

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) The Cock Hotel, 60 Two Trees Lane, Denton, M34 7SZ submitted to the Licensing Authority on 04 December 2020.

The representation relates primarily to: public safety, as well as the prevention of crime and disorder.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 4) Regulations 2020 which came into effect on 5 November 2020 required public houses to close, among other measures. These regulations were introduced due to the high and increasing Covid-19 infection rates seen across the country, particularly in the North West throughout the autumn. These restrictions aimed to reduce the overall mixing of people in the community and to avoid people gathering in enclosed indoor spaces. Venues adhering to these restrictions was essential to reduce the spread of Covid-19 in enclosed indoor spaces due to the transmission routes from respiratory droplets and other close 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 (throughout November), in the context of public safety.

The reproduction number (R number) of Covid-19 is naturally high with each infected person going on to infect 2-3 others if control measures are not in place. One infected person spreading the virus could result in up to 400 further people being infected after 30 days. This is part of the reason why adhering to restrictions to reduce the amount of social contact is vital in preventing transmission and more people becoming infected.

It should be noted 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 have been linked to crowded indoor spaces. We have also seen evidence of this in Tameside with a high number of outbreaks where transmission has occurred in enclosed, indoor spaces.

At the time in question at the start of November, the rate of new diagnosed infections in the community in Tameside was at the highest point we have recorded so far during the pandemic with a 7-day rate of 533 cases per 100,000 people, which represents over 1,200 new cases per week across Tameside. At this time Tameside had the 8th highest infection rate in the country. This demonstrates the high risk of general transmission of Covid-19 in the community during this period. In the coming weeks the impact of the new Covid-19 restrictions and the closure of public houses, among other measures, was seen with a reduction in infections – by 28th November the 7-day case rate was 152 per 100,000 people, which represents around 345 new cases per week across Tameside. This was still a high rate of infection with a significant risk of substantial spread across the community. The rapid decline in the rate of new cases throughout November demonstrates the impact that the widespread compliance with the Health Protection Regulations and closures can have on reducing infections, which further demonstrates the importance of venues adhering to them.

It should also be noted that Tameside has seen a high death rate from Covid-19 and as of December 2020 Tameside had the highest cumulative Covid-19 death rate in the country with over 500

cumulative Covid-19 deaths. This demonstrates the severe impact that Covid-19 transmission in Tameside has had.

Evidence has shown us that the restrictions and closures introduced as part of the Health Protection Regulations are effective at reducing the spread of infection if they are adhered to. By hosting a gathering and serving customers this premises has failed to comply with this essential requirement and also increased the risk of transmission amongst the individuals concerned and their close contacts.

Based on this information I think it is appropriate to review the license for these premises as the evidence we have indicates that there has been a failure to comply with effective and essential restrictions to reduce the spread of infection at a time when the risk of Covid-19 transmission in Tameside was at one of its highest points. This would have potentially put public safety at risk.