

POPULATION HEALTH

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE · AUDENSHAW · DENTON · DROYLSDEN · DUKINFIELD · HYDE · LONGDENDALE · MOSSLEY · STALYBRIDGE

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Date 13 July 2020

Re: Representation from the Population Health Department at Tameside Council regarding the review of premise application in regards of Top End Bar, 132-134 Stamford Street Central, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 6AD

I, James Mallion on behalf of Public Health in their capacity as a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 make representation in relation to the premises licence review at (On License) Top End Bar, 132-134 Stamford Street Central, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 6AD submitted to the Licensing Authority on 16 June 2020.

The representation relates primarily to: the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; and the prevention of public nuisance.

The Health Protection Regulations which came into effect on 21 March 2020 specifically required the closure of restaurants, cafes, bars and public houses. The rationale for this was to reduce the overall mixing of people in the community; and to avoid people gathering in enclosed indoor spaces where there may be a high risk of transmission of Covid-19, due to the transmission routes from respiratory droplets and other contact.

As a Responsible Authority, we have reviewed the underlying risk posed by the circulation of Covid-19 in the wider community during the period in question (late March-early April).

Firstly the reproduction number (R number) of the virus gives us an overall estimate of the number of people each infected person will infect on average. Without any control measures, the R number for Covid-19 is estimated to be between 2 and 3. So for every person with the virus, 2 to 3 others are infected. In comparison, now that more protective measures are in place, which the majority have adhered to, the R number has reduced to an estimated 0.7-1.0 in the North West.

During the time in question in early April, some of the protective measures that are now in place to reduce the risk of further spread, and reduce the R number, were not yet implemented including 'covid-safe' measures in public spaces, the wider use of face coverings (eg. on public transport), the national Test & Trace system and the Local Authority Outbreak Management plan. Due to the

high R number of Covid-19 we know that one infected person could pass this on to others, resulting in up to 400 further people being infected after 30 days, from a single case. The range of protective measures to limit contact and contain the virus reduce this number substantially, which is why it is crucial that measures such as the Health Protection Regulations are adhered to.

The panel should also note that there is evidence of substantial asymptomatic spread which means people who are infected are able to pass the virus on before their symptoms actually start, and therefore before they are aware they have it. Evidence from the World Health Organisation also suggests that large numbers of small outbreaks of Covid-19 that have been identified have been linked to crowded indoor spaces.

In terms of the actual numbers in Tameside, it is important to note that at the time in question at the start of April, the rate of infection was high with much higher levels of Covid-19 circulating in our population than we see now. During the 7 days leading up to Friday 3 April 2020, 94 people tested positive for Covid-19 in Tameside. This compares to 18 people who tested positive during the 7 days leading up to Friday 10 July 2020. It should also be noted that during early April, there was a much lower rate of testing taking place than there is now, with only the most severely ill patients who were admitted to hospital being routinely tested, so that figure of 94 is likely to only represent a small proportion of the actual number of people who were infected in Tameside at the time. As the number of tests being done, and the infection rate increased, these numbers continued to rise to a high of 178 positive cases in the 7 days up to Friday 22 May 2020.

Based on this information I think it is appropriate to review the license for these premises as the evidence we have indicates that there was a substantial risk of Covid-19 transmission on, and leading up to, the date of Friday 3 April 2020. Allowing people to gather and spend time in this premise would have potentially increased the risk of transmission of Covid-19.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Mallion', written over a horizontal dotted line.

James Mallion
Public Health Consultant

References

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