

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 Jolly Hatters, 119 Town Lane, Denton, M34 2DJ 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; and the prevention of public nuisance.

The Health Protection Regulations which came into effect in March 2020 were aimed at reducing the overall mixing of people in the community and to avoid people gathering in enclosed indoor spaces. As well as some periods of closure across the hospitality sector, including some licensed premises, other key elements of these regulations involve venues taking reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of Covid-19 and to comply with relevant local restrictions. Venues adhering to these requirements is 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 reviewed the underlying risk posed by the circulation of Covid-19 in the wider community during the period in question (early-July through to mid-September), 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 July, the rate of infection in the community in Tameside was lower than in the following weeks and months with approximately 30 new cases per week across the borough. We were still seeing the impact of the national lockdown over the preceding 3 months and lower levels of circulation of the virus during the summer. From here the rate of infection steadily increased. By mid-September, when further concerns were raised regarding the premises, there were over 260 new cases per week across the borough. This demonstrates the speed with which the rate of infection can increase, and the underlying risk from community transmission at the time in question. This rate continued to rise in the coming weeks, which at one time showed Tameside to be one of the worst affected areas in the country. By the start of November there were over 1,200 new cases per week across the borough. Tameside has also 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.

Some of the specific concerns raised by the Tameside Licensing Team such as the failure to ensure social distancing was being adhered to; failure to manage the behaviour of customers; continuing to serve customers beyond the terminal hour on the license; and failure to prevent a large fight within the premises, are all factors which would potentially result in further close contact between customers, further increasing the risk of transmission of Covid-19.

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 an ongoing risk of Covid-19 transmission in Tameside and therefore failing to comply with regulations, particularly lack of social distancing, would have potentially increased the risk of transmission of Covid-19 and put public safety at risk.