

Item No. 5.	Classification: Open	Date: 24 February 2017	Meeting Name: Licensing sub-committee
Report title:		Licensing Act 2003: Presco Food and Wine, 209 Rotherhithe New Road, London SE16 2BA	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Livesey	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the licensing sub-committee considers an application submitted by this council's trading standards service under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act) for the review of the premises licence held by Mr Faraz Ahmad in respect of the premises known as Presco Food and Wine, 209 Rotherhithe New Road, London SE16 2BA.
2. Notes:
 - a) The grounds for the review are stated in paragraph 13 of this report. A copy of the premises licence review application is attached as Appendix A.
 - b) The review application is supported by representations submitted by two responsible authorities. Copies of the representations are attached as Appendix B. Details of the representations are provided in paragraphs 16 and 17.
 - c) A copy of the current premises licence issued in respect of the premises is attached to this report as Appendix C.
 - d) A copy of the council's approved procedure for hearings of the sub-committee in relation to an application made under the Licensing Act 2003, along with a copy of the hearing regulations, has been circulated to all parties to the meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Licensing Act 2003

3. The Licensing Act 2003 provides a licensing regime for:
 - The sale of and supply of alcohol
 - The provision of regulated entertainment
 - The provision of late night refreshment
4. Within Southwark, the licensing responsibility is wholly administered by this council.
5. The Act requires the licensing authority to carry out its functions under the Act with a view to promoting the four stated licensing objectives. These are:
 - The prevention of crime and disorder
 - The promotion of public safety
 - The prevention of nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm.

6. In carrying out its licensing functions, a licensing authority must also have regard to:
 - The Act itself
 - The guidance to the act issued under Section 182 of the Act
 - Secondary regulations issued under the Act
 - The licensing authority's own statement of licensing policy
 - The application, including the operating schedule submitted as part of the application
 - Relevant representations.
7. The applications process involves the provision of all relevant information required under the Act to the licensing authority with copies provided by the applicant to the relevant responsible bodies. The application must also be advertised at the premises and in the local press. The responsible authorities and other persons within the local community may make representations on any part of the application where relevant to the four licensing objectives.
8. The premises licence once issued remains valid for the life of the business unless surrendered or revoked. However, under section 51 of the Act it remains open to any responsible authority or other person to apply to the local licensing authority for a review of the premises licence where there are ongoing concerns regarding one or more of the four stated licensing objectives.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The premises licence

9. The premises licence allows the provision of licensable activities as follows:
 - The sale of alcohol to be consumed off the premises:
 - Monday to Sunday 00:00 to 00:00 (24 hour service of alcohol)
 - There are no restrictions in respect of the premises' opening times (it can therefore be open 24 hours a day).
10. The licence is subject to the mandatory conditions set down under the Act and further conditions consistent with the operating schedule submitted with the application for the licence. A copy of the full premises licence is provided for as Appendix C.

Designated premises supervisor

11. The current Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) named on the licence is Hassan Subhani.

The review application

12. On 24 November 2016, an application was submitted by this council's Trading Standards service under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003, for the review of the premises licence held by Mr Faraz Ahmad in respect of the premises known as Presco Food and Wine, 209 Rotherhithe New Road, London SE16 2BA.

13. The review application was submitted in respect of the prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm licensing objectives and in summary states that the following has been witnessed at the premises and / or taken place:
- The offer to supply goods that infringes trade marks, in breach of Section 92 of the Trade Marks Act 1992.
 - The offer to supply goods that fails to comply with Cosmetics Products (Enforcement) Regulations 2013.
 - The failure to comply with conditions 100 (the supply of alcohol when no DPS present), 101 (the supply of alcohol to be made by a person holding a personal licence), 289 (CCTV recordings to be kept for 31-days), 327 (signage relating to no sale to under 18), 340 (refusals book) and 341 (minimum of two staff to be present when premises are open) of the premises licence issued in respect of the premises, in breach of Section 136 of the Licensing Act 2003.
 - The failure of the premises licence holder to notify Southwark Council of a change of the premises licence holder's address, in breach of Section 33 of the Licensing Act 2003.
 - The failure to display the summary of premises licence, in breach of Section 57 of the Licensing Act 2003.
14. The trading standards service recommends that the licence be revoked. Full details of the grounds for the review are provided within review the application. The review application is provided in Appendix A.

