



Walsall Council

Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form.
If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary. You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

I The Chief Constable of West Midlands Police

(Insert name of applicant)

apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 / apply for the review of a club premises certificate under section 87 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in Part 1 below (delete as applicable)

Part 1 – Premises or club premises details

Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description

King George V Hotel
Wallows Lane

Post town WALSALL

Post code (if known) WS2 9BZ

Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)

Admiral Taverns Piccadilly Limited
Milton Gate
60 Chiswell Street
London EC1Y 4AG

Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known)

WS/PRL/0236

Part 2 - Applicant details

I am

Please tick ✓ yes

1) an individual, body or business which is not a responsible authority (please read guidance note 1, and complete (A) or (B) below)

☐

2) a responsible authority (please complete (C) below)

☒ X

3) a member of the club to which this application relates.
(please complete (A) below)

☐

(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT (fill in as applicable)

Please tick ✓ yes

Mr

☐

Mrs

☐

Miss

☐

Ms

☐

Other title
(for example, Rev)

Surname

First names

I am 18 years old or over

Please tick ✓ yes

☐

**Current postal
address if
different from
premises
address**

Post town

Post Code

Daytime contact telephone number

**E-mail address
(optional)**

(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT

Name and address

Telephone number (if any)

E-mail address (optional)

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address

**Chief Constable of West Midlands Police
Walsall Licensing Section
West Midlands Police HQ
Lloyd House
Birmingham
B4 6NQ**

Telephone number (if any)

101 8896331

E-mail address (optional)

H_WALSALL_LICENSING@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)

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

Please tick one or more boxes ✓

X

X

X

☐

Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 2)

These premises are a licensed hotel, a bar area on the ground floor and 6 bedrooms rooms above that operate under a Premises License. The Premise Licence Holder is Admiral Taverns who have a working relationship with the Designated Premise Supervisor in the form of a Pre-purchase agreement. The licensable area on the ground floor has a number of rooms, a large garden/patio area which backs onto residential properties and during lockdown has been open for take away meals.

The grounds for this review come from repeated failures of the DPS to work within the confines of the premise license, the boundaries of statutory nuisance together with his mismanagement of procedures throughout the Covid pandemic. This has been through the premises not following the regulation, which is a criminal offence, but also breaching the extensive guidance designed to help premises operate in a Covid secure manner. This has happened to a level that it is placing an increased risk of infection to the staff, customers attending, officers that need to enforce and the wider community. The Premise Licence Holder has been kept informed of the DPS's actions but to date offences are still occurring.

West Midlands Police can only see that this has been done for the purpose of profit and financial gain for the club at a time when other premises, both locally and nationally, have been abiding by the rules in spite of the financial hardship this has caused them.

The Covid 19 Pandemic has had a global impact with over 2 MILLION fatalities. The UK has seen a significant impact with a comparatively high level of deaths per 100,000 of population. It has seen significant hardship with three national lockdowns, tiering systems that impact on different regions designed to restrict social interaction. This has been done to try and defeat the pandemic and allow normality to resume as quickly as possible. Actions that have occurred at this premise only delayed that further to the continued detriment of others.

The infection rate in Walsall has varied throughout 2020 which has resulted in them sitting in different tiers at different times. This will be identified as we go through the time line of events.

WMP have exhausted the engage, explain and encourage elements of the nationwide 4 E approach. It is clear that the Designated Premise Supervisor is working independently to Admiral Taverns and is either wilfully ignoring what WMP and Admiral Taverns are saying or at worst neglectful as to how the premises should be operated.

This pattern of behaviour is undermining the Public Safety, Crime and Disorder and Public Nuisance licensing objectives.

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 3)

The events which have led to this enforcement action are described below, in chronological order.

For ease, all regulations and guidance will be supplied as supplementary evidence before the hearing.

