late night refreshment	2300hrs - 0200hrs
Sale by retail of alcohol	0800hrs - 0200hrs
Films	0800hrs – 0200hrs
Indoor Sporting Events	0800hrs - 0200hrs

The opening hours were 0800hrs to 0200 hrs Monday through to Sunday.

The premises licence review process had been commenced due to dealing in illegal drugs on the premises.

The Sub-Committee had read the committee papers, containing the Licensing Officer's report; the review application and supporting information; and current premises licence.

The Sub-Committee heard in person from:

- The Police
- The Premises Licence Holder

The facts in short were:

On 31st May 2023 a bar person working for the licence holder was arrested for dealing or participating in the dealing of cocaine on the premises, during the months of February and March.

On 6th June PC Hawkins was at the premises speaking with Mr Ismail. At this meeting Mr Ismail was aware that the individual had been arrested, the reasons why, and that the premises had been searched.

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During this meeting, the arrested individual entered the premises via the rear door to the premises. Mr Ismail said, at the meeting, that the individual had been sacked but was a friend so was allowed to visit the premises.

The police raise concerns that Mr Ismail was not in control of the premises, had not taken immediate action to mitigate further offences and does not understand his responsibilities when running a licensed premises; a position which the Sub-Committee agree.

The Licence Holder stated:

- He was not aware this individual was selling drugs from the premises
- He paid the individual cash on a casual basis
- He had banned this person, since his meeting with the Police and Regulatory Officer
- A membership only was now in operation
- ID checks were undertaken for members of the snooker club
- Rear access was now controlled but awaiting a secure closing magnetic mechanism
- He was on the premises during opening hours

In deliberations the Sub-Committee was referred to:

- Peterborough City Council's Statement of Licensing Policy
- The Government Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003
- Licensing Act 2003

The Statutory Government Guidance states at Paragraph 11.27:

There is certain criminal activity that may arise in connection with licensed premises which should be treated particularly seriously. These are the use of the licensed premises, amongst other things:

For the sale and distribution of drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the laundering of the proceeds of drugs crime

And at Paragraph 11.28:

It is envisaged that licensing authorities, the police, the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) and other law enforcement agencies, which are responsible authorities, will use the review procedures effectively to deter such activities and crime. Where reviews arise and the licensing authority determines that the crime prevention objective is being undermined through the premises being used to further crimes, it is expected that revocation of the licence – even in the first instance – should be seriously considered.

The Sub-Committee disregarded matters that do not relate to the licensing objective in question, and those that fall outside of this Sub Committee's remit.

It was the function of the Licensing Act 2003 Sub Committee to take steps with a view to the promotion of the licensing objectives and in this instance, the prevention of crime and disorder in the interests of the wider community and not those of the individual licence holder.

The options available to the Sub-Committee were:

- modify the conditions of the premises licence

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- exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence
  - remove the designated premises supervisor
  - suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;
  - revoke the licence

The Sub-Committee took a serious view of dealing in Class A drugs, especially on licensed premises which the general public had access to.

It was clear the premises licence holder was not in control of the premises and had not taken his responsibilities under the Licensing Act seriously.

The Sub-Committee had considered various conditions but did not believe that additional conditions were appropriate in this case.

### The Decision

In order to promote the licensing objective in question, the Sub-Committee believed it was necessary and appropriate to **REVOKE** the premises licence known as Peterborough Snooker Centre – 317/321 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 2PH, in its entirety

Any party in objection to the decision may appeal to the Peterborough Magistrates Court within 21 days of receiving this formal notice at:

Peterborough Court House, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1ED. Tel No. 01223 376000.  
There is a fee to pay.

Councillor Wiggin - Sub-Committee Chairman