

Public Document Pack



MEETING:	Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board Sub-Committee
DATE:	Monday 19 December 2022
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Reception Room - Barnsley Town Hall

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

- 4 Application for a Review of the Premises Licence - Sugar Club, 7 Pitt Street, Barnsley (*Pages 3 - 34*)

To: Chair and Members of Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board Sub-Committee:-

Councillors Bowser, Clarke and Danforth together with Councillor Shepherd (Reserve Member)

Shokat Lal, Executive Director Core Services
Sajeda Khalifa, Solicitor
Debbie Bailey, Senior Licensing Officer

Please contact Jack Moore on or email governance@barnsley.gov.uk
16th December 2022

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 4

The Sugar Club

Review Meeting Statement

Monday 19th December 2022

Please find below our response to each point made by Kirsty Green of South Yorkshire Police. Please use that document at the same time so that it is clear what the point/incident is that we are referring to.

1. Please provide proof of this incident. Challenge 25 in place. Door staff checking all IDs. The only possibility that underage were able to access Sugar Club is if one of their friends let them in through the side gate. No evidence that this even happened.
2. Ashley Stockton otherwise busy and under no obligation to answer the phone all the time. Always responds to voicemails.
3. Ashley Stockton happy to meet but clearly ill at the time.
4. Ashley Stockton responded to the email.
5. Actions clearly already put in place in response to the previous issues on 8th January.
6. Policies that were previously signed off as satisfactory were then updated and renewed. Camera immediately repositioned in garden.
7. Son unwell as diabetic. Ashley Stockton happy to rearrange meeting.
8. Still caring for sick child. Email received, meeting scheduled for following day.
9. Ashley Stockton attended meeting and agreed to put into place the actions discussed, even though there was no solid evidence of underage being in the premises.
10. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
11. Unfounded accusations and rumours. Absolutely no evidence.
12. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
13. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
14. Yet again, "allegedly". Unfounded rumours.
15. Email acknowledged. Again, unfounded accusations.

16. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

17. Clearly everything was in order. Paperwork was excellent. Improvements were taken on board.

18. Again, hearsay and rumours. No evidence.

19. Yet again, "information received". At this point, we are starting to suspect and hear that other venues are the 'source of this information' and are adamant they are going to close The Sugar Club down for having underage persons for their own benefit.

20. Again, no evidence to back the girl's statement.

21. Yet again, "information received". Who is providing this constant flow of information? And where from? No evidence whatsoever.

22. Yet again, "Information received". Without specifics, we are unable to respond. However, unless security know every name on the Pubwatch list and know their faces, it is possible for one or two to 'slip through the net'. We accept this and security staff were fully briefed and reminded at the time.

23. 2 months later, the report was finally completed from 8th January.

24. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

25. Again, "information received". No evidence to support this allegation. There is no VIP area in The Sugar Club! Nobody can be sent anywhere to evade police officers as they check every room including toilets and back kitchen. Also nobody accesses the upstairs through the kitchen as it only contains storage areas. Unable to respond to social media videos as these have not been seen by us.

26. Message received.

27. Message received and passed on.

28. Email received.

29. Email received.

30. The police raid occurred. We were not given any information with regards to numbers or even if any underage were found. Ashley was forced into the back kitchen area with other management so did not actually see any of the raid that happened. In response to the comment on the statement from the actual raid, regarding the 'potential underage girl' coming down the stairs - this was actually our cleaner at the time who was around 22 years old at the time and had called at Sugar Club with two of her friends, both aged 20 at the time, to collect her wages. She hadn't even been up the stairs so we are confused as to why this is in the statement. Nobody has any reason to access the upstairs area unless they are bar staff. The door also has a lock on it, which only the bar staff know the code to. Also in

response to the raid itself, this happened at 12 midnight until 3am. The police locked everyone in for 3 hours and killed the business for months after. The only underage that were found were those that had fake ID of a high quality and looked over 18. There were 250 people in at the time and these made up a very small proportion of those customers.

31. The male who was punched in the eye had been assaulted in The Secret Bar. He then came to The Sugar Club where we administered first aid treatment.
32. Whilst we agree that homophobic language should not be used in society at all, and we operate an LGBT friendly venue (we held the OFFICIAL 2022 Gay Pride after party – with zero incidents), unless the incident at the time is brought to our attention, we are not able to take action or take responsibility. Happy to follow up with an incident report and bar the perpetrator.
33. Ashley making positive steps towards improving the relationship with Kirsty – something we have all strived to do. Who is “continuing to complain”? Is it the same person from the same venue? At this point, other people from other venues are ‘mocking’ us.
34. Producing ID on a phone is not part of our policy and should not have been allowed. Security staff and bar staff debriefed with regards to this and told only physical ID should be accepted.
35. Another refusal book was ordered and put on the back bar. Refusal logs now written in a notebook and DPS writes up in the refusal log in the main club folder as sometimes there may be an issue with quality of handwriting especially if the bar is busy. Since the incident in question, staff have now been briefed in reporting these kinds of incidents straight away to the DPS, who will then make an informed decision about calling the police if necessary. This should avoid any further escalation of such incidents. Comments about paperwork taken on board, however, Mr Sevciuc did feel at the time that some of the feedback was ‘racist’ as they referred to his English language and writing skills. Paperwork is currently and has been for months, of excellent quality. Comments from The Council mentioned our training manual as being of exceptional quality. The CCTV company took responsibility for the timings on the cameras and admitted fault with the setting up. This was rectified immediately. We accept an incident log may not have been completed at the time and the DPS was reminded of the importance of completing these ASAP. License can clearly be seen behind the bar now.
36. Application received.
37. We accept that at the time Mr Sevciuc may have acted in an obstructive manner. However, at the time Mr Sevciuc was under immense stress and pressure, particularly with the over-zealous police presence and the fact he felt victimised due to his nationality. No underage was found.
38. Yet again “information received”. This was clearly unfounded. A doorman from another venue – Esmeraldas – had been in, there was hardly anyone in at the time, left sniggering and shortly after the police came in. This was clearly an act of sabotage, once again from a rival venue. Mr Sevciuc may have been angry and verbal towards officers but this was clearly down to the false allegations made.

39. New DPS named. We identified the need for this as Mr Sevciuc felt pressured to step down as the DPS due to the police pressure. The new DPS, Mr Thomas White, came with several verbal references and recommendations from other venues with his extensive experience. Kirsty Green also approved. Mr Stockton thought this would solve all problems going forward.
40. Email received. Suggested improvements made.
41. We used our initiative to change the security company to make further improvements to our door staff.
42. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
43. Happy to confirm that all was in order. Again.
44. We accept that the previous version was sent by mistake.
45. Tommy White now taken on responsibility for all Sugar Club paperwork.
46. Email received.
47. Mr White was clearly using his initiative to make contact with Kirsty Green and ensure he was completing the right tasks.
48. Advice taken on board by Tommy White who ensured his presence was increased at the club.
49. Tommy White sent the email as requested.
50. Policies amended again by Tommy White as advised.
51. Email sent by Tommy White.
52. Tommy White was on a pre-booked night out for his birthday
53. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
54. After feeling like he had already dealt with these policies and procedures, Tommy White had to make further amendments to the paperwork. Mr Stockton felt that this issue had already been dealt with and was not aware of the constant to-ing and fro-ing between Tommy White and Kirsty Green. Tomy White had a pre-booked weekend away abroad that we had to allow, even though we didn't want to. Another capable person with a licence was left in charge.
55. Email received.

