



Supporting Documentation relating to:

58 Bridge Street, Walsall Licensing Sub Committee Hearing.

1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

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**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

Crime No. **N/A**URN **N/A**

Statement of Jennifer Mellor

Age if under 18 over 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")

Occupation Walsall Licensing & Regulatory Service  
Officer, West midlands Police

This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: (witness)

Date **21 February 2022**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I am Jennifer Mellor 60384, Walsall Licensing and Regulatory Services Officer currently stationed at Walsall Police Station.

This statement supports the representations made by West Midlands Police for a new Premise Licence at 58 Bridge Street, Walsall and its purpose is to provide supporting evidence to be discussed at the forthcoming Licencing hearing on 1st March 2022. The information has been gained from speaking with police officers and officers of Walsall Borough Council.

This premise is situated within the Cumulative Impact Area which was only renewed and agreed in September of last year. During the review of the Councils licensing policy and the Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP), off sales have been included for the first time. Evidence would have been provided to support this change prior to the consultation taking place. The application for 58 Bridge Street not only sits within the CIP, it is surrounded by licensed premises in one of the main areas that attracts people into the town of an evening. There are a number of nightclubs, Sports bar and venues offering take away services within the same street, one of these nightclub has a capacity of over a 1000 persons. Having another licensed premises not only within the CIP but in close proximity to this densely populated street of licensed premises has clear potential to impact on crime and disorder and public nuisance.

Under the Home Office Guidance, issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, the definition of Cumulative Impact is: "Cumulative impact is the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a number of licensed premises concentrated in one area." Cumulative impact has been described as the "stress" that a large number of licensed premises can have on crime and disorder and public nuisance. I believe it is the accumulation of the premises and the people attending them that creates the increased problems and demands on many services.

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Signature witnessed by .....

03/2016

OFFICIAL – (when complete)



Crime No. N/A

URN N/A

Statement of Jennifer Mellor

On Saturday 12th February between the hours of 17:00 hours and 21:30 hours an event was held at a venue in Bridge Street. This event forms part of the recovery of the night time economy as detailed in the original representations dated 28th January 2022. This event had been occurring prior to the regulations imposed on us by the Government due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During these times police evidenced on Bridge Street, disorder, drunkenness, a theft and an assault on a Police Officer. Police also received a report of a male offering drinks to children present in the street and on further inspection this male had a bottle of sprits on him together with an offensive weapon. Empty glass bottles were seen on the floor which officers' believed could have contained alcohol, gas canisters and balloons were seen in the street and officers noticed a smell of cannabis in the air. All these incidents occurred within yards of 58 Bridge Street and at a time when sales of alcohol could be taking place should this application be granted.

On 15th February 2022 I attended a Town Centre Operational meeting, it was at this meeting amongst other issues, that current street drinkers were discussed. This is a concern for Walsall and work is taking place to engage and support with these people. The public nuisance caused by these persons are further exasperated by the additional people who congregate with them. By having an additional licensed premise on Bridge Street has the potential to displace the street drinking adding further to public nuisance.

I exhibit (JRM/WMP001) Crime figures as referenced in Insp Hobday's statement.

The guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, Crime and Disorder 2.1 states Licensing authorities should look to the police as the main source of advice on crime and disorder. We believe with the information above, the existence of the CIP and the evidence provided at the time, the exhibited crime figures together with Inspector Hobdays statement there is overwhelming evidence for the committee to refuse this application.

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Signature witnessed by .....

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**WITNESS STATEMENT**

**Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B**

**Crime No.**

**URN**

Statement of Nicholas James HOBDAV

Age if under 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")

Occupation Police Inspector 2228

This statement (consisting of page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

**Signature:** (witness)

**Date** 19/02/2022

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I am Inspector 2228 HOBDAV of West Midlands Police. My current role is with the Neighbourhood Policing Unit for Walsall borough, where I lead on harm reduction work with partner organisations - this includes overseeing our licensing work. The sale of alcohol is a regulated activity because of the well proven links between this and crime and harm. Public policy and legislation realises that not all of the harm underpinned by the sales and the consumption of alcohol can be directly traced back to any one specific individual sale, person or premises and so allows for the designation of both Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) and Cumulative Impact Zones (CIZ) by public authorities responsible for public safety. Walsall town centre is currently designated as both of these, due to the nature and scale of crime and harm occurring in the location.

