



Appendix A

The governing principles of the Licensing Act are the four Licensing Objectives. All organisations and individuals involved in the running of Licensed Premises must do so with a view to promoting these Objectives:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- The Protection of Children from Harm

This objection is carried out in regards to the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Prevention of Public Nuisance and Public Safety.

1 The Application and Premise

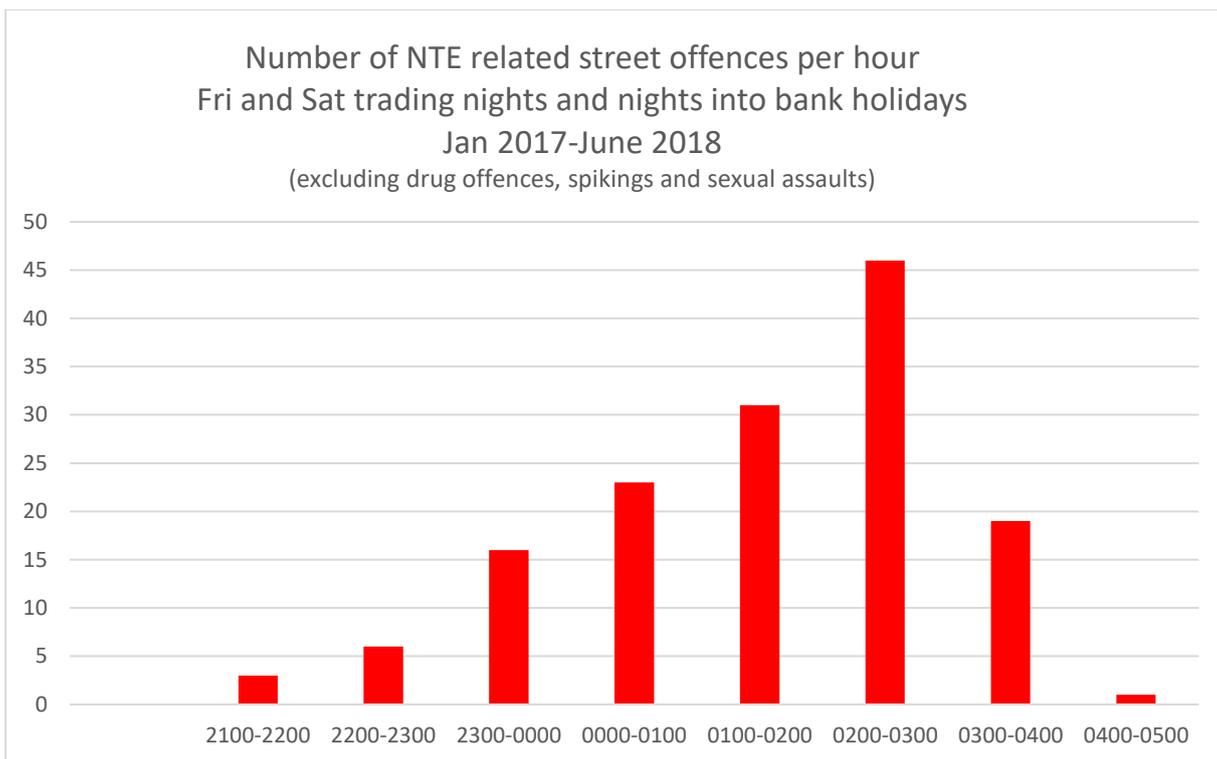
- 1.1** The application was received on 23rd May 2018 from [REDACTED] who are the acting Agent in relation to The Grapevine Off Licence, Unit 1, 18/20 Parliament Square, Hertford SG14 1EZ.
- 1.2** The premise currently has a licence authorising off sales of alcohol Sunday to Wednesday 08:00hrs until 02:00hrs and Thursday to Saturday 08:00hrs until 00:00hrs. The application applies to vary the licensable hours for the supply of alcohol to 08:00hrs to 02:00hrs Thursday to Saturday.
- 1.3** The application states the premises will employ another employee during the new opening times and they will provide security. It is unclear on the application form what is meant by this however they have since stated that this will be a security guard. They also state in the application that they have a Red Care alarm system which is connected to the Police for a rapid response in situation of disorder.
- 1.4** The premise currently sells a large variety of alcohol. They sell single cans / bottles of high strength beers and ciders and pocket sized spirits amongst the general wine and spirit selection.