56. Mr Craig Wildsmith, DPS for Truth 32, attended the Pubwatch meeting representing Truth32 and Sugar Club.
57. Unfounded accusation. Absolutely no proof of anyone's drink being spiked. We have been using stop caps and stickers for cups to prevent any spikings from occurring.
58. Comments taken on board. No issues reported all weekend. Mr Wildsmith was more than competent at running both venues.
59. Mr Stockton thought this had already been dealt with until the email in point 61.
60. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
61. Policies amended yet again.
62. Conditions to the licence added. At this point we thought it wouldn't be hard to follow and putting an end to the review and all apparent evidence gathered up to this point.
63. Conditions agreed.
64. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
65. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
66. Email received.
67. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
68. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
69. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
70. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
71. Violent Incident Protocol had not yet been received from South Yorkshire Police. Laptop had to be replaced/repaired.
72. Unable to find anywhere to repair laptop at such short notice on this day. Although we did manage to get it working for opening, we realised it had an intermittent fault as the evening went on. Door staff were instructed to download and use an ID scanner app on their mobile phones, like the other premises on Wellington Street use.
73. Original document never received.
74. Visit occurred. CCTV camera installed above main door the following day (not Thursday as the point from Kirsty Green says). Paperwork is now and has been organised and presented to the highest standard, including managers signatures. Very disappointing to see that Tommy White was not able to answer questions regarding the licence and the additional

conditions applied to it, even though he had attended meetings and been provided with the necessary paperwork. At this point, alarm bells were starting to ring with Mr Stockton. Policies and training manual in order. CCTV in order and staff able to use software to download clips. New checking sheet for CCTV in place after this point. Incident logs are now thoroughly completed with the correct amount of detail. Briefing sheet now completed every Friday and Saturday with relevant and specific information. Comments taken on board and Mr Stockton did not realise there were so many issues and concerns regarding Tommy White at this stage.

75. Email received.

76. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

77. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

78. No outdoor music as requested. We accept that although improvements had been made, there were still some additional improvements to make. A new security company scheduled to visit.

79. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

80. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

81. Amendments completed, as requested.

82. Incident dealt with correctly.

83. Software on laptop/scanner had crashed and this was rebooted. Both were working on the second visit and no customers were allowed in the venue during the time it was getting rebooted. Technical issues – should this have been recorded as a breach?

84. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

85. Email received. Technical issue with scanner dealt with immediately.

86. No evidence to suggest that this even happened in The Sugar Club. No recollection from staff of this 'apparent' assault.

87. The second security staff had to go home due to a family matter. We tried but were unsuccessful at gaining a second security staff at such short notice. Again, in hindsight, we should have closed but felt it wasn't necessary as there were such few customers in due to the heightened and constant police presence.

88. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

89. This point answered in number 87.

90. Point answered in number 87.

91. Comments on board. Mr Stockton appalled and embarrassed by Tommy White's blatant lies and already considering a replacement at this point.
92. Comments taken on board and new security company scheduled to start.
93. Email received.
94. Email sent.
95. Happy to confirm that all was in order and BWV had been ordered.
96. Happy to confirm that all was in order, still waiting for BWV to arrive.
97. Incident dealt with correctly. Security staff located in garden. Altercation split up. First aid administered and incident log completed.
98. See point 97.
99. See point 97.
100. CCTV clips sent.
101. Ashley Stockton very disappointed at Tommy White's lack of knowledge and at this point is already losing confidence in his abilities. Points regarding the CCTV in the garden are taken on board and CCTV company contacted immediately to rectify this situation. Yet again, responding swiftly and positively to any issues that arise.
102. Email received.
103. We fully agree with Kirsty Green's comments in this point. However, it would not be realistic to expect the DPS to be present seven nights a week, 9pm to 5:30am as that person would never see the light of day. Ashley Stockton very disappointed in the lack of commitment and knowledge by Tommy White and starting to look for a replacement DPS.
104. We agree with all comments made and Ashley Stockton continues to look for a replacement DPS as he is also concerned.
105. Comments passed on.
106. Meeting was held with Tommy White and Ashley Stockton. Tommy White begged to be kept on as DPS; Mr Stockton decided this had gone too far and made enquiries into a replacement.
107. Email received and comments taken on board, most of which agreed with in relation to Tommy White.
108. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

109. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

110. Anna Harper meets with Ashley Stockton to discuss taking on the role of DPS at The Sugar Club and is happy to do this.

111. Security staff in shorts and t-shirts because it was quite simply, the hottest day of the year so far. The punching machine was moved straight away after these incidents. Ashley Stockton again very disappointed that Tommy White was not present at the time of the incidents and was another red flag against him. We do agree with Kirsty Green's comments in this point though.

112. Email received.

113. Phone conversation took place.

114. Email received.

115. Ashley Stockton informed Kirsty Green of the improvements to the cameras in the garden, the additional security guard and the new DPS – Anna Harper – to start the following weekend. Ashley clearly taking steps to make the changes necessary to ensure the efficient running of Sugar Club. Listening and responding to Kirsty's comments.

116. On Thursday 28th July 2022, Ashley Stockton received a phone call from an Operations Manager called Scott Woodburn from Professional Security. He started by asking if Ashley had any doorman to work on Sugar Club door that Saturday and claimed they only had the manpower to man the door Friday. Ashley's response was that they are the security company manning the door and it is their issue to sort out the staff. The security company ended the conversation by trying to recruit for Saturday. Ashley Stockton did not think anymore of it until Saturday night at 9pm when he received a phone call from Thomas White saying no doorman had arrived. Ashley then frantically rang around several security companies that he was familiar with to try and resolve the issue, which luckily in the end he did for that night. The club remained closed until the new doormen arrived. When Ashley Stockton then learnt about Professional Security's email, he was gutted but believes they had done this to cover their own backs because they knew the police were heavily onto Sugar Club.

117. We were left with no choice but to use a non-accredited security company as we were unable to get security staff from an accredited company, after being let down at the last minute. We do accept this was a breach and in hindsight should not have opened although we did put measures in place to ensure there was security on the door/premises and the few customers we did have were safe. This was only ever intended as a temporary measure and a one-off arrangement.

118. Points regarding the security issue were agreed with. Handover between Tommy White and Anna Harper to take place on the Friday evening of 5th August.

119. Email received.

******Friday 5th August Tommy White hands over the roll of DPS to Anna Harper******

120. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

121. Ashley Stockton keeps Kirsty Green in the loop by letting her know the name of the new security company – Phoenix Security.

122. This was Tommy White's last night in charge and we believe he did this in spite as a 'leaving gesture'. Looking back on these other points it would suggest Tommy White definitely did have the skills to operate the CCTV. We would like to point out that the quality of our cameras and footage as well as the staff skills are now at the best they have ever been.

123. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

124. Points regarding cleanliness are taken on board.

125. See point 122 above. Paperwork completed.

126. Once again, Ashley Stockton communicating positively with Kirsty Green by confirming the meeting with Anna Harper and offering his continued support with regards to obtaining the CCTV clips required.

127. Police never informed Mr Stockton that they had previously had any issues, otherwise he would have personally dealt with this on the spot like he has done at all other times.

128. Ashley Stockton more than happy to assist with the CCTV clips and unaware of any of the difficulties previously mentioned.

129. No evidence whatsoever to support this allegation.

130. Ashley Stockton and Anna Harper attend the meeting at Sugar Club with Kirsty Green and Debbie Bailey. This was supposed to be a positive interaction, but it was clear that Kirsty Green had already decided at this point that she would be either taking the Sugar Club to another review and/or objecting to the licence variation as she already drops hints about doing this. Now we know that this was always going to be the end result in this ongoing case. Anna Harper stressing that she would be very hands on – five months on and this is still the case but even better as she knows everyone and knows their names and is familiar with the Pubwatch list.

131. Anna Harper attempting to make positive communication with Kirsty Green and keep her updated.

132. The two girls in question were sat in the garden drinking. The security staff knew the two girls as they are regulars and have previously seen their ID. However, the police were not happy with this and asked the girls to leave. We have taken this on board and now all

security staff are briefed thoroughly and told 'No ID No Entry'. Whilst this has resulted in us turning lots of regulars away that we know to be over 18, they understand and accept our reasons and now bring their physical ID. Please see ATTACHMENT A as an example of the staff briefing sheet.

133. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

134. Kirsty Green called Anna Harper who explained the incident with the ID – see point 132. Anna Harper again working with Kirsty Green and says she will review the CCTV and check the incident logs. This is regarding the alleged incident in point 129.

135. The BWV had been given to the security staff at the beginning of their shift, as per the conditions. The security staff then decided to put it in his pocket instead of informing Anna Harper that it required charging. After the visit, the camera was charged for half an hour and the security staff instructed to wear it for the rest of the night. Whilst we do accept this was a breach, we did what we were supposed to do and give the camera to security staff, although we should have ensured it was fully charged beforehand. The door staff are now instructed to report any technical issues instantly on the briefing sheet. Please see ATTACHMENT B for just one example of many of this. Regular checks are now conducted through the night to ensure this is still being worn. BWV is put on charge after each shift.

136. In relation to the incident in point 129, Anna Harper spent a considerable amount of time going through CCTV footage trying to find evidence of the alleged assault happening. Absolutely no evidence to suggest this incident ever happened. Nothing seen on CCTV at all. Information relayed back to Kirsty Green confirming this.

137. Email received and had already been dealt with on the night.

138. Email sent

139. No evidence that this incident happened. No incident log recorded for any assault that evening. No request to check CCTV by police.

140. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

141. Please refer to ATTACHMENT C. Known traveller and also on Pubwatch, managed to enter the premises. As we know one time it took several police officers to remove him from other premises, we felt that it could be unsafe towards our staff and customers to make an attempt to physically remove him. Street Safe staff called police on our behalf because the Town Link Radio wouldn't work – at this point we are starting to realise there is an issue with the radio and although it appears to work, we do not receive a response from anyone. Police refused to come and assist with the male, saying there were no available units. Male threatened security staff. We closed the club twenty minutes early due to the refusal by police to assist us. We are not prepared to compromise the safety of our staff and customers.

142. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

143. The ID scanner had been working, although it did need rebooting and this was done immediately. We accept that the radio was switched off and not charged but this was down to the recent issues where we hadn't received a response, but accept it should have still been left on charge. Again, this was rectified instantly and a second visit was requested by Anna Harper where everything was in working order.
144. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
145. Anna Harper attempting to build positive relationships with Kirsty Green by informing her of the visit that occurred and offering an explanation for the breach.
146. Email received and points taken on board.
147. Email to communicate the positive actions put on place going forward.
148. At the beginning of the Pubwatch meeting, Anna Harper waited to speak to Kirsty Green. Once again, keen to develop positive relationships. However, what seemed at the time to be an informal and friendly chat about the club appears to have been twisted and manipulated into something that it most definitely wasn't. Words like 'voiced concerns' and 'dismissed her comments' were absolutely not used. We would also argue against the comment of 'countless breaches' – I'm sure Ms Green would easily be able to count the (unintended) breaches over the previous few weeks. They almost definitely do not show that we are unable to manage the premises properly – they show that generally technology and other people may let us down from time to time but that we would ALWAYS work hard to rectify any issues immediately. Again, further on from this point, the words 'voiced concerns' are used – these words were NEVER used in this conversation. This was a friendly informal chat as far as Anna Harper was concerned but it is now clear that the words that were used were twisted and exaggerated. This is really disappointing – how are we ever expected to work together positively with the police when such tactics are used? With reference to the comments made about working hours – yes, some nights Anna Harper started at 9pm, some at 11pm. These two hours are usually very quiet and at the time it wasn't deemed as necessary for her to be there. However, after this meeting Ashley Stockton has always ensured Anna Harper is at the premises for 9pm to open up. For Kirsty Green to make a comment about Ashley Stockton – she 'alleged that he had rejected her request stating that the wage bill would be too high' – these words were not used at all. It was definitely more of a passing joking comment and Anna Harper never expected her words to get so twisted. Already Kirsty Green is hinting at the upstairs not opening. Ashley Stockton never reduced Anna Harper's hours; in fact he increased them. So, we don't know why Kirsty Green would make this information up. Both Ashley Stockton and Anna Harper feel that this whole point made by Kirsty Green has potentially been written to intentionally try and sabotage our working relationship. It has in fact, had the opposite effect as we both now know who we can trust.
- During the subsequent Pubwatch meeting, the issue with the radio was raised and the police promised to look into it. Bear in mind, this was in September and we are now in December and it still hasn't been sorted.
149. Once again, Anna Harper trying desperately to foster a positive relationship with Kirsty Green by keeping her in the loop about her opening up earlier going forward.

150. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

151. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

152. Refer to ATTACHMENT D. 999 called due to the potential threat of the male. Police did respond this time but the male left of his own accord as soon as they arrived. Once again, we are taking the correct action in dealing with these people and wanting to work with the police, which we hope will assist us should we ever need them.

153. This information is correct. We had a power cut inside the club that meant the electrics for the decks that provide the music, the laptop and scanner and the CCTV cameras were not working, despite the trip switch being in working order. We were waiting for an emergency electrician to come out and fix the problem and remained closed with the front door locked in the meantime. Anna Harper made it clear to Kirsty Green that the security company would absolutely be SIA accredited and we fully knew this as part of one of the conditions of our licence. Vlad Sevcic had already been to Sugar Club earlier in the evening to collect something; from memory this was either plastic cups or straws. He then came later to drop something off as he was working at Truth32 that evening. Again, from memory, it was either plastic cups or straws. He collected one of them and dropped the other one off later, when the police were conducting their SIA checks. There was absolutely nothing sinister in his visit and he was definitely not working there so we are unsure of why Kirsty Green would have any confusion about this incident.

154. Sometimes the laptop and scanner need rebooting – this is due to software issues or the broadband dipping, any number of reasons. We will always strive to rectify straight away.

155. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

156. More evidence yet again of us working positively with the police – this incident did not happen in our club but our high quality CCTV cameras of the outside captured a sexual predator approaching a victim before committing a serious sexual assault close by. We used our own time to download the footage and the perpetrator is now behind bars because of this. The police lady in question personally rang Anna Harper to thank her for ensuring such a swift and successful closure to the case.

157. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

158. Please refer to ATTACHMENT E. Security staff were fully aware that they needed to wear the BWV as they had signed the briefing sheet where this is stated. Rectified immediately. Again, technical issues with scanner which we sorted out straight away and was then working fine.

159. Meeting arranged and confirmed with Kirsty Green, who did not disclose what the meeting was about. We assumed that it was to check the CCTV cameras as part of the variation to the licence to open Candy Loft (new upstairs room in Sugar Club).

160. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

161. The security staff that should have been working at 22:00 didn't turn up on time then rang in sick after the start of his shift. We managed to organise a second security staff who literally arrived as the police were there at 22:30. During this period of thirty minutes, we ensured the few customers we had inside were safe and no large groups were allowed to enter. We thought that getting a security staff within less than thirty minutes was more than a satisfactory result. Yet again, something that was out of our control that was rectified instantly.

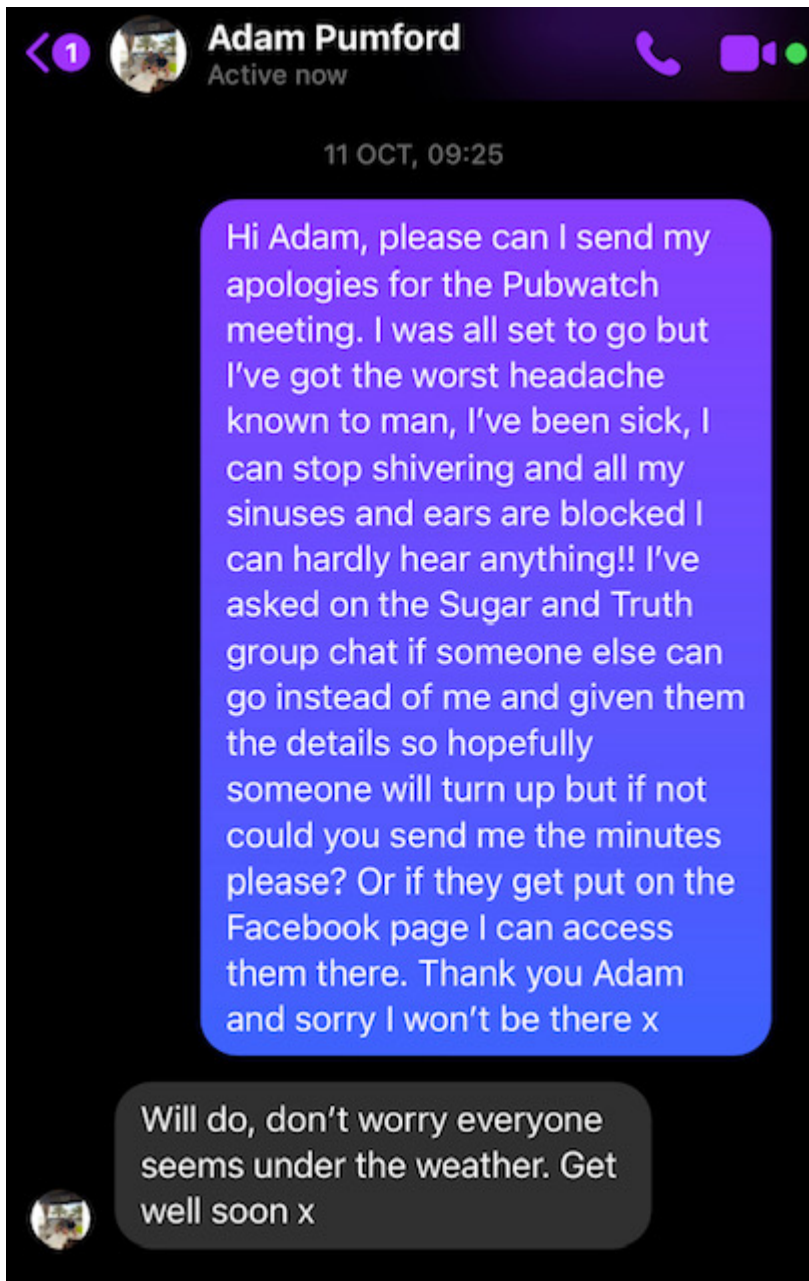
162. Anna Harper requested a change to the date of the meeting as the installation of the new CCTV cameras had been held back and we wanted to ensure these were fitted and correct for Kirsty Green's visit.

163. Email received the following day from Kirsty to inform us she was on leave and couldn't reschedule to the 19th October. This day happened to be the birthday of Anna Harper so she didn't pick the email up as was out with her family (husband and small children).

164. Kirsty rang Anna Harper whilst she was out with her family (husband and children) on her own birthday enjoying a meal and didn't even see or hear the call let alone answer. Ashley Stockton was also busy when Kirsty Green rang him.

165. As soon as Anna Harper saw the missed call, she sent Kirsty Green a text message explaining why she had not answered. Anna Harper did not feel it was appropriate to be taking or making work related phone calls whilst on her day off enjoying her own birthday with her own family during the evening and felt it would be rude towards them if she did so. It was deemed more than appropriate to message Kirsty Green with a brief explanation. As Ashley Stockton was not available any longer on the 11th October, Anna Harper would not attend any meeting without him and vice versa. We are aware Kirsty Green is only available Monday to Wednesday to trying to fit in a meeting with all three of us available was proving difficult and Kirsty Green prefers not to use Wednesdays to meet up. So yes, the next available date was 19th October but Kirsty Green was on leave on this date.

166. Please see screenshot below of the message from Anna Harper to Adam Pumford. In Anna Harper's unblemished, eighteen-year Teaching career, she only ever had one day off sick. She absolutely does not appreciate the word 'claimed' by Kirsty Green. This insinuates that it is not true. Yes, it was true and it was genuine illness. Anna spent two days in bed and ensured she received the minutes from the meeting.



167. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

168. See ATTACHMENT F. This night was the only night/weekend Anna Harper has taken off in five months as it was her birthday that week and she was attending a club where the ticket had been purchased before starting work at The Sugar Club. A previous employee had attended the club that evening with her friends. There was an altercation in the female toilets that led to our previous employee being physically attacked. She then fought back in self-defence and the two groups spilled out onto the dancefloor. Our security staff did deal with it but when looking back on CCTV it was all over within seconds and confusing to establish during those few seconds who was at fault and what was happening. Once the girls had been dispersed and removed outside, the ex-employee was displaying drunken behaviour and was eventually arrested.

