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Our reference: MD/21/349/24

Date: 12th April 2024

Re:- Mr Eddie Hanson Club 701, 516 Old Kent Road SE1 5BA

Dear Sir/Madam

On the 4th April 2024 the Metropolitan Police received an application from Mr Eddie Hanson to transfer premises licence 870760 for Club 701, 516 Old Kent Road SE1 5BA, currently held by Erico Entertainment Ltd.

This premises licence was subject of a summary review under section 53a of the licensing act 2003 following a serious incident that occurred whilst the premises was in operation under this premise licence. On the 8th February 2024 the licensing sub-committee decided that after hearing evidence from all parties concerned that it was appropriate to revoke the premises licence.

This matter is now subject to an ongoing appeal to be heard at the magistrate's court. The practice of transferring a premises licence following applications to review premises licenses has become a concern for the police and the licensing authority. It has been used as a method to circumvent the review process and subsequent appeals process. It has become such a concern that it was included in the latest version of Southwark's statement of licensing policy. Paragraphs 94 & 95 of the policy state:

Applications for transfer of a premises licence following application for a review

94. This Authority is concerned over the frequently observed practice of an application for a transfer of a premises licence being made following an application for a review of that same licence being lodged.

95. Where, such applications are made, this Authority will require documented proof of transfer of the business / lawful occupancy of the premises (such as a lease), to the new proposed licence holder to support the contention that the business is now under new management control

The application for transfer received from Mr Hanson has a number of supporting character and previous employment documents. The Police welcome this approach and take no issue with the applicant as an individual.

The applicant has failed to submit any documented proof of the true transfer of the business, lawful occupancy of the premises or anything similar to support the inference that this premises is now under new management control.

It could be considered at this time that the premises known as Club 701 is still under the overall control of Erico Entertainment Ltd. Police object to the transfer of this premises licence on the grounds that it would undermine the review/appeal process and therefore undermine the original review application made under the prevention of crime and disorder.

Yours Sincerely

PC Mark Lynch 2246 AS
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