2 The impact of having alcohol available through off sales at this location until 2am

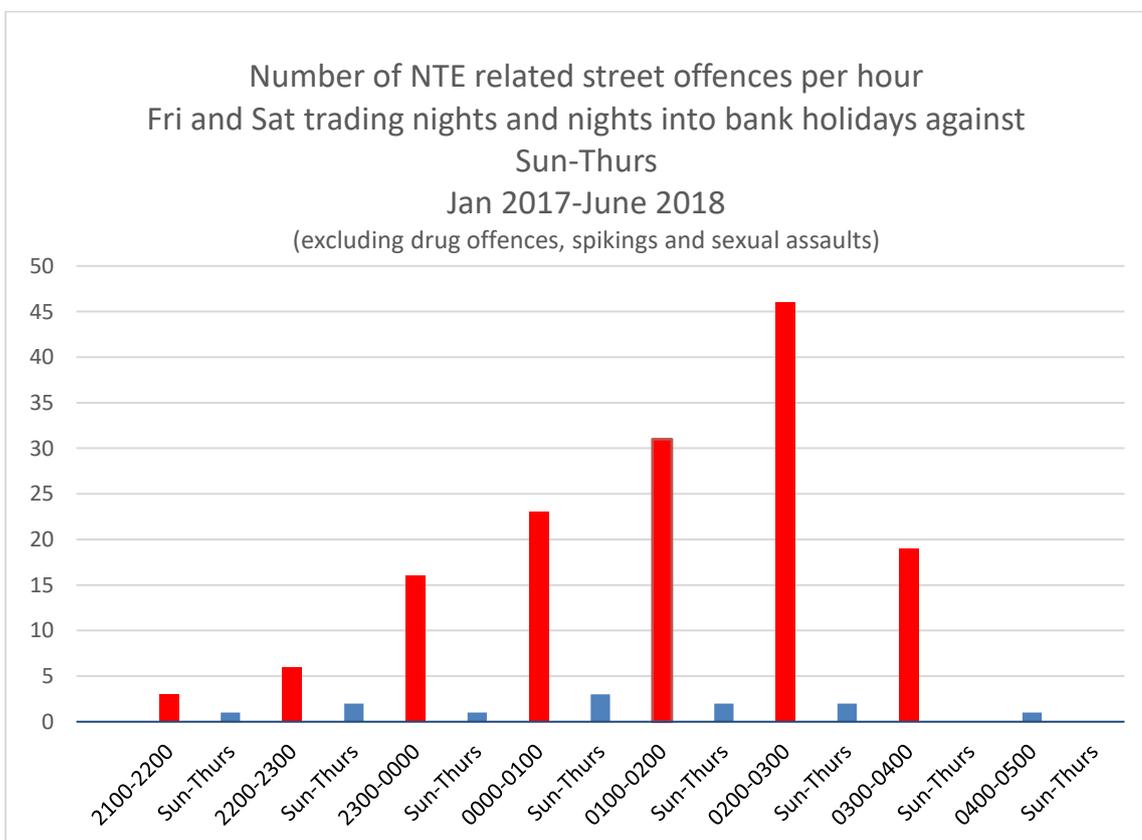
- 2.1** Alcohol sales passed 23:00hrs on Friday and Saturday nights are more likely to get customers attending who are already drunk wanting more alcohol. This is especially true of this premise due to its location in an area with a busy night time economy. The potential for assaults on staff, theft and anti-social behaviour on the premises will increase as a result of having alcohol for sale until 02:00hrs.