169. Yes, the police objected to a TEN which would have allowed us to open temporarily for a weekend so that we could hold a Halloween party. We felt that there was no real strong reason to do this.
170. Yet again, we are keen to work positively with the police and as soon as requested by John Kirkham, the CCTV that was requested was downloaded from the club and hand delivered personally to the police station.
171. We object to the language used here – ‘after failing to speak with Ms Harper once more’. Anna Harper is unaware of the alleged times that Mr Kirkham apparently tried to call as there was no reason for her not to answer. She had already spoken to him – see point above. Anna Harper is already on with sorting the CCTV at this point.
172. Anna Harper did indeed call John Kirkham about the objection to the TEN, where he simply could not provide a satisfactory answer or explanation. The investment in the upstairs was absolutely nothing to do with the perceived unfairness of this objection.
173. Ashley Stockton did call John Kirkham, who again could not provide a suitable answer for the objection.
174. Anna Harper did not arrive at the police station and ‘show’ John Kirkham three incident reports – she photocopied all three incident reports for him to keep as well as providing a USB stick of the footage from the previous weekend. Again, going above and beyond in her own time. We were not given any money from the police to pay for the USB – the £7 came out of our own company account.
175. See ATTACHMENT G. The incident in question relates to a female managing to obtain entry into The Sugar Club. When Anna Harper saw her in the garden, she alerted the security staff immediately and asked for her to be removed. When the two security staff did this, she immediately went ‘crazy’ and pulled them both the floor, raining blows with her heel onto the female security staff’s head. The girl walked off and got in a taxi while the female security collapsed on the floor. We closed the club and called for an ambulance. The police also arrived and the female perpetrator was walking up the street. I alerted police and she got arrested.
176. CCTV provided of the assault. The footage was poor, not because of the quality of the cameras but because the CCTV company had zoomed in too much. We had new cameras installed that week and this issue has been immediately rectified.
177. Happy to confirm that all was in order.
178. Disappointing to see the review papers submitted.
179. The objection was no longer a surprise as we knew this would happen.
180. We had already highlighted the issue to the police several times about the radio not working so it is highly unfair that this should be recorded as a breach. This is the fault of the police, not us. There weren’t multiple incidents at all. When the police conducted a walk

through, they arrived at the exact time a verbal altercation occurred in the toilet. So they were there in the right place at the right time. Both parties asked to leave, nothing happened. Yes, the same male who we had previously called the police on had managed to enter the club again. When the police arrived I asked them to remove him and said I was worried about his presence there. They refused to help and left him in the club, leaving staff and customers vulnerable. We thought the police were meant to help? The comment about 'individuals linked to crime groups' were in the club – absolutely no evidence of this and a very judgemental comment to make.

181. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

182. Request for meeting accepted, no problem.

183. This is the same individual I asked police to remove and they refused. Also, the telephone call with Kieran Frain – was he sent to gather information on the club? Was he reporting back to Ms Green?

184. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

185. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

186. We finally have some answers regarding the radio at this stage – only two months after I initially reported the faults. The radio had been moved from Fire Lounge (now closed) to Sugar Club. Mr Stockton unaware that this would cause an issue and nobody had brought this issue to his attention.

187. Anna Harper felt like Kirsty Green attempted to make her look like an idiot in front of everyone at this Pubwatch meeting. She asked for the female to be put on Pubwatch as she previously wasn't on it. Please see ATTACHMENT H – this was the September Pubwatch booklet – it clearly shows that A.C. is NOT on there. Anna Harper did not have the October pubwatch booklet but there is no evidence to suggest the female was on it then. Anna Harper felt like it was a deliberate attempt to try and humiliate her when she was simply trying to do the right thing and she was in fact correct – A.C. wasn't on Pubwatch prior to this meeting, where we received booklets a week late as well. If she had been on Pubwatch since March, why wasn't she in the booklet? This felt like an attempt by Ms Green to make Anna Harper look like she doesn't know who is on Pubwatch; this is not true. During this meeting, Anna Harper yet again trying to sort the radio out.

188. Incorrect – the radio was registered to Fire Lounge. We did not know this was an issue and why was it a breach when we are trying our hardest to sort it out and there was a radio there on our premises? We just don't get a response when calling in. Anna Harper apologised for keeping the IDs, she thought she was doing the right thing keeping them safe until seeing and handing over to Kirsty Green. IDs now given straight to Funny Gals usually on the same night. There had been an issue with the laptop holding the database – a drink had been spilt on it so we were using a temporary laptop. We did think that the scanner would flag up fake IDs but it is used for recording and holding the database of customers attending the premises. The security staff do use an app on their phones that correctly identifies fake and real IDs; this brings us in line with the other venues on Wellington Street

that use the same app. Pleased to show Kirsty Green and her colleagues the newly installed CCTV system and they were pleased with the quality and confirmed there were no blind spots.

189. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

190. Happy to confirm that all was in order.

191. Bit of a non-comment. Anna Harper trying to find the email address of the lady that deals with the radios because the lady didn't send it to Anna's email address correctly first time. Just informing Kirsty Green that Anna found the email address (Ashley had it) and not to worry about it anymore.

PERSONAL STATEMENT FROM ASHLEY STOCKTON

Hi, my name is Ashley Stockton and I am the Director of The Sugar Club, Truth32 and Chambers. I have been doing this now for five years although I have fifteen years of experience altogether in other towns as well. Sugar Club was a creation of mine to bring the standards of Barnsley's nightlife up after covid. We started out with a restaurant licence, attempting to serve food, but then realised the club was an instant success and it was being used more as a nightclub. The food service soon finished and we went completely wet led. I feel that after covid the industry is ten times harder and the money is ten times less. It has felt like South Yorkshire Police have been targeting myself and the club – whether they have or not, it has felt like it. I don't think anybody expected it to take off like it did, especially with it being off one of the main streets in town.

I am aware that no other venues but my own in Barnsley town centre are subject to this kind of 'harassment' on a weekly basis with officers attending sometimes two or three times a night finding nothing wrong. I am not accusing the police of harassment, simply trying to explain that it has felt like that being on the receiving end. This constant hammering has been affecting my mental health all year and what is a battle to make ends meet has become nearly impossible to achieve. I employ over thirty staff on all three of my sites from glass collectors to management, all trained properly and giving as many hours as they would like. The financial burden of just keeping up with their wages is crippling me as the takings are down so much.

The upstairs of Sugar Club was developed in the middle of the year due to the capacity of the downstairs no longer suitable on busy nights. The police have hit us that many times, it has knocked the business to the ground and has had to be built again several times over the year. We are hoping the upstairs area would boost this back to its original popularity. Over £50k was spent using the summer profits – I really hope you feel my pain over this situation, and you make the decision to let us open Candy Loft as well as slowing down the onslaught from South Yorkshire Police.

Every time an issue has been identified, it has been rectified within days, even the appointment of my new DPS Anna Harper, who has made the Sugar Club even better. I was not aware of even half of the issues regarding Tommy White until I read Kirsty Green's statement. Had I known at the time, I would have taken action in replacing him much earlier.

The income from this club is the income needed to support my young family.

I appointed a solicitor to make contact with the police with regards to this situation and possibly come to a resolution. This was my last £3k. The police didn't want to talk and the solicitor wanted a further £10k to represent us, which we simply do not have due to the constant battering all year. We have been backed into a corner and this has left myself and Anna Harper with no other choice other than to represent ourselves and reveal the truth. We sincerely hope that you take our points on board.

