



**KD - Havering Borough
KD - Romford Police Station**

Licensing Authority
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Police submit the following report in response to a closure order issued at Hot & Tasty Chicken, 140 SOUTH STREET, ROMFORD, RM1 1TE by police under the Licensing Act 2003. Official notification has been received from REDBRIDGE MAGISTRATES COURT evidencing a hearing on 7th MAY 2013 concerning the above named premises and its closure by police on 4th MAY 2013. The court determined not to use its power under section 165 Licensing Act 2003 but was satisfied with the use of section 161 by police in the circumstances. It is unknown why it has taken the court until now to notify the local authority. Officers including Inspector BLACKLEDGE and I have made several attempts for this notification to be served before now.

Police believe the premises of HOT & TASTY are not acting in responsible manner to promote the licensing objectives during its late night refreshment hours. Officers feel this premise has a negative effect on crime and disorder and public nuisance, not to mention public safety. Police wish to bring to the sub committee's attention a number of breaches to the premise licence conditions along with suggestions on how these issues may be remedied by changes to their current licence.

Firstly, police take this opportunity to summarise the closure in question.

Closure under section 161 Licensing Act 2003.

Saturday 4th MAY 2013 @ 00:30-01:00hrs

Other Offences observed - Breach of license condition 2 (Premises shall have a door supervisor on Friday and Saturday after midnight)

EXAMPLE 1 - At 00:30 on Saturday 4th MAY 2013 Pc 403KD Davies witnessed the premises open for trading but no SIA badge holder being on duty, clearly breaching condition 2 of their premises license. Police Inspector Lorraine COWLEY visited the premises at approx 01:00 hrs and points out this issue with the manager, Mr Ashmatullah TURKMANI. When this breach is pointed out Mr TURKMANI informs police they are the new owners and have had no problems since installing a re-enforced glass panel at the counter leaving only a small gap at the bottom to pass food and money with customers. It was established no door staff were on duty in any capacity. INSP COWLEY noticed large groups of males gathering outside and trying gain entry, she describes them as "high spirited" and "under the influence of alcohol". INSP COWLEY then elected to exercise her powers of closure under section 161 of

the licensing Act 2003 and notified Mr TURKMANI of this informing him the closure was effective from 01:00hrs until 09:00hrs.

BACKGROUND

This premise is located within Havering boroughs Anti Social Behaviour hotspot and directly beside the Transport for London travel network hub. There are two large bus stops directly outside the premise which service night buses, naturally seeing large numbers, under the influence of alcohol, congregating through out the evening and into the early hours.

This year alone police have received several complaints of violence and anti social behaviour recorded directly against the premises. A number of crimes have been recorded showing the premise as the venue.

5402572/13 - Grievous Bodily Harm **Sunday 17th FEB 2013 @ 00:30 hours**
EXAMPLE 2 - Victim attended the premises with his girlfriend and once inside got talking to a group of males, during a conversation one of the males called the victims girlfriend "Fatty", his girlfriend heard the comment and stormed out of the premises upset, leaving the male victim at the location. A short while later victim had sustained serious head injuries which resulted in a diagnosed fractured skull and a blood clot that needed surgery. It is believed the victim defended his girlfriend's honour and was attacked by the 3 males. Upon police arrival at the venue an hour later, the staff denied that any incidents had taken place, the premises had been cleaned and there was no sign of any blood or blood splatter. When officers asked to view the CCTV they were informed it could not be operated by the members of staff on duty at that time. No CCTV to this date has been recovered and no scene identified.

5401728/13 - Sec 5 Public Order Act **Saturday 16th MARCH 2013 @ 00:05 hours**
EXAMPLE 3 - Police came across an argument between the suspect and a member of staff at the venue who stated the suspect along with two other males had sat down and started causing trouble in the shop and when asked to leave became abusive. The Member of staff informed the males that seating the shop is for paying customers only and the males were asked to leave. Police were called. Suspect was warned repeatedly in regards to swearing in public next to the main bus hub. However he continued to shout obscenities and displaying crude and rude hand gestures. The behaviour was observed by approximately thirty members of the public.

Saturday 4th MAY 2013 @ 00:30-01:00hrs, Closure order under section 161 Licensing Act 2003 already referred to.

5408179/13 - Actual Bodily Harm **Wednesday 05th JUNE 2013 @ 01:40 hours**
EXAMPLE 4 - A male and female couple were awaiting their food when suspect entered the shop. He engaged the couple in conversation however this conversation turned to violence, suspect punched the male victim twice in the face then kicked the female victim in the chest for no apparent reason. The fight spilled out onto the footway outside in the transport hub. The suspect continued to parade outside the shop swearing and shouting. Police arrived and arrested the male. At the time of police arrival the shop had been closed and police could not liaise with any staff and obtain witness or possible scene evidence. Pc ROSE attended the premises the following day and was informed by both Mr Ashmatullah TURKMANI (manager) and Mr Hayadulla TURKMANI that neither of them could operate the CCTV system to show the footage or download for evidence. Police had to return the following day, some 34 hours after the event to view CCTV
Not only has the premises been a location for crime and disorder, officers have had to visit the establishment on other occasions.