Police received a call from staff at the venue on 26th January 2020 stating customers whom they had ejected were trying to get back in. On 28th January a telephone conversation took place between PC Tolley and Mr Singh regarding 19 incidents between October and the current date. Most of these incidents occurred on a Saturday evening into Sunday morning. Measures including the employment of door staff were agreed.

On 13th March the police received an anonymous letter, given to them by local MP Valarie Vaz regarding anti-social issues connected to the King George V. On checking with Walsall Council Community Safety team they confirmed they had also received several letters of complaint going back to 2019.

On 20th March PC Tolley spoke with the Area Manager for Admiral Taverns, Neal Barnes to make him aware and followed it up with a further call.

On 3 August police received a report of a vehicle ramming the premises with males in and outside the premises.

On 7th August a fight outside the pub was reported. On officers attendance no one present was making themselves known.

On 9th August at 02:59 intelligence received stated that the pub was still open and trading which is outside the permitted hours on his Premise Licence.

On the 13th August the Licensing Officer started to receive correspondence and video footage of noise complaints and disorder at the King George V.

On 15th August a further disorder incident with customers leaving the venue at 01:28. When the Licensing Officer spoke with Mr Singh he replied "I'm just trying to make a living". The Licensing Officer advised that it is his responsibility to ensure he dispersed his customers in an orderly manner. This is undermining the crime and disorder, public safety and public nuisance licensing objective.

21st August 2020 a meeting was held between Raman Singh, Kirsty Steward, Community Protection Officer, Walsall Borough Council and Jennifer Mellor, Walsall Police Licensing Officer at the premises. The reason for the meeting was due to the number of noise complaints, crime and disorder incidents occurring at the venue when customers were leaving venue and the reports of licensable activity carrying on past the permitted hours. A number of recordings from neighbours evidencing statutory noise nuisance. Mr Singh confirmed that there have been occasions during the first lockdown, the venue had been open, selling alcohol and playing recorded music outside the permitted hours.

On 25th August a further licensing visit took place with Mr Singh, his mother and Kirsty Steward after further noise complaints and report of a fight. It was established Mr Singh had been showing a boxing fight on the TV screen inside with his customers watching from outside which had resulted in the excessive noise. CCTV was checked on Mr Singh's mobile phone at 23:45 hours but no fight was evidenced. We have since discovered the main CCTV is an hour out and this was viewed on Mr Singh's mobile, officers were therefore not shown the correct footage for the time

requested.

The licensing officer continued to receive noise complaints throughout August until on the 12th September intelligence was received of people still in the pub at 03:30 that evening. Police Licensing Officer was able to view a Walsall Council Anti-Social multi head camera which evidenced the car park full at 02:06 and a number of persons leaving the venue at 02:30 and a van leaving at 03:17. Footage has been downloaded

Due to this incident on 14th September Neal Barnes Area Manager was called to discuss the on-going issues and non-compliance. Mr Barnes agreed to speak with Mr Singh. Police also received an email from a Manager at a neighbouring council to say they had visited and were not asked to Track and Trace and there was no social distancing within the venue. Mr Barnes was made aware of this correspondence.

On 16th September the Licensing Officer and Mr Barnes spoke again. Mr Singh had told Admiral the lock ins were in the past and were a few months ago. After giving Mr Barnes the dates he said he would phone him again. The Licensing Officer suggested setting up a meeting to discuss in person at the venue

On 19th September Police attended due to an incident of disorder occurring at the car wash next door to the King George V. When the Licensing Officer was back on duty she viewed the council ASB camera. At 01:32 12 males can be seen leaving the pub to become involved in the disorder. Further fighting continues at 01:36 and at 01:32 a car mounts the central reservation to cross the carriage, At 01:46 a further car reverses back down the carriageway and then at 01:46 police arrive, At 01:58 three males are seen leaving the King George V. This is undermining the crime and disorder, public safety, public nuisance and is outside of the hours permitted on this license.

On 23rd September an email was forwarded to Mr Singh from the Police Licensing Officer relating to changes in COVID regulations including the introduction of table service from the following Thursday.