PERSONAL STATEMENT BY ANNA HARPER

Hello, my name is Anna Harper and I am the DPS of The Sugar Club. I recently left my unblemished teaching career of eighteen years in order to pursue a completely different line of work and take on a new challenge. I believe I was in the right place at the right time in the summer in taking on this role. I have supervised very busy bars at festivals for many years and have always enjoyed working in this industry. I do not have a criminal record and I consider myself to be an upstanding member of the community. I used to teach many of our regular customers.

Ever since I have started working at Sugar Club other people (usually ex-employees or staff from rival venues) have tried to warn me off working for Ashley Stockton. I have no idea why because I have found him to be nothing short of hard working and a great boss to work for. He always pays me on time and gives me whatever help I need. He is nothing like what people have told me his reputation is.

Since I started I have tried to foster relationships with the police and Kirsty Green. I am a professional person and have found an incredible amount of blocks in my way and am puzzled as to why this may be. I can only assume that South Yorkshire Police may have a personal vendetta against Ashley Stockton and if not it certainly feels that way. He works all day and goes to bed early so he can start all over again, seven days a week. He is rarely present in his own premises. It has been sad to watch him have to deal with all this from the police.

I have worked hard to run this club and any negative comments towards it I have taken as a personal insult. I feel we get nowhere with the police despite having very few incidents in comparison to other venues on Wellington Street. In fact, I feel that we have one of the safest venues in Barnsley that is open late. We look after customers (only recently helping a customer who had a fit at the bar and collapsed – she praised us publicly on social media). We try to do the right thing and hold our hands up if we make a mistake and ensure we put it right going forwards.

Any incidents are dealt with swiftly and correctly and we have an open-door policy for the police but quite frankly I am getting sick and tired of their weekend visits because it is the same rigmarole every time. The club empties and the takings are down – is this the objective of the police? I thought it was to keep us safe? They check my personal licence, even though they have seen it many many times but yet still act as if they have never met me. I have had one weekend off in five months so I'm there every time they visit.

I would like to add that there was an incident in the club whereby a male was assaulted by another male, who then ran up the street followed by the others. I ran down to the corner of the street and informed the two police officers there what had happened (given that our radio didn't work, leaving us vulnerable for months), I also told them one of them had a bottle of clear liquid and I had previously heard rumours that this could be acid. I told the officers all of this but they were not interested in the slightest and took zero action.

After another incident involving a different male, who came behind the bar and spoke to me in a threatening manner, then a customer said he had later seen a large knife down his trousers at a different venue, I wrote a post on the Pubwatch group and asked him to go on the list – this was never approved. Why not? Why let a dangerous person remain in town centre venues? Is it because someone from Sugar Club wrote it? I sincerely hope not because everyone else's posts get approved.

Please refer to ATTACHMENT I. This is a screen shot of an email I sent to Kirsty Green regarding a Facebook post by The Secret Bar. In it they advertise a Snoop Dogg night and the images contain several marijuana leaves. I was genuinely concerned about the blatant promotion of drug use in another venue. Not only did I not receive a reply, no action was taken and the club was allowed to keep the images and carry out further social media promotion. But yet the police record the smallest issue with The Sugar Club as a breach. It does feel rather unfair.

We are both honest and hardworking people and we don't deserve any of this – it does feel like a witch hunt even if it isn't. Kirsty Green has not contacted me for two months now – what happened to working with us? Kirsty Green has spent twelve months documenting and recording every single email, phone call, incident, meeting and statement. There was only ever one intention for doing this.

I do feel that the actions from South Yorkshire Police have felt like bullying and discrimination. We don't deserve this. We both have young families and the income from this club pays our household bills, my childrens' clothes and everything else that goes with having a family. If the licence is revoked, I am out of a job and an income.

We hope you all take on board our points and allow The Sugar Club to keep its position as one of the best late-night venues in Barnsley and allow us to open the upstairs room; Candy Loft, which is ready to go.

Thank you for taking the time to read our responses.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes or causes to be made a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in the truth.

Signed: *A Stockton*

Name: Ashley Stockton

Date: 15th December 2022

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes or causes to be made a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in the truth.

Signed: *A Harper*

Name: Anna Harper

Date: 15th December 2022

Saturday 3rd December



Staff and Security Daily Briefing

Staff in attendance:

Anna Harper } Bar.
Vicki Wright }
Jack Lusher - promo/door
Jakey C - DJ

Andy Townsend } security
Billie Grant } BNR to
be worn at
all times!

Briefing Details:

Late opening @ 11:30pm due to no door staff
until then.

Jack on door/promo 12-3:30am.

Issues with laptop/Scanner/BNR - report straight away

Challenge 25 re: ID - no need to turn everyone away
Must have physical ID.

Any issues arisen from staff? Yes / No
Is yes please state below.

Remember - no glass
in garden, give plastic
cups out please.

Staff signatures;

[Signature]

[Signature]