Breach of license condition 2 (Premises shall have a door supervisor on Friday and Saturday after midnight) Saturday 28th April 2013 @ 00:05-00:15hrs

EXAMPLE 5 - Officers from Havering licensing authority observe the premises operating without any door supervisors at approx. 00:05hrs. Officers enter the venue and speak with Mr TURKMANI advising him of the breach and he simply stated he felt he didn't need door staff.

Operating outside of licensable hours.

Saturday 25th MAY 2013 @ 02:03-02:20hrs

EXAMPLE 6 - At 02:03hrs Police noticed the premises still had their lights on and were trading. The door supervisor was stood outside with customers sat inside. At 02:06 hours police observed a male walk into the venue approach the counter and appear to order food. Police entered and spoke to staff. Police enquired what time they close. The staff member informed them 02:30 hours. Police asked what time did they serve till and was told 0215 hours. Pc ARMOUR asked to see the license, the manager then stated they were closing in the next ten minutes and that they stop serving at 0200 hours. As this conversation was finishing police witnessed a staff member serve up the food to the customer that came in after 0200 hours. Pc ARMOUR informed the manager that he would be reported to the licensing authority for his breach of licensable hours.

**** POINT OF NOTE ****

In all of the six examples shown above the offending times are after midnight. Police submit that this is the critical time for potential issues to take place. Victims become even more vulnerable due to intoxication; offenders become even more violent due to intoxication. Romford town centre needs a quick dispersal zone when pubs, clubs and other venues close, not a venue that attracts people to meet, keep warm, socialise and stay longer. This only increases the chances of crime and disorder and offences against public safety and public nuisance. This premise by the sheer nature of the examples above has shown they can not operate without such incidents taking place.

Further to the above observation police have received numerous calls to the immediate locality and to the premises of A1 mini cabs adjoining hot and tasty, it is impossible to ascertain if these premises are involved in all these incidents as callers / victims have left prior to police arrival however two further CADS have been logged solely against the premises address -

EXAMPLE 7 **Monday 22th JULY 2013 @ 0044hrs** **CAD KD416**
Police called by a staff member requesting assistance. Immediate response vehicle dispatched.

EXAMPLE 8 **Sunday 28th APRIL 2013 @ 2345hrs** **CAD KD9473**
Police called requesting assistance at location. Station Van dispatched.

In May the venue then applied for extensions to its licensing hours, 05:00hrs on a Thursday - Saturday, and 03:00hrs on a Monday- Wednesday and 02:00hrs on a Sunday, police made objections, showing their fears for safety, these fears were supported by the sub committee at a subsequent hearing on the 8th JULY and the application was refused in full. No further hours of trading were approved or authorised.

Police believe the majority of HOT & TASTY'S customer base are under the influence of alcohol in different degrees. The potential for violence is often felt throughout the night, the venues clientele is loud, jovial, boisterous and in the examples shown VIOLENT. SIA door staff have proven to be an effective tool in the combat against crime and disorder along with aiding public safety. Police encourage

the use of such staff during the hours of late night refreshment. Without this personnel present the risk to public safety will dramatically increase as will the burden on staff to enforcing their current licensing condition in respect of capacity. Police therefore recommend that a SIA badge holder should be on duty where the premise trade within their late night refreshment hours i.e. 2300 until close.

Police have serious concerns in relation to the amount of times CCTV has not been available to view or indeed, the facility to download and seize for evidence. It appears staff members continue to clear and clean the premises prior to police arrival which in turn has an impact on loss of evidence. They have been advised about this on several occasions.

Police also have concerns in relation to Public Nuisance and Public Safety from a littering point of view. On all night time occasions when police patrol the area it is clear to see litter which has come from the venue. This includes take away packaging, chips and chicken bones thrown carelessly around the transport hub. Not only are these chicken bones a health risk they are also a danger as intoxicated person may slip on greasy discarded items such as this. The litter is a constant eyesore for residents and visitors alike. It is not cleaned away by the venue and is traditionally still present on a Saturday and Sunday morning when shoppers enter the area giving an untidy and false impression of Romford Town Centre. This is a clear continuous breach of condition 5 (annex 2).

In conclusion police respectfully request that consideration be made to the following recommendations.

*** A reduction in trading hours for Late Night Refreshment to 0030hrs Monday - Saturday in line with local authority policy 012 "Regulated activities will normally be permitted until 0030am in mixed use areas" (Crime statistics support a reduction to 0030am)**

*** A member of staff able to operate, download CCTV footage MUST be on duty at all times the premises is open for business. Staff MUST assist police and authority in their enquires.**

*** Capacity of 10 persons (Non Staff) inside the venue at any one time during the hours of 2300 until close.**

*** SIA badge holder should be on duty where the premise trade within their late night refreshment hours i.e. 2300 until close Fri and Saturday. (Currently midnight onwards)**

*** Removal of seats and tables from front of counter area to deter lengthy stays after 2300 hrs, assisting in dispersal.**

If I can be of any further assistance in this matter please do not hesitate to contact me in the licensing office.

Yours sincerely,

Pc Jason ROSE
Licensing Officer
Havering Borough