

[Insert name and address of relevant licensing authority and its reference number (optional)]

**Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the
Licensing Act 2003**

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form.
If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure
that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary.
You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

I Christopher ADSHEAD

(Insert name of applicant)

**apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 / apply for the review of a club
premises certificate under section 87 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in
Part 1 below (delete as applicable)**

Part 1 – Premises or club premises details

Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference	
Lounge 72 High Street Stevenage Herts	
Post town Stevenage	Post code (if known) SG1 3EA

Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)
TRACY GRANT

Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known)
SBC LO 250

Part 2 - Applicant details

I am

Please tick ✓ yes

1) an individual, body or business which is not a responsible
authority (please read guidance note 1, and complete (A)
or (B) below)

2) a responsible authority (please complete (C) below)

3) a member of the club to which this application relates
(please complete (A) below)

(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT (fill in as applicable)

Please tick ✓ yes

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other title
(for example, Rev)

Surname

First names

Please tick ✓ yes

I am 18 years old or over

**Current postal
address if
different from
premises
address**

Post town

Post Code

Daytime contact telephone number

**E-mail address
(optional)**

(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT

Name and address

Telephone number (if any)

E-mail address (optional)

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address Police Sergeant Christopher ADSHEAD Community Safety Unit Sergeant / Hertfordshire Police Hitchin Police Station College Road Hitchin Herts SG5 1JX
Telephone number (if any) 01438 757636
E-mail address (optional) Christopher.adshead@herts.police.uk

This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)

Please tick one or more boxes ✓

- 1) the prevention of crime and disorder /
- 2) public safety/
- 3) the prevention of public nuisance/
- 4) the protection of children from harm

Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 2)

TO PREVENT CRIME AND DISORDER

- Evidence of multiple incidents of violence and disturbance, including a recent stabbing, within/ outside the venue, by customers of that venue (See attached summary)

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Allowing customers to drink to a state of inebriation whereby they fall over – images from CCTV/WHATS APP available (1st October 2022)
- Violence and disruption spilling out onto the public thoroughfare
- Knife crime outside the venue, involving customers exiting that venue

TO PREVENT PUBLIC NUISANCE

- Serving drunk/inebriated people
- Disruption and violent disorder by customers within and leaving the club
- Noise complaints from the public
- Traffic and crowd disruption on closure of Club (3am onwards)
- Multiple complaints from members of the public, to Police and Stevenage Borough Council, with regard to images and activities of an adult nature, filmed at an event at the club, being circulated, and causing distress an alarm. (Daytime 1st October 2022)

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

- Incidents of indecency being allowed to occur, therefore being captured on mobile phones leading to their circulation on social media, likely to be available and accessible to children.

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 3)

Overview re application for review of Lounge 72, High Street, Stevenage

This application by Hertfordshire Constabulary has been submitted following recent incidents which have occurred and are connected to the named premises.

Despite attempts to work with the management of these premises by Stevenage police Community Safety Unit Sergeant and licensing officer there have continued to be incidents of violence and disruption relating to Lounge 72 which have raised serious enough concerns for the police to bring this action.

The situation at this establishment has recently caused public dissatisfaction and has been at the centre of a very serious incident which has resulted in possible life threatening injuries being sustained by the victim of a knife attack.

These have only added to the already serious concerns around the history of the Club since its opening in the summer of 2021 and as such Hertfordshire Constabulary is now applying for the revocation of the Alcohol Licence of Lounge 72.

Listed below are just a small number of examples of the areas of concern under the Licensing Objectives headings regarding the lack of appropriate Management of this establishment, which have caused Police involvement during the past 15 months, since its opening in July 2022.

CRIME AND DISORDER:

A summary of incident and reports have been compiled and are included in this application. All are related to this venue, and many were of a violent nature. More than 50 calls were received to attend these premises, and at least 13 calls were 999, causing Police to respond immediately. (See below attachment)



Lounge 72 –
Incidents between Jur



Summary of
Incidents for Lounge 7

EXAMPLE 1: Incident 16th April 2022

Though there were many incidents, an example of an immediate call to Police involving these premises, is attached including narrative from Ps H. Ayriss, who was caught up in this violent situation at the Venue in April of this year. Following on from that particular incident, the Licensing Officer and Community Safety Unit sergeant met with Tracey Grant (PLH and DPS) at the Police Station to discuss the seriousness of this incident, and to find a way for her and her team to improve their operation.