Representations from responsible authorities

15. The Metropolitan Police Service and this council's licensing responsible authority have submitted representations in support of the review.
16. The representation from the Metropolitan Police Service states that considering the detailed information provided within the review application and the apparent lack of any management structure at the premises the police fully support the recommendation that the licence be revoked.
17. The representation from the licensing responsible authority states that they have no faith in the current management (either the licensee or the DPS) to promote the licensing objectives and fully support the recommendation that the licence be revoked.
18. Copies of the representations are attached as Appendix B.

Representations from other persons

19. No representations have been received by other persons.

Operating history

20. A premises licence was issued in respect of the premises to Yaqoob Khan on 27 Sept 2005. The designated premises supervisor specified in respect of the licence was Zaffar Iqbal.

21. The licence was transferred to Shamoan Ali Chaudhary on 1 March 2011. The DPS specified in respect of the licence was Wasim Akram.
22. The licence was then transferred to Mr Faraz Ahmad on 7 June 2013. The DPS specified in respect of the licence was Hassan Subhani.
23. On 15 November 2016 an application was submitted to transfer the licence to Mr Sohail Khan. Mr Faraz Ahmad signed a form consenting to the transfer. The transfer application form submitted by Mr Khan was not full and proper, in that neither the original premises licence, or a statement (in accordance with Section 42(4) Licensing Act 2003) giving the reason for the failure to provide the original premises licence was provided with the application.
24. Numerous attempts have been made by the licensing unit to contact Mr Khan to inform him of the outstanding matter in respect of the transfer application, however he has not responded. The transfer application has therefore been rejected and Mr Ahmad remains the licensee of the premises. It should be noted that the offences referred to in the review application took place prior to the transfer application submitted on 15 November 2016. Prior to the transfer application submitted on 15 November 2016, Faraz Ahmad has never contacted the licensing unit to either rescind the licence or inform the Licensing Unit that he no longer has an interest in the premises. Although Mr Ahmad remains the licensee of the premises, Mr Khan has also been invited to the hearing to determine the review application should he be able to provide any clarification as to the management of the premises.
25. The premises have not been inspected since 2010, prior to Mr Ahmad becoming the licensee of the premises.
26. No complaints have been received by the licensing unit in regards to the premises since 2006, prior to Mr Ahmad becoming the licensee of the premises.
27. No temporary event notices have been submitted in regards to the premises.
28. A list of licensing night time visits to the premises is attached as Appendix D.
29. On 24 November 2016, an application was submitted by this council's Trading Standards service under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003, for the review of the premises licence held by Mr Faraz Ahmad in respect of the premises known as Presco Food and Wine, 209 Rotherhithe New Road, London SE16 2BA.
30. On 19 January 2017 Mr Ahmad submitted a Notice of Surrender of Premises Licence in respect of the licence. A copy of the Notice of Surrender is attached to this report as Appendix E. Under section 50 of the Act a premises licence has interim effect for 28 days from the day after a notice of surrender has been submitted, during this time the surrendered licence can be transferred to an appropriate person and be reinstated immediately upon receipt of a full and proper transfer application. Therefore the premises licence is not entirely stopped until 17 February 2017, and then only if a full and proper transfer application has not been submitted.
31. On 23 January 2017 a hearing was held to determine the review application. At the hearing the Trading Standards service requested that the hearing be adjourned until after the 28 interim period detailed above has elapsed. The council's licensing sub-committee decided that it would be in the public interest to adjourn the hearing until 24

February 2017. The hearing was adjourned in accordance with regulations 11 and 12 of The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 which permit that the time permitted to determine applications may be extended if it is in the public interest to do so. This council's Legal department contacted Mr Ahmad via letter to inform him of the adjournment and the reasons for the adjournment. A copy of the letter is attached as Appendix F.

The local area

32. Due to software issues it has not been possible to provide a map of the local area in this report however it can be confirmed that the only licensed premises within 100 metres of the premises is:

Pizza Hot 4 U, 208 Rotherhithe New Road SE16 3EH:

- Provision of late night refreshment:
Monday to Sunday 23:00 to 01:00 the following day.