J. (hand)
Vicki

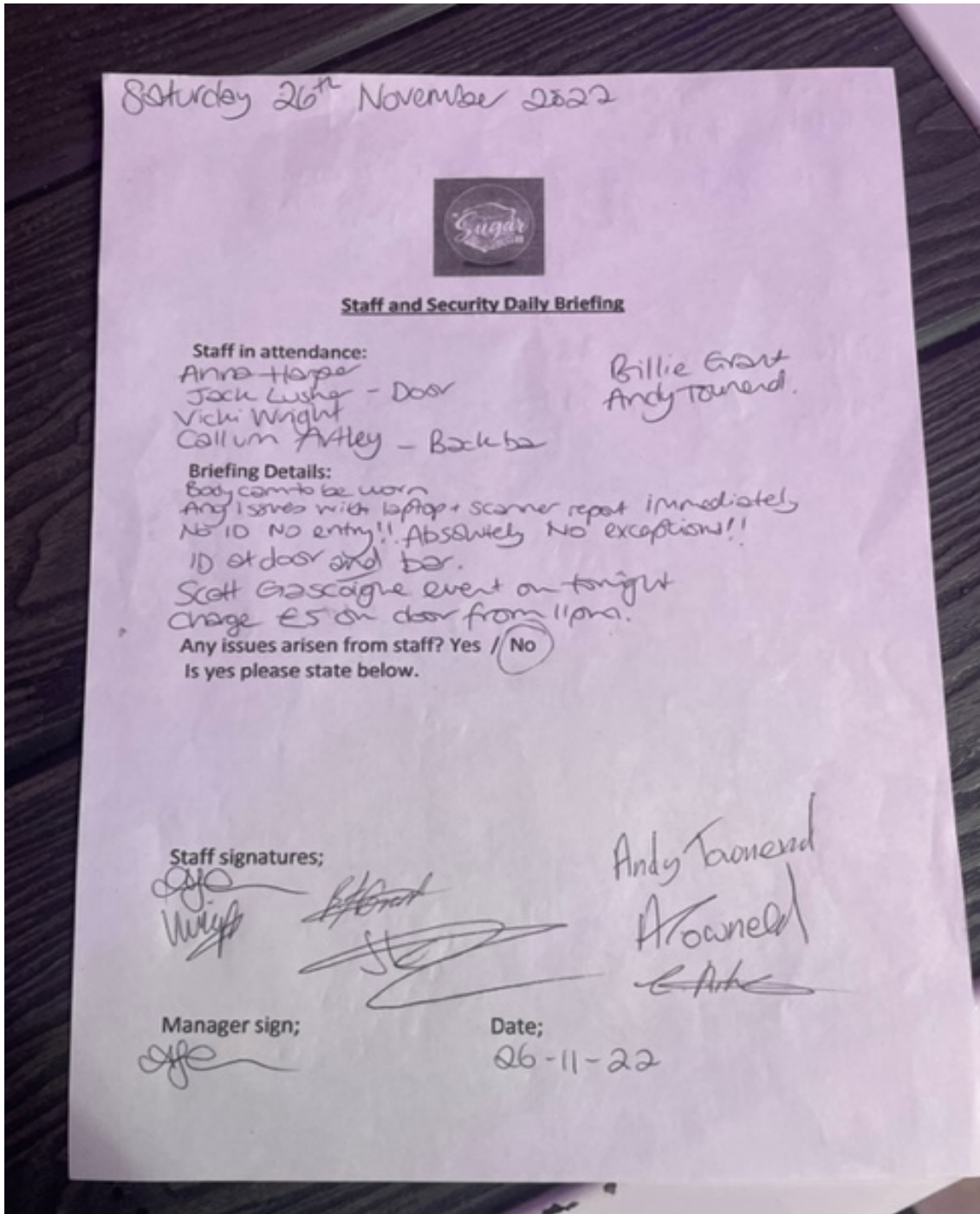
Pp Jack Lusher Pp Andy Townsend


Manager sign;

Date;

[Signature]

03-12-22





PERSON INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT

Full Name: Danny Taylor
 Home Address: ?
 Contact Numbers: ?

Student
 Employee
 Visitor
 Vendor

INCIDENT INFORMATION

Date: 28-08-22 Time: 3:30 am Police Notified Yes No

Location of Incident: inside club

Incident Description:
 Danny Taylor entered the premises even though he was told he wasn't allowed as he is on Pubwatch. Dancing with top off, aggressive behavior towards others, volatile. Billie used the police radio to inform them. Street/night wellbeing staff came to assist. They called police as we couldn't work the radio properly. Police said there were no available units to attend.

Were there witnesses to the incident? Yes No

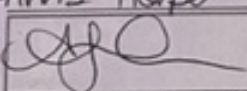
Was the individual injured? Yes No

Was medical treatment provided? Yes No Refused treatment

Where was the treatment provided? On site Emergency room Other

REPORTER INFORMATION

Name of individual submitting the report:
Anna Harper



Date completed: 27-08-22


INCIDENT INFORMATION

Date	Action Taken	Name
27-08-22	Danny refused to leave. Door staff threatened. Police unavailable. Decided to close premises early and remove everyone as a precautionary measure. Danny left peacefully and walked up the street.	Anna Harper

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Report received by: Anna Harper

Date: 27-08-22



PERSON INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT

Full Name: Stuart Egley
 Home Address: Unknown
 Contact Numbers: Unknown

Student
 Employee
 Visitor
 Vendor

INCIDENT INFORMATION

Date: 19-09-22 Time: _____ Police Notified Yes No

Location of Incident: Main bar area of Sugar Club

Incident Description: Stuart Egley entered the premises despite being on Pubwatch. He walked over to the main bar where Perry Ayres was stood and shouted in his face "ARE YOU A FUCKING GEORDIE, ARE YOU A FUCKING GEORDIE!!!" Very aggressively. He was behaving in a psychotic manner, wrestling women and saying he wanted the fucking Geordies. Everyone around him was terrified and the security staff didn't manage → P-10.

Were there witnesses to the incident? Yes No

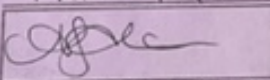
Was the individual injured? Yes No

Was medical treatment provided? Yes No Refused treatment

Where was the treatment provided? N/A On site Emergency room Other

REPORTER INFORMATION

Name of individual submitting the report:
Anna Harper



Date completed: 19-09-22

INCIDENT INFORMATION

Date	Action Taken	Name
19-09-22	Police called 999.	Anna Harper


FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Report received by: Ashley Stockton

Date: 19-09-22

to remove him. I immediately contacted Ashley and he said to ring the police 999 and get him removed as that would be the only way. He is well known to police and has only just got out of prison. I went into the back kitchen and called 999, gave them all the necessary information. In the meantime the security staff had requested some police officers to come in. 999 response said they would send some officers round straight away. I then went outside and the police were already there. He had left the premises and walked up Pitt Street and round the back of the Post Office. CCTV operators were following him and attempting to locate him. No further information regarding the incident - the police just said they would deal with it.

Saturday 1st October



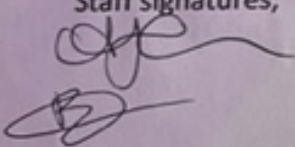

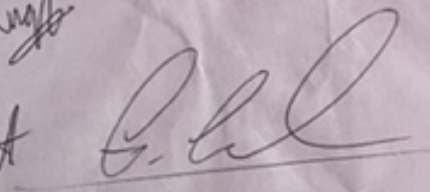
Staff and Security Daily Briefing

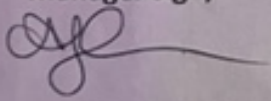
Staff in attendance:
Anna Harper
Brooke Gelsthorpe
Vicki Wright
DJ Alix

Billie Grant } security-
Gaz Clarke } near body
Damian Wilson } cam all
night pass


Briefing Details:
Large group of Geordies out tonight - be vigilant
No ID No entry - report any tech issues re scanner/laptop
No glass in garden straight away.
Back to open
Upsell drinks as much as possible

Any issues arisen from staff? Yes./ No
Is yes please state below.

Staff signatures;


Might
B.J. Grant

X

Manager sign;


Date; 01-10-22



PERSON INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT

Full Name: Broche Geldthorpe
 Home Address: ?
 Contact Numbers: _____
 Student Employee Visitor Vendor

INCIDENT INFORMATION

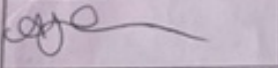
Date: Sunday 16th October Time: 00:35 Police Notified Yes No
 Location of Incident: Dance floor, main bar, outside

Incident Description: Broche (employee) quit her job on the Saturday afternoon then came into Sugar with her friends. She was drunk and being aggressive towards other people. An altercation occurred in the toilet and a fight spilled out on to the dance floor. This ended up being a large brawl amongst several females. Security were uninformed and struggled to split up the fight. Broche was picked up by her dad and carried outside. She continued shouting and attempting to attack the other females. Police arrived and Broche was arrested. Security acted promptly.

Were there witnesses to the incident? Yes No * only due to the sheer number of other people involved that kept going back after they had been separated.
 Was the individual injured? ? Yes No

Was medical treatment provided? Yes No Refused treatment
 Where was the treatment provided? On site Emergency room Other

REPORTER INFORMATION


Name of individual submitting the report:
Anna Harper on behalf of Viki

 Date completed: 16-10-22

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
 Report received by Ashley Stockton
 Date: 16-10-22

INCIDENT INFORMATION

Date	Action Taken	Name
16-10-22	Broche has now been barred from the venue. Checked that there were no injuries. Spoke to all bar staff after and ensured everyone OK. Jamie Leish also barred from venue.	Anna Harper
15-10-22	John Kirkham called and requested CCTV footage and incident reports. Downloaded some evening on to USB - to drop off at police station 19-10-22 9am.	

