

From: Paul Jones <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 4:24 PM
To: Lynsay Kingswell <[REDACTED]>
Subject: M&S Romford - premises licence variation application

Dear Ms Kingswell

Further to the above please find attached our application acknowledgement letter.

With regard to the application I have had a brief look at the operating schedule and I should advise that the licensing authority would not be able to support the application as submitted. For example, the application's section M appears to be sparsely populated, particularly considering that the premises now wishes to supply alcohol for consumption on the premises for 15 hours a day, coupled with the fact that the current licence has only two extant annex two conditions attached to it, one of which relates to non-standard hours while the other seeks to be removed.

While I would not presume to tell John Gaunt & Partners' licensing team what conditions should or should not be attached to such an application this licensing authority would expect the applicant to identify a suitable series of proposals designed to promote the licensing objectives. In order to gain the support of the licensing authority we would expect to see steps identified in relation to the following associated matters:

- Staff training in relation to alcohol supplies
- Child protection proposals, including training, and proof of age verification
- CCTV (assuming a CCTV system is present, which I believe it is)
- Emergency planning and fire risk assessment
- The presence of an incident book to record matters of concern associated with the supply of alcohol at the premises
- The presence of a condition(s) in relation to alcohol being ancillary to a table meal or to be served to seated patrons only
- If remote sales and/or deliveries of alcohol are to be made the presence of proposals to address this

I would be grateful if any such amendments to the operating schedule are made known at your earliest convenience. Alternatively, I would be grateful to be made aware at the earliest opportunity if the applicant prefers to leave the operating schedule as submitted.

I look forward to your reply.

Many thanks in advance.

Kind regards

Paul Jones

Paul Jones | Public Protection Officer
London Borough of Havering | Environment
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford, RM1 1BD

From: Jon Wallsgrove <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 02 May 2023 17:14
To: Paul Jones <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Lynsay Kingswell <[REDACTED]>
Subject: M&S Romford - premises licence variation application - on sales in the cafe

Dear Mr Jones

My colleague has passed me your email as I am the Partner overseeing all the variations we have submitted for M&S cafés.

I can confirm that the operating schedule as submitted should remain as it is. In the event that either the Licensing Authority or any other responsible authority make a representation and invite M&S to consider conditions we will take instructions.

As you rightly point out the current licence does not have any conditions but the absence of conditions has not led to any adverse impact on any of the licensing objectives in selling alcohol from these premises. Many of M&S stores already have licensed cafes without conditions and operate perfectly well without issues. The company's policies (for example Challenge 25) and training of staff along with measures such as CCTV are of course in place but the sale of alcohol in the café, taking account of the nature and character of the premises and clientele, presents such a minimal risk to having a negative impact on the licensing objectives that it is not appropriate to offer a list of "standard" conditions. You say the sale of alcohol is for 15 hours a day but in reality that is not the case. What is proposed is to be able to offer alcohol on limited occasions with promotions such as: afternoon tea with prosecco; dine in for two with a bottle of wine or be in conjunction with an event in store, for example a fashion show.

That is not to say they will never consider in the future the sale of alcohol in the café on a more regular basis and so my client is therefore not averse to agreeing reasonable conditions where requested; to avoid the need to argue these points before a Committee. Obviously what they will not agree to are any conditions which do not directly relate to the application itself, for example deliveries or conditions which duplicate other statutory obligations e.g. a Fire risk assessment)

I hope that has explained the position more fully for you.

Kind Regards,

Jon

Jon Wallsgrove
Partner