

ANNEX 3

Thank you for consulting the Environmental Protection Team of the Housing and Environmental Health Service regarding the request from The Abel Foundation (in respect of Rockhouse) to vary their licence conditions. They have asked to

- 1) Amend condition 6 regarding last entry to the premises to 0230 hours (currently 0100 hours)
- 2) Amend condition 7 regarding start time for door supervisors to 2200 hours (currently 2000 hours)
- 3) Increase the number of times that licensable activities may be provided until 0400 hours to 24 times a calendar year (currently 12 times a year).

I object to the proposed variation as I am concerned that points 1 and 3, amending last entry and increasing late finish times, would be likely to increase Public Nuisance in this area. We are already aware that as the centre of the towns night time economy this area has elevated levels of people noise, particularly late at night. To increase the last entry time will only encourage people to move into this area later at night who have already been out drinking elsewhere and will therefore be less aware of the noise they may be making.

To increase the number of times when a later finish may be provided is problematic because whilst it would save the applicant from the need to apply for Temporary Event Notices (TENS) for such late events, we could not preclude them from then also using the TENS system to apply to increase the number of late finishes on a further 12 occasions. There is also another premises in this area currently using TENS to achieve a number of late finishes through the year and it is entirely foreseeable that an increase in this location would see other premises look for the same. The net impact being to push the finish time more regularly to 4am (and effectively later once people have dispersed) which can only increase the likelihood of disturbance to residential neighbours.

I cannot comment directly on the hours for door supervisors, this is more a matter for the police, but we are aware that at this time there is an enhanced need for efficient management of those queuing to enter premises to ensure social distancing. This is likely to remain a factor over coming months and consideration should be given to how entry will be managed earlier in the evening if door staff are not in place. I appreciate that this would also provide a cost saving for the premises in this difficult time.

Lorna Taylor
Principal Environmental Health Officer
Housing and Environmental Health Service