The PSPO has been in effect for a number of years, and was recently renewed due to the continuation of these problems. Despite the best efforts of public bodies this has not helped us reduce the levels of crime and harm in the town centre to acceptable levels, so the Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) was introduced. Both restrictions involve public consultation and detailed scrutiny of the need for their use, balanced against the impact they will have on businesses and the public. Despite these restrictions Walsall town centre continues to be the hotspot for violent crime in the borough, as well as the hotspot for overall volume of all crime in the borough. This is a public health and public safety issue all public bodies in Walsall are focussed on tackling in partnership. Both the Safer Walsall Partnership and the Walsall Safeguarding Partnership have adopted reducing violence and exploitation as priorities for the borough. The elected members of Walsall Council are firmly behind this work, and represent the will of Walsall residents. Partners are currently collaborating on developing a new delivery plan to accelerate this work.

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Crime No.

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Statement of Nicholas James HOBDAV

Levels of crime and harm in Walsall town centre were obviously low during the pandemic, when much of the hospitality trade was severely restricted and vastly reduced numbers of people visited public spaces, especially those with traditional high footfall. However, Walsall continues to be blighted by these problems. When we look deeper we can see that we have a particular problem around Bridge Street and the surrounding environs, peaking within the night time economy (10pm to 5am, Friday into Saturday and Saturday into Sunday). Unsurprisingly this coincides with a high concentration of both on and off sales of alcohol.

Since September 2021 West Midlands Police have put additional resources into high visibility foot patrol in the above locality. This is both specifically to cope with the night time economy, but also more widely to cope with increased violence. This is at significant cost, clearly financially but also at the cost of policing attention and support in other localities. We are so concerned about this problem that we are even changing the shift pattern of Neighbourhood Constables to increase our presence overnight on a Friday and Saturday night - again depleting our presence in other areas. It is therefore a priority of the partnerships to maximise the use of other methods for reducing crime, violence and harm in our town centre. Chief amongst these are the use of licensing controls such as the CIP.

It should also be noted that the town centre is also special for the borough, as it is the most visible location for the public and has the highest concentration of retailers, hospitality and visitors to the borough. It is the towns 'shop window' to the public, and therefore not only are crime and violence issues the most visible here, they also have the biggest impact on the towns reputation. Bad publicity has a negative impact on the commercial health of the town centre, which in turn leads to less footfall, empty retail premises, leading to an increased feeling of neglect and danger to the public. Reduced tax income also mean less public funds to tackle these issues, and a downward spiral of health and prosperity can ensue. Other issues closely connected to alcohol sales, such as anti-social behaviour, homelessness and begging, can also make a very visible impact on the publics perception of the town centre.

One example of easily available information on the internet that shows Walsall in this light can be found at 'https://crimerate.co.uk/west-midlands' which today states "Out of all of the West Midlands's larger towns and cities, West Bromwich is the most dangerous. The next most dangerous is Walsall, and Birmingham

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Statement of Nicholas James HOBDAV

comes in as third most dangerous

For all the reasons laid out above it is essential that we restrict the overall availability of alcohol in Walsall's town centre, making full use of the benefits accorded to us by the Cummunitive Impact Policy (CIP). This is in addition to robustly challenging any premises we identify as specifically being responsible for the increase in crime and harm to the public. This applies throughout the Zone and at any time of the day or night.

For these reasons, on behalf of West Midlands Police I support the represenations made and request the sub-licensing committee to refuse the granting of this new premises licence for the premises Leoo Shop, 58 Bridge Street, Walsall, WS1 1JG.

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OFFICIAL – (when complete)



# The West Midlands Crime Statistics

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## Crime in the West Midlands

The West Midlands is the third safest county in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The overall crime rate in the West Midlands in 2021 was 45 crimes per 1,000 people, and the most common crimes were violence and sexual offences, which happened to roughly every 22 out of 1,000 residents.

Out of all of the West Midlands's larger towns and cities, West Bromwich is the most dangerous. The next most dangerous is Walsall, and Birmingham comes in as third most dangerous. There are safer parts of the West Midlands, starting with Sutton Coldfield which ranks as the safest area in West Midlands, followed up by Solihull in second place, and Stourbridge in third place.