Refusing to sell alcohol to those who are already drunk often creates issues in itself. There will undoubtedly be situations when customers have to be refused in the early hours due to them being drunk. Those under the influence are more likely to get frustrated, angry and aggressive if they are refused when they know alcohol can be sold. The risk of criminal offences occurring as a result is high. The fact that the store has a Red Care alarm system shows that they too believe this is a risk. An alarm system will enable staff to contact Police quickly but this will not prevent the issue occurring in the first place. Having a security guard will assist the situation however it will not necessarily prevent incidents from occurring.

- 2.2** The staff will have no control of those who make purchases once they have left the shop. This is the key difference between premises that have on licence sales and those who have off sales. There is no control of the consumption of alcohol as they will have left the shop and will consume it where they wish. It is more likely during later hours for alcohol to then be consumed in public areas within the Town Centre. This will result in anti-social behaviour from street drinkers which is further exacerbated by the availability of high strength alcohol. There are no measures that can be put in place to reduce or deal with this issue.
- 2.3** The sale of glass bottles for consumption off the premises is a concern due to the potential for glass bottles to be used as weapons. There have been serious assaults within Hertford Town Centre whereby bottles have been used as weapons. All on licence premises have policies to prevent people leaving with glass bottles or glasses. An unacceptable risk will be created if glass bottles are sold for consumption off the premise at this high risk time.
- 2.4** Due to the close proximity to nightclubs and Kebab Shops it will encourage congregation on a narrow street. There are residential properties in the vicinity of the location which will result/contribute to public nuisance.
- 2.5** Having alcohol available in close proximity to residential addresses allows house parties to continue as alcohol can be restocked easily. It also enables people on their way home from a night out to purchase alcohol which is then likely to be consumed while walking home meaning that street drinking and the anti-social behaviour associated with it increases.
- 2.6** It is well known and documented that there is a link between alcohol consumption and crime especially in relation to violent crime. Alcohol is a disinhibitor that also impairs judgement. National statistics suggest that nearly 50% of all violent crime involves alcohol and nearly 40% of all domestic violence incidents are linked to drunkenness.
- 2.7** Hertford Town Centre has seen a rise in violent crime. The level of crime increases dramatically between 22:00hrs and 03:00hrs on Friday and Saturday nights and nights leading into bank holidays. The graph below shows the number of crimes per hour recorded between January 2017 and June 2018 in Hertford Town Centre, on Friday and Saturday trading nights and also trading nights into bank holidays. The graph shows only the offences that have been committed on the street rather than within other premises.



In contrast the below graph shows the Friday, Saturday and nights into bank holiday trading nights in comparison to the other nights of the week.



Having the availability of alcohol through off sales between 00:00-02:00hrs on Friday and Saturday nights as requested by the applicant will only exacerbate the high risk period.

3. Summary of Concerns

Hertfordshire Constabulary's concerns are summarised as follows;

- 3.1 Increased risk of assaults and public order offences at the premise specifically where staff are likely to be victims.
- 3.2 No control over where alcohol is consumed once purchased.
- 3.3 The consumption of high volume alcohol in public places.
- 3.4 The availability of alcohol, especially in relation to high volume alcohol, near to residential houses at unsociable times.
- 3.5 The public safety risk of having bottles within public areas at high risk times.
- 3.6 The impact of having alcohol available until 02:00 in this specific area which will increase crime and disorder locally.
- 3.7 The risk of anti-social behaviour at the Location and the impact this will have on the local residents causing a public nuisance and a greater risk of crime and disorder.

In summary the hours being requested are excessive. The sale of alcohol in this area will impact negatively on crime and disorder and public nuisance and cause a risk to public safety. Unnecessary high risks will be present should this application be granted. It is not felt that there are any conditions that would reduce this risk or deal with the points raised in this objection. The Licensing Sub Committee is asked to refuse this application for the reasons stated in regards to the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Prevention of Public Nuisance and Public Safety.

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Licensing Officer

East Herts Community Safety Unit

28th June 2018

Phone: 01992 ●●●●●●

E-mail: ●●●●●●●●@herts.pnn.police.uk

Mail: Hertford Police Station, Hale Road, Hertfordshire, SG13 8F