



Walsall Council

FORM FOR APPLYING FOR A SUMMARY LICENCE REVIEW

Application for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 (premises associated with serious crime or disorder)

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 the 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.**

I **Chief Supt Phil Dolby [on behalf of] the chief officer of Police for the West Midlands Police area**

apply for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003.

1. **Premises details:**

Postal address of premises, or if none or not known, ordnance survey map reference or description:

Corner of 23 Bradford Street and 17 Newport Street

**Post town: Walsall,
West Midlands**

Post code (if known): WS1 1RZ

2. **Premises licence details:**

**Name of premises licence holder
(if known):**

**Capital Leisure (A Partnership)
12-17 Newport Street
Walsall
West Midlands
WS1 1RZ**

**Number of premises licence (if
known): WS/PRL/0242**

3. **Certificate under section 53A(1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 [Please read guidance note 1].**

I confirm that a certificate has been given by a senior member of the police force for the police area above that in his opinion the above premises are associated with serious crime or disorder or both, and the certificate accompanies this application.

(Please tick the box to confirm)



4. Details of association of the above premises with serious crime, serious disorder or both:

[Please read guidance note 2].

Valesha's Nightclub is situated in Walsall town centre on the corner of Newport and Bradford Street. It was formally known as "The Colliseum Nightclub".

The premises operates as a night club on the ground floor with a lap dancing club trading as "Savannah's Gentlemen's Club" on the first floor which has the additional benefit of a sex establishment licence. However both venues trade under the same premises licence. Although there are separate entrances, customers visiting either venue presently enter and exit from the same door. During COVID-19 this club closed in accordance with guidance only to re-open again in December 2022 with new tenants. Since re-opening the premises has therefore only been operating for some 4 months prior to the trigger incident for this summary review.

Shortly after 05:00 hrs on Saturday 11th March 2023 police were called to attend Valesha's Nightclub to a report of an assault and a disorder.

The disorder took place inside of the premises, whilst it was trading. During this disorder, a male was tragically killed after being stabbed with a bladed instrument.

WMP have started a murder investigation and enquiries are ongoing. At this stage there is limited information that can be disclosed in these licensing proceedings given the sensitivity of the investigation.

There is a condition on the premises licence which states "Routine searches will take place to ensure that no illegal substances or weapons are brought into the club".

From the limited footage that licensing officers have viewed so far, they have raised immediate concerns to me that the premises were not complying with this condition, and that not all customers were searched on entry.

I am also aware that this venue is historically frequented by gang nominals (i.e. persons believed to be gang members). I have also been informed that it is believed that gang nominals have again started to frequent this location and some gang nominals were present on the night of the murder.

There are obvious breaches of licence conditions that are directly related to the trigger incident for this review.

Significant further investigations are required, and WMP request the immediate suspension of this premises licence as an interim step as there are genuine concerns for public safety and the crime and disorder objective if this premises were to remain open.

Due to the sensitivities of this case, and in order to not prejudice the murder investigation, further information will be added in statements from licensing officers. The police will ask for this further information not to be disclosed to the public and only heard in private session.

Signature of applicant:



Date: 14th MARCH 2022
Capacity: CU SUPT, WALSALL POLICE

Contact details for matters concerning this application:

Address: C6 Blowny Police Station

Telephone number(s): 02554313431

Email: phil.dobson@westmidlands.police.uk

Notes for guidance:

1. A certificate of the kind mentioned in the form must accompany the application in order for it to be valid under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003. The certificate must explicitly state the senior officer's opinion that the premises in question are associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both.

Serious crime is defined by reference to section 81 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. In summary, it means:

- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences for which a person who has attained the age of eighteen and has no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of three years or more; or
- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences and involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose.

Serious disorder is not defined in legislation, and so bears its ordinary English meaning.

2. Briefly describe the circumstances giving rise to the opinion that the above premises are associated with serious crime, serious disorder, or both.