Ps Ayriss was also invited into this meeting to explain how serious and dangerous it had been (for all) on the night in question. At the conclusion of the meeting, plans were agreed by Ms

Grant, for the improvement of the managing of the Club, which were to commence with immediate effect. (See Appendix B)



FW_ OVERVIEW - incident(s) in High Street_Lounge 72_ 16th April_ 2022.msg

EXAMPLE 2 22nd October 2022

Precis of stabbing outside Lounge 72

Around 0310hrs on Sunday 22nd October 2022 a 21 year old male was stabbed in the abdomen by a 20 year old male outside LOUNGE 72 on ROOKERY YARD, STEVENAGE.

The victim had not been a customer at LOUNGE 72 on the evening but appeared from CCTV to be waiting outside to meet friends who had been inside. There are two males suspected to have been in possession of knives, both of whom were ID scanned into the club. Suspect 1 was ID scanned entering LOUNGE 72 at around 2330 and inside Lounge 72 at the time the victim is seen waiting outside and can be seen leaving LOUNGE 72 at 0300 when the club closed.

Following closing, a large fight broke out in ROOKERY YARD involving multiple people. During this time it was very busy and there are a number of people in the alley way making their way to the High Street. A number of people are involved and during the ensuing fight the victim receives a single stab wound to the abdomen before the suspect ran off towards the high street.

You can then see the second male who had also been in LOUNGE 72 having a knife fight at the end of ROOKERY YARD. The CCTV shows them slashing at each other. A knife is then dropped by one of them and a member of the public tells one of the door staff who pick it up and later hands it to police. Both males run away prior to police arriving. The second knife was found in a residential street near to where a male was arrested. One of the security team attempted to break up this fight on his own.

Whilst this knife fight is happening, the victim walked up to another Doorman at the main entrance of LOUNGE 72, lifts his top showing a significant amount of blood and tells him he has been stabbed. He walks up to the top of ROOKERY YARD and later collapses and is given first aid by police who arrive on scene. The doorman who he informed and showed the injuries to remains at the main door and does not follow him and does not get involved in giving any first aid.

The victim's injuries were initially thought likely to prove fatal, he was rushed to LISTER HOSPITAL, and later transferred to another specialist hospital where he was put into a coma in intensive care. He has had a number of surgeries and sustained what doctors have described as life changing injuries.

NB: It Was noted by Officers at the scene, and from CCTV footage, that some of the staff/management were not completing their duties with due diligence in that:

- The Door staff member who was approached by the victim who, had been stabbed, did not attempt to assist him. See CCTV Footage.
- The Manager 'Dan', appeared on CCTV, to be shouting and angry and had to be held back by others, when approaching the crime scene, area outside the club.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Violence in and around Lounge 72.

I refer to the examples from the Crime and Disorder heading in relation to the Stabbing, and the incident on 16th April, 2022. These incidents happened outside the club but involved customers who had been patrons of Lounge 72. Both spread across much of the High Street, and affected members of the public making their way home

PUBLIC NUISANCE

Numerous complaints received from members of the public with regard to the event on 1st October, 2022 **See below attached C**



Lounge 72 - logsr
egarding 1st October

On 01/10/2022 an Event was held at Lounge 72 advertised as a 'Chocolate Brunch'. This event was advertised as one where drinks would be served by semi-naked men. The event soon came to police attention following a string of social media clips clearly showing the event far outreaching levels of public decency, with some of the patrons involved in sex acts presumably due to the level of their intoxication, as many appeared inebriated.

Ms Grant informed police this had gone way beyond the remit and that she wasn't aware. However footage and statements supplied by patrons clearly contradict this version of events and in fact allege encouragement.

At no point are management or door staff seen to intervene.

This event led to a lot of alarm and distress from those who attended, who described the very graphic events including oral sex acts and masturbation, some of which is captured in the footage.

Please see the following statement from a guest who attended the event, describing the involvement of the staff/management at the event held on the afternoon of 1st October, 2022 in support of the above (**See below**)



MG11 witness
Lounge 72.docx

Footage available, (but not included), from the event on 1st October, 2022

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Attitude of staff and management towards Police Officers and staff, on occasions, have been unacceptable, and have recently caused a crime scene to be disrupted.

- Letter to Tracy Grant regarding attitude of staff towards Police, on request by Police staff for CCTV download, relating to a serious crime (time critical) (See below)



Letter of warning to T
Grant Lounge 72.doc

- E mail from an Officer on scene guard at a the site of a stabbing at the venue on 22nd October 2022 (See below attached)



Lounge 72
Management - Scene

- Request from Ps Fathers (SNT), to Tracy Grant on 3rd November 2022, asking her to consider closing the premises an hour earlier due to the previous two weekend when there have been violent disorder. This request was not agreed to, by her, due to pre-booked acts, and predicted financial loss to the business. (See Appendix G)

Conclusion

Since the opening of Lounge72 in the summer of 2021, there have been many incidents, which have necessitated Police involvement and have caused violence and disruption to the High Street of Stevenage.

Following violent disorder at Lounge 72 in April, 2022 a meeting took place between Police and Ms Grant, to discuss various concerns around this venue and violent disorder.

Actions were put in place, but although the Club followed the actions to a point, this did not stop the violence and disruption which has culminated in the most recent office of knife crime.

This disruption has now affected public opinion of this area and has brought complaints and criticism from both the general public and other businesses in the Old Town of Stevenage.

It has also attracted reports by the local press, on the venue.

The recent Event of 1st October 2022, attracted much interest and has caused the Public to send footage of this event to both the Police and Stevenage Borough Council, to complain about those activities. This footage has also been widely circulated on social media.

On viewing the footage, from both inside and in the garden area of the premises, it was obvious that many customers in attendance at this event were very inebriated.

They show females unable to walk and falling across the floor in a drunken state. This is a breach of the licence, as under the Licensing Act 2003, drunk people must not be served.

Other Premises in the Old Town have also been sent images by their customers, who are very disturbed by this sort of behaviour. Many premises are concerned for the reputation of businesses in this area, following the 'Event'.

On the 22nd October 2022, there was a stabbing outside Lounge 72, and those involved had either been in the Club, or were waiting for people in attendance there. CCTV footage has been viewed.

The following weekend, there was a further knife incident close to the club, and apparently this was intended retribution for the incident on 22nd October, 2022 .

Due to the last incident Lounge 72 was closed by Police for that night, to ensure Public safety.

On 3rd November, Ps Fathers (SNT), approached Ms Grant to request an earlier closure, at the weekend, to assist with Public Safety at that time.

This was refused due to financial loss.

FINAL Statement from Ps Adshead:

I am the Community Safety Unit Sergeant for Stevenage and North Herts.

I have worked closely with the Licensing officer on the issues at Lounge 72 and feel well placed to write an impact statement for the police.

Rarely, if ever, does one premises fail in so many areas of its responsibilities around the licensing objectives. However, in this instance, not only are the breaches great in number and range, but also compounded by their gravity in terms of safeguarding the public.

The police have taken documented steps to work with the premises to minimise the risk to the public, and the increased security measures offered of late by the premises to mitigate the risks are fully noted (for example, adding to the number of door staff and increasing searches etc.) However, such is the level of danger perceived by police that a closure notice was served for the weekend of 29th October, 2022 to ensure public safety was preserved.

While the measures put forward are welcomed, they were in effect too little, too late, as whatever those measures, the confidence in them being implemented successfully has evaporated and it is this which is important in deciding what actions the police take.

Public Safety cannot and must not be compromised, and the polices first sworn duty is to protect life and limb which is a responsibility that has become a reality in this situation.

The events of 01/10/2022 were significant, and there can be no dispute that the staff on duty that day should have stepped in to stop the service of alcohol to those already intoxicated, and to protect public decency when it was clearly being compromised. It is inconceivable that there was no knowledge of events unfolding and at best this is irresponsible, and at worst complicit and intentional. Either way, the events were bad enough, but the lack of control over the premises a serious lack of duty to the public and the upholding of the licensing values.

Ultimately, the police have lost confidence in the ability of the license holder and the premises to effectively safeguard the public or uphold the responsibilities bestowed upon them and I fully support the application for the revocation of this license.

Please tick ✓ yes

Have you made an application for review relating to the premises before NO

If yes please state the date of that application

Day	Month	Year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you have made representations before relating to the premises please state what they were and when you made them

N/A

Please tick ✓

yes

- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate /
- I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected /

IT IS AN OFFENCE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003, TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION. THOSE WHO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT MAY BE LIABLE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO A FINE OF ANY AMOUNT.

Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 4)

Signature of applicant or applicant’s solicitor or other duly authorised agent (please read guidance note 5). **If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

Signature C. Adshead

.....

Date 2nd September, 2021

.....

Capacity

.....APPLICANT.....

.....

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 6)

G.Akroyd
Licensing Officer
Stevenage Police Station,
Lytton Way,

Post town
Stevenage

Post Code
SG1 1HF

Telephone number (if any) **Mob: 07734496130**

If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional) gillian.akroyd@herts.police.ukxx

Notes for Guidance

1. A responsible authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.
2. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
3. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
4. The application form must be signed.
5. An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
6. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.