Southwark council statement of licensing policy

33. Council assembly approved Southwark's statement of Licensing Policy 2016 - 20 on 25 November 2015. The policy came into effect on 1 January 2016. Sections of the statement that are considered to be of particular relevance to the sub-committee's consideration are:

- Section 3 - Purpose and scope of the policy. This reinforces the four licensing objectives and the fundamental principles upon which this authority relies in determining licence applications.
- Section 5 - Determining applications for premises licences and club premises certificates. This explains how the policy works and considers issues such as location; high standards of management; and the principles behind condition setting.
- Section 6 - Local cumulative impact policies. This sets out this authority's approach to cumulative impact and defines the boundaries of the current special policy areas and the classifications of premises to which they apply. To be read in conjunction with Appendix B to the policy.
- Section 7 - Hours of operation. This provides a guide to the hours of licensed operation that this authority might consider appropriate by type of premises and (planning) area classification.
- Section 8 - The prevention of crime and disorder. This provides general guidance on the promotion of the first licensing objective.
- Section 9 - Public safety. This provides general guidance on the promotion of the second licensing objective.
- Section 10 - The prevention of nuisance. This provides general guidance on the promotion of the third licensing objective.

- Section 11 - The protection of children from harm. This provides general guidance on the promotion of the fourth licensing objective.
34. The purpose of Southwark's statement of licensing policy is to make clear to applicants what considerations will be taken into account when determining applications and should act as a guide to the sub-committee when considering the applications. However, the sub-committee must always consider each application on its own merits and allow exceptions to the normal policy where these are justified by the circumstances of the application.
35. Within Southwark's statement of licensing policy 2016 - 2020, the premises are identified as being within a residential area. The closing times recommended in the statement of licensing policy for off licence, grocers or supermarkets with off sales of alcohol in residential areas is 23:00 hours daily.

Resource implications

36. There is no fee associated with this type of application.

Consultation

37. Consultation has been carried out on this application in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.

Community impact statement

38. Each application is required by law to be considered upon its own individual merits with all relevant matters taken into account.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

39. The sub-committee is asked to determine, under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003, following an application, made under Section 51 of the same act, for a review of premises licence. At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence, a responsible authority or any other person may ask the licensing authority to review the licence because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives.
40. The principles, which sub-committee members must apply, are set out below.

Principles for making the determination

41. Under Section 52 of the Licensing Act, the licensing authority must hold a hearing to determine the review and any relevant representations.
42. The four licensing objectives are:
- The prevention of crime and disorder
 - The protection of public safety
 - The prevention of nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm.

43. Each objective must be considered to be of equal importance. The authority must, having regard to the application and any relevant representations, take such of the following steps as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The steps are to:
- Modify the conditions of the licence by altering, omitting or adding any condition
 - Exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence
 - Remove the designated premises supervisor
 - Suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months
 - Revoke the licence.
44. For the purpose of determining a relevant representation under section 52 of the Act a “relevant representation” means representations which:
- Are relevant to one or more of the licensing objectives
 - Are made by the holder of the premises licence, a responsible authority or an other person within the prescribed period
 - Have not been withdrawn
 - If made by another person (who is not also a responsible authority), that they are not, in the opinion of the relevant licensing authority frivolous or vexatious.
45. Modifications of conditions and exclusions of licensable activities may be imposed either permanently or for a temporary period of up to three months.
46. The authority may decide that no action is necessary if it finds that the review does not require it to take any steps appropriate to promote the licensing objectives.
47. In deciding what remedial action if any it should take, the authority must direct its mind to the causes or concerns that the representations identify. The remedial action should generally be directed at these causes and should always be no more than an appropriate and proportionate response.
48. It is of particular importance that any detrimental financial impact that may result from a licensing authority’s decision is appropriate and proportionate to the promotion of the licensing objectives in the circumstances that gave rise to the application for review.

Reasons

49. Where the authority determines an application for review it must notify the determination and reasons why for making it to:
- The holder of the licence
 - The applicant
 - Any person who made relevant representations
 - The chief officer of police for the area (or each police area) in which the premises are situated.

Hearing procedures

50. Subject to the licensing hearing regulations, the licensing committee may determine its own procedures. Key elements of the regulations are that:

- The hearing shall take the form of a discussion led by the authority. Cross examination shall not be permitted unless the authority considered that it is required for it to consider the representations
- Members of the authority are free to ask any question of any party or other person appearing at the hearing
- The committee must allow the parties an equal maximum period of time in which to exercise their rights to:
 - Address the authority
 - If given permission by the committee, question any other party.
 - In response to a point which the authority has given notice it will require clarification, give further information in support of their application.
- The committee shall disregard any information given by a party which is not relevant:
 - To the particular application before the committee, and
 - The licensing objectives.
- The hearing shall be in public, although the committee may exclude the public from all or part of a hearing where it considers that the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in the hearing, or that part of the hearing, taking place in private
- In considering any representations or notice made by a party the authority may take into account documentary or other information produced by a party in support of their application, representations or notice (as applicable) either before the hearing or, with the consent of all the other parties, at the hearing.

51. This matter relates to the review of the premises licence under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003. Regulation 26(1) (a) requires the sub-committee to make its determination at the conclusion of the hearing.

Council's multiple roles and the role of the licensing sub-committee

52. Sub-committee members will note that, in relation to this application, the council has multiple roles. Council officers from various departments have been asked to consider the application from the perspective of the council as authority responsible respectively for environmental health, trading standards, health and safety and as the planning authority.

53. Members should note that the licensing sub-committee is meeting on this occasion solely to perform the role of licensing authority. The sub-committee sits in quasi-judicial capacity, and must act impartially. It must offer a fair and unbiased hearing of the application. In this case, members should disregard the council's broader policy objectives and role as statutory authority in other contexts. Members must direct themselves to making a determination solely based upon the licensing law, guidance and the council's statement of licensing policy.

54. As a quasi-judicial body the licensing sub-committee is required to consider the application on its merits. The sub-committee must take into account only relevant factors, and ignore irrelevant factors. The decision must be based on evidence, that

is to say material, which tends logically to show the existence or non-existence of relevant facts, or the likelihood or unlikelihood of the occurrence of some future event, the occurrence of which would be relevant. The licensing sub-committee must give fair consideration to the contentions of all persons entitled to make representations to them.

55. The licensing sub-committee is entitled to consider events outside of the premises if they are relevant, i.e. are properly attributable to the premises being open. The proprietors do not have to be personally responsible for the incidents for the same to be relevant. However, if such events are not properly attributable to the premises being open, then the evidence is not relevant and should be excluded. Guidance is that the licensing authority will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at the licensed premises on members of the public, living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned.
56. Members will be aware of the council's code of conduct which requires them to declare personal and prejudicial interests. The code applies to members when considering licensing applications. In addition, as a quasi-judicial body, members are required to avoid both actual bias, and the appearance of bias.
57. The sub-committee can only consider matters within the application that have been raised through representations from other persons and responsible authorities.
58. Under the Human Rights Act 1998, the sub committee needs to consider the balance between the rights of the applicant and those making representations to the application when making their decision. The sub-committee has a duty under section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 when making its decision to do all it can to prevent crime and disorder in the borough.
59. Other persons, responsible authorities and the applicant have the right to appeal the decision of the sub-committee to the magistrates' court within a period of 21 days beginning with the day on which the applicant was notified by the licensing authority of the decision to be appealed against.

Guidance

60. Members are required to have regard to the Home Office revised guidance in carrying out the functions of licensing authority. However, guidance does not cover every possible situation, so long as the guidance has been properly and carefully understood, members may depart from it if they have reason to do so. Full reasons must be given if this is the case.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

61. The head of community safety and enforcement has confirmed that the costs of this process are borne by the service.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background papers	Held At	Contact
Licensing Act 2003 Home Office revised guidance to the Act Secondary Regulations Southwark Statement of Licensing Policy Case file	Southwark Licensing, C/o Community Safety and Enforcement, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Kirty Read Phone number: 020 7525 5748

APPENDICES

Name	Title
Appendix A	Copy of the review application
Appendix B	Copies of the representations submitted by responsible authorities
Appendix C	Copy of the premises licence
Appendix D	List of licensing night time visits to the premises
Appendix E	Copy of Notice of Surrender submitted by the licensee
Appendix F	Copy of the letter sent to the licensee with details of the hearing adjournment

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Deborah Collins, Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	
Report Author	Wesley McArthur, Principal Licensing Officer	
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Dated	10 February 2017	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
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