## Crime Map of The West Midlands

## West Midlands Crime Summary

Crime ▲ ▼	Count ▲ ▼	Rate ▲ ▼
Anti-Social Behaviour	18,644	6.37
Bicycle Theft	819	0.28
Burglary	6,963	2.38
Criminal Damage and Arson	10,903	3.72
Drugs	3,073	1.05

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Crime ▲ ▼	Count ▲ ▼	Rate ▲ ▼
Other Crime	2,872	0.98
Other Theft	7,454	2.55
Possession of Weapons	1,832	0.63
Public Order	13,527	4.62
Robbery	2,733	0.93
Shoplifting	4,757	1.62
Theft From the Person	976	0.33
Vehicle Crime	11,091	3.79
Violence and Sexual Offences	64,589	22.05

## The West Midlands's Population Centres

Name ▲ ▼	Total Crimes ▲ ▼	Crime Rate ▲ ▼	Rate Difference from West Midlands
<a href="#">Aldridge</a>	1,143	29	55% safer
<a href="#">Bilston</a>	1,917	57	21% more dangerous
<a href="#">Birmingham</a>	57,545	50	9% more dangerous
<a href="#">Bloxwich</a>	2,533	48	7% more dangerous
<a href="#">Brierley Hill</a>	1,428	44	1.1% safer
<a href="#">Brownhills</a>	787	37	21% safer
<a href="#">Castle Bromwich</a>	377	33	36% safer
<a href="#">Chelmsley Wood</a>	926	67	33% more dangerous
<a href="#">Coseley</a>	892	38	17% safer
<a href="#">Coventry</a>	15,258	40	13% safer
<a href="#">Darlaston</a>	934	44	0.99% safer
<a href="#">Dudley</a>	3,990	47	4.5% more dangerous
<a href="#">Fordbridge</a>	474	54	17% more dangerous
<a href="#">Halesowen</a>	1,656	28	62% safer
<a href="#">Kingshurst</a>	9	1.1	4022% safer
<a href="#">Kingswinford</a>	1,262	25	82% safer
<a href="#">Oldbury</a>	1,264	49	9% more dangerous
<a href="#">Rowley Regis</a>	1,434	40	12% safer
<a href="#">Sedgley</a>	905	29	55% safer
<a href="#">Smethwick</a>	2,210	41	9% safer
<a href="#">Smith's Wood</a>	546	50	11% more dangerous
<a href="#">Solihull</a>	2,920	27	67% safer
<a href="#">Stourbridge</a>	1,950	30	49% safer





Name ▲ ▼	Total Crimes ▲ ▼	Crime Rate ▲ ▼	Rate Difference from West Midlands
<a href="#">Sutton Coldfield</a>	2,575	24	88% safer
<a href="#">Tipton</a>	2,091	46	2.7% more dangerous
<a href="#">Walsall</a>	3,836	52	14% more dangerous
<a href="#">Wednesbury</a>	946	49	8% more dangerous
<a href="#">West Bromwich</a>	4,443	56	20% more dangerous
<a href="#">Willenhall</a>	2,230	42	7% safer
<a href="#">Wolverhampton</a>	11,262	46	1.7% more dangerous

### Crime Trends in the West Midlands

Crime	Crime Rate Per 1,000 Residents				Trend
	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Anti-Social Behaviour	15	12	18	6	Safer
Bicycle Theft	1.1	0.88	0.78	0.28	Safer
Burglary	10	8	7	2.4	Safer
Criminal Damage and Arson	9	8	7	3.7	Safer
Drugs	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.0	Safer



Crime	Crime Rate Per 1,000 Residents				Trend
	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Other Crime	1.2	1.5	1.9	0.98	Safer
Other Theft	8	7	6	2.6	Safer
Possession of Weapons	0.78	1.0	1.1	0.63	Safer
Public Order	4.8	6	8	4.6	Safer
Robbery (inc. mugging)	2.7	3.0	2.3	0.93	Safer
Shoplifting	6	6	3.9	1.6	Safer
Theft From the Person (inc. pickpocketing)	1.1	1.1	0.74	0.33	Safer
Vehicle Crime	13	11	9	3.8	Safer
Violence and Sexual Offences	26	33	41	22	Safer

Last updated: 09 Apr 2021

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