→ Broche says the other girls started it on the dance floor and toilets.



PERSON INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT

Full Name: Donna Shelley, Alana Cook, Adrian Cunningham

Home Address: _____

Contact Numbers: _____

Student
 Employee
 Visitor
 Vendor

INCIDENT INFORMATION

Date: 22-10-22 Time: 02:45 Police Notified Yes No

Location of Incident: Driveway/Garden/Pavement outside

Incident Description: Donna (security) told me a male had complained that a female threw a drink over him in the garden. She asked me to watch CCTV back with her so we could see what had happened. We saw the female (who we now know as Alana) throw a drink over the male, it seemed unprovoked and uncalled for. I asked Donna to go and ask her to leave. She went with Adrian into the garden to remove the female (Alana) immediately turned very aggressive and uncontrollable, shouting and screaming. I was in the hallway checking the ID scanner → P.to.

Were there witnesses to the incident? Yes No

Was the individual injured? Yes No

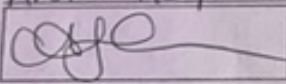
Donna Shelley - Loose tooth, blows to head (concussion)
Adrian Cunningham - Cut finger from being bitten by Alana

Was medical treatment provided? Yes No Refused treatment

Where was the treatment provided? On site Emergency room Other Hospital

REPORTER INFORMATION

Name of individual submitting the report:
Anna Harper



Date completed: 22-10-22

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

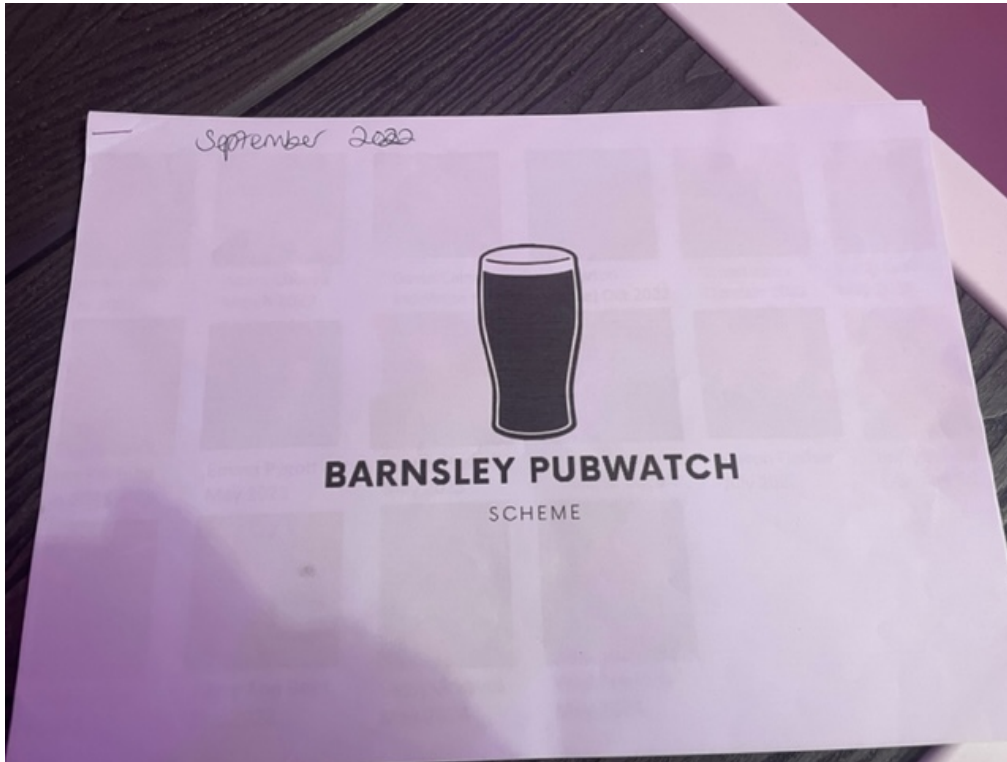
Report received by: Ashley Stockton

Date: 22-10-22

INCIDENT INFORMATION

Date	Action Taken	Name
22-10-22	Follow up calls with Donna + Adrian. Will put Alana forward for Pubwatch. Alana been charged with 3 counts of assault.	Anna Harper

When I heard "ANNA! ANNA!" I ran outside and Donna, Adrian and Alana were on the floor. Alana was on her back, Donna was on top of her. Alana had Donna's hair in her hands, gripped tight and wouldn't let go. Adrian was at the side of Alana trying to restrain her. Alana then pulled Donna's fleece over her head to disorientate her, then raised her legs up and slammed her heel down onto Donna's head several times. Donna managed to get up and Adey managed to get Alana up and towards the front of the club. She was shouting threats the whole time and being very aggressive. She left her bag on the floor. Alana and her friend walked down the street and got into a car, which drove off. I picked Donna's glasses up off of the floor, checked she was OK. She seemed disorientated but alright. I told her to go and sit down for a bit. She showed me her wobbly front tooth. 10/15 minutes later she stood at the barrier at the front. I went to check on her and as I was talking, she closed her eyes and fell into my arms unconscious. Her son Ethan ran up the street at this point. Me, Adrian and Ethan laid her down, they put her in the recovery position while I rang an ambulance. They said it could be up to 40 mins. Donna then had a fit so Vicki Wright rang 999 and they upgraded Donna to category 1. Donna had another fit in the meantime. The ambulance passed my number on to the police, they rang me and I told them what had happened. The police arrived and Alana took casually walked up the street with her friend. I told the police - "that's her!" Alana then arrested. Ambulance came. Donna treated on floor then back of ambulance. Taken to hospital. Police supplied with CCTV.



**2 x photos of individuals on pubwatch
supplied – but removed due to concerns
about sharing images and names publicly**

ATTACHMENT I

— □ ×
↩ Reply ↶ Reply all → Forward 📁 Archive 🗑 Delete 🚩 Set flag ⋮

Re: Police check



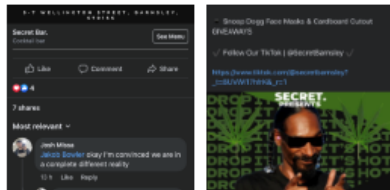
Anna Harper <annajb1@hotmail.com>

06/09/2022 07:47



To: KIRSTY GREEN Cc: Ashley Stockton

[Save all attachments](#)



Thank you for your reply **Kirsty**. We will ensure both pieces of equipment are in full working order and fully charged when we open up.

On a completely different topic, I was horrified to see one of the other venues in town blatantly advertising drugs and drug use in one of their Facebook posts. Surely this is what venues should be discouraging? I really am genuinely concerned about this advert and I have taken screen shots of a couple of comments where customers think it will be acceptable to smoke weed in there. I have attached the comments and advert for your perusal.

Thank you
Anna