On 15th October a meeting was held at the request of the Walsall Police Licensing officer. In attendance was Neal Barnes from Admiral, Raman Singh and a number of Walsall Council officers. We tried to view the CCTV on the main TV monitor but due to the time being incorrect, Mr Singh being evasive and the system crashing the police asked to see the previous weekends evening footage at any time as Mr Singh was unable to show officer many of the times requested. It was evidenced by all officers watching the monitor customers standing at the main bar, people being served together with a lack of social distancing or masks. This was at a time when COVID regulations stated table service only. Mr Singh was given advice and we left with Admiral Taverns left to offer further support.

On December 20th officers attended the pub and saw a glimpse of a light behind a curtain at one of the front windows. Officers heard numerous voices and music playing inside premises. One officer could see multiple people through a very small gap in the curtain but it was too small to tell exactly how many. It was clear however there were more than 2 inside premises. Officers knocked on the door and window but there no initial response. When officers did gain entry and a search made of the premises, there was no trace of any persons, however upon discovering a rear open door that leads to a side gate it is highly likely that they exited the pub as officers entered. Officers have since revisited the pub to view CCTV only to be told by Mr Singh, his system only records for two weeks. Admiral Taverns and the Licensing officer on the 15th October as detailed above, have viewed footage in excess of 2 weeks therefore suggesting the officers were correct in what they saw that evening.

On December 24th officers have been on patrols past the King George V pub and noticed downstairs lights on and vehicles parked up. As officers approached the front door they were greeted by staff who were very reluctant to let officers in, The DPS's mother initially held the door shut. As officers entered 8 persons in total in were in the bar, two staff, and 6 customers, of the 6 visitors, they were from 5 different households. Therefore a clear breach. Mr Singh was issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice and others dispersed. Persons were under the influence and had alcohol on the tables within wine coolers. There was a lack of social distancing and the wearing of masks of both staff and customers.

On 31 December 2020 Walsall Council served Prohibition Notices on Mr Singh and Admiral Taverns.

WMP have worked in partnership with Walsall local authority to address the issues but the operators have disregarded guidance and support from both WMP and Walsall local authority.

For all of the reasons documented, WMP do not have the confidence in the operator and believe that the premise is not promoting 3 out of the four licensing objectives.

WMP have no confidence in the management of this premises which has shown a disregard to the licensing objectives for the sake of profit and financial gain. Admiral Taverns are the Premise Licence Holder however the evidence contained in this review suggests Admiral have a lack of control of their tenant as the breaches of their licence and the breaches in COVID-19 regulations and guidance has continued. WMP are seeking the revocation of this Premise licence or as a minimum, the removal of Mr Raman Singh, the Designated Premise Supervisor from this business.

WMP will supply a full evidence bundle for this hearing which will include –

Regulations throughout Covid 19 pandemic

Guidance for safe operation of licensed premises

Statements from local police officers that have engaged with the premises.

Licensing officer statement

Noise nuisance monitoring footage together with video's received by WMP

Bodycam footage of attending officers and Walsall Council CCTV footage

Please tick ✓ yes

Have you made an application for review relating to the premises before

☐

If yes please state the date of that application

Day	Month	Year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you have made representations before relating to the premises please state what they were and when you made them

yes

Please tick ✓

- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate **X**
- I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected **X**

IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION


Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 4)

Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent (please read guidance note 5). **If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

Signature

Date

Capacity


18th JANUARY 2021
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT 6655 PARSONS

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 6)

Walsall Police
Walsall Partnerships (Licensing)
Civic Centre
Darwall Street

Post town
WALSALL

Post Code
WS1 1RG

Telephone number (if any)) 101 ext 8896331

If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional) H_WALSALL_LICENSING@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Notes for Guidance

1. A responsible authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.
2. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
3. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
4. The application form must be signed.
5. An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
6. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.

