

APPENDIX 4



My name is Dawn Morrish.

I am the Health Improvement Manager for Community Safety and Offender Health, in the Public Health Directorate based at Hertfordshire County Council. As the Public Health lead for licensing, I am responding to the Licensing review of :

The Red Lion, Vicarage Road, Watford WD18 0EY

My representation relates to the following licensing objectives:

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

As Health Improvement manager for Community Safety and Offender Health, the health and safety aspect of licensing is my priority as well as health protection. I work closely with District Councils and Community Safety Partnerships. I also chair the Hertfordshire Strategic Alcohol Group.

The NHS and partner agencies are trying to support people in drinking alcohol safely and responsibly and expect that licensed premises will act in a responsible manner to support the work of statutory and non statutory agencies.

The National Alcohol Strategy aims to reduce the harms caused by alcohol by emphasising the promotion of safe and sensible drinking.

Alcohol is the second biggest lifestyle health risk factor after tobacco use.

Research suggests that increases in consumption across the population are associated with increases in alcohol related harms, especially long term diseases and poor health outcomes.

With deaths from liver disease rising at an alarming rate-25% in the last 10 years, we all need to be consistent in the health messages we are giving and in responsible marketing and selling of alcohol.

The most recently published Local Alcohol Profiles for England show that Watford has the second highest numbers of alcohol related recorded crimes in Hertfordshire (ranked 241 out of 326 local authorities in England) and also alcohol related violent crimes (ranked 248 out of 326 local authorities in England). Therefore it is of concern that Watford ranks so highly and is significantly worse than the England average.

Watford also ranks number 248 out of 326 for violence against the person offences, this being significantly higher than the national average, and the highest in Hertfordshire.

The evidence from the License Review application points to breaches of the license objectives and conditions of the license. Of particular concern is:

- breaching of the license condition relating to the exclusion of unaccompanied children from the premises and accompanied children from 19.30hrs.
- the selling of alcohol outside the licensing hours, and in one incidence before 10.30am
- the absence of a DPS

Of greater concern is the applicant's disregard of the law regarding licensing and the negligent approach to selling alcohol, evidenced by his disregard of measures put in place to protect the public particularly the most vulnerable, in this instance young children.

The signature as shown in evidence JMC/1 does look very different to that shown in JMC/2 and of particular note is that the spelling of the forename is also different. If this is a forgery then not only is this premises managed irresponsibly, and license objectives breached, but there has been an unlawful act committed.

Therefore, I totally support the licence review application that this license is revoked.

Dated: 29 August 2013

Signed: