

JOHN KIRKHAM

From: Ashley Stockton <ashleystockton81@icloud.com>
Sent: 06 April 2022 13:10
To: KIRSTY GREEN
Subject: Re: Sugar Club

Hi Kirsty,

Sorry you feel like that but I've been away and wanted a break from all work issues (that's why I have Craig/vlad ect there)

In regards to the underage, I would of thought a pat on the back from SYP all weekend and previous weekends for the good job we're doing would of satisfied rather than Chinese whispers coming from Wellington street, the constant rumours and rubbish of such is now gettin to me and causing me issues mentally, hence the breaks away from it all.

Can I ask we meet Friday 20th.. 2pm. As that's my earliest convenience

Thanks again

Ashley Stockton
Director Truth32/fire lounge/the barn/the sugar club
07425935994/01226244433



On 6 Apr 2022, at 12:35, KIRSTY GREEN <Kirsty.Green@southyorks.pnn.police.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I would like to raise concerns with you given that on several occasions over recent weeks I have tried to contact you via telephone to speak with you about issues brought to my attention, however I have been unable to have any contact with you.

Again I tried to call you on Tuesday 5th April, to no avail. This raises great concerns with me, given that you are the premise licence holder for three venues in town and I am unable to speak with you to address concerns and issues. As a result I am unable to investigate allegations brought to me to help to try and either prove or disprove them.

It has been brought to my attention again that individuals on pubwatch have been frequenting Sugar Club, these being ██████████ on Saturday 1st April and ██████████ on Sunday 2nd April. I would like to remind you that both individuals are on pubwatch bans therefore should remain out of all licensed premises in the town centre that are members of the pubwatch scheme. I would like to remind you that it was at another of your venues where ██████████ continued to cause problems and proceeded to issue threats to security staff. Therefore, it is imperative that pubwatch bans are adhered to discourage such problematic individuals from visiting the area.

I would also like to bring to your attention that I am continuing to receive complaints about underage in your venue. Therefore, I need to arrange a meeting with you for the week commencing

18th April to review your paperwork and ensure that all procedures are in place in relation to age related matters. If you could please let me know your availability for that week.

Just to advise John Kirkham is off for this week and next and I am returning to work on the 12th April.

Thank you

Regards,

Kirsty Green
Licensing Enforcement Officer
South Yorkshire Police Licensing Department
c/o Barnsley Police Headquarters
Churchfields
Barnsley
S70 2DL

Email: kirsty.green@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

T: 01226 736046

M: 07917212736

Website address - southyorks.police.uk



Tackling child sexual exploitation is a priority for the Force and it is the responsibility of everyone to help spot the signs and say something.

For more information visit www.southyorkshire.police.uk/spotthesigns

Please be advised that the content of emails may be submitted as evidence to a Licensing hearing should issues arising not be resolved. The Local Council may post them as part of the process on their Website which has public access.

We are recruiting! If you want to make a difference to the communities of South Yorkshire, you can apply now to Be The Future of South Yorkshire Police.

We are recruiting through our Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) route which is open to people who don't currently have a degree, and enjoy combining on the job experience with academic learning. [Find out more](#)

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WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)

URN

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Statement of Peter Spratt

Age if under 18 Over 18.... (If over 18 insert "over 18") Occupation: Neighbourhood Inspector

This statement (consisting of ~~4~~ page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true

Signature (witness) Date: 17/11/2022

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am Neighbourhood Inspector for the Barnsley Central, North and North East wards, which includes the town centre, taking an active role in matters relating to the night time economy and seeking to ensure our policing approach is proactively targeted to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, making the town centre a safe and enjoyable environment for all. This includes engaging with Pubwatch and other forums, to work in partnership with them around matters such as Purple Flag accreditation, Best Bar None and recently running a CPD event for staff involved in the night time economy, investing in continually improving our collective approach.

I am part of the Evening and Nighttime Economy Group (ENTEG) and have worked within that group to address issues that have arisen or emerging issues are proactively addressed. An example of this includes the response to concerns around potential 'spiking' of customers in venues that recently arose, where the ENTEG group were able to swiftly agree and deliver a plan in response that included everything from the response of police to a targeted communications campaign around prevention and harm reduction. Within the communication campaign, I was able to work alongside colleagues from our communications department to ensure that venues were equipped with messages that they could use on their own social media platforms and channels.

Signature: Signature Witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of: Peter Spratt.....

As part of my work within the partnership, it is also key that any emerging issues or trends identified through licensing checks or similar are fed back in and considered in relation to our response. In the weeks and months leading up to April 2022, underage drinking had been something that was a cause for concern. As such, there was a consistent message to those within venues and pubwatch around ID checks and venues maintaining consistent and acceptable standards on the checks that are made on admission to venues or in relation to the sale of alcohol. This however, did not appear to be having an impact with feedback from officers conducting licensing checks about large numbers of underage drinkers. This seemed to be particularly concentrated around the Sugar Club on Pitt Street, where I had seen previous body worn footage of customers who appeared to be very young and door staff reporting that the venue had allowed these young people in before they had come on duty.

This was a growing concern for me and when coupled with information provided that this venue particularly was allowing young people in and serving alcohol to them. I noted an increased number of young people had been located that were not from the Barnsley area. A review of the venue and its social media adverts indicated that the venue may be deliberately appealing to a younger audience. I had by this time formed sufficient concerns about the associated child protection concerns of underage drinking being so prevalent that I planned an operation to explore this concern. This operation was in effect a large-scale licensing check, in conjunction with Senior Licensing Officer Debbie Bailey and approximately 18 police officers across three public order vans, which was executed on the evening of Saturday 9th April 2022 into the early hours of Sunday 10th April 2022.

At midnight on Saturday 9th April 2022, I led all officers into the Sugar Club and conducted a check of licensable activity and to investigate if any offences under the Licensing Act were being committed. On entry to the premises there were approximately 200 customers in the venue and I gave instruction to my officers to enter and gain control of the premises, turning off music to maximise safety of officers and

Signature:  Signature Witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of: Peter Spratt.....

those present and allow us to communicate with those present to conduct the relevant checks. Officers were tasked to put a filter on the exits to the premises, in order for us to confirm the identification of those that were believed to be under 18. On entering the premises, I was immediately satisfied that there were a significant number of underage drinkers present. Therefore, it was necessary to identify all that we could to put in place a plan to safeguard those children who were under 18 and evidence/address this with the premises and door staff.

I allocated officers to hold those who were under 18 in a specific area of the club, within the courtyard, while we asked others to leave and therefore minimise the chance of any potential disorder while persons present were intoxicated the venue could not continue to serve alcohol while our checks were ongoing.

On entering the property, I made my way to the rear of the club, behind a bar to the rear which gave access to a kitchen and through the kitchen there was a subsequent set of stairs that then gave access to the upper floor. This upper floor has a small series of rooms that appeared to be used for storage and a toilet, but some young females were present and coming down those stairs as we arrived. Within the kitchen of the premise, Ashley Stockton was present, with two other males and a group of young females within an off-shot room in the kitchen. I explained to Stockton that I was in charge of the operation and the nature of the checks, identifying the concerns that we had quickly discovered a large number of underage drinkers in the venue. Stockton was in drink and continued to drink alcohol while he spoke with me and other officers.

Due to finding Stockton and other adult males with females who we believed may be under 18, I requested colleagues from CID attend and speak with those females present, to account for why they were in company with these males in an area of the premise which was not covered within the license.

Signature:  Signature Witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of: Peter Spratt.....

This was to explore and confirm that no offences were identified that may need to be dealt with.

Detectives reported back that there were no concerns of this nature.

Once my officers had completed the filter on the exits to the premises, we had identified approximately 20 young people who were confirmed as being under 18 and it was evident from their slurred speech, demeanour, behaviour and the smell of intoxicants that they were drunk or had been drinking. I tasked officers to make contact with family members of those that had been found to facilitate them being collected and once these enquiries had been exhausted, we then returned those that remained home to their addresses to confirm their safety and welfare. At around 0030 hrs, I identified a female who had got out through the filter, still with a drink in her hand and she looked about 14 years old. I returned her inside for a secondary check and it was identified that she was under 18 and had in fact only recently turned 16. I tasked TPS 3736 Crossland to check this females details and this interaction will be recorded on his body worn video.

While I was managing this operation and the deployment of the officers who were tasked, my colleague Debbie Bailey from BMBC Licensing was conducting a series of further checks in relation to how the premises were being run.

On conclusion of the operation, our concerns were communicated to the designated premises supervisor. This included the number of underage drinkers in the venue and that the venue had been accepting photographs of ID on people's phones. Licensing colleagues had identified other concerns and on leaving the venue was empty and agreed that they would not reopen that night.

During this licensing check, I wore and activated my body worn video device, capturing fully the operation. This can be produced if required.

Signature:  Signature Witnessed by:

WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)

Statement of: Gemma Fallis

URN

Age (if under 18): N/A

Occupation: Police Officer

I am a police officer working for South Yorkshire Police and based at Barnsley Police station. On Saturday 16th April 2022 I was in full uniform and working alongside PC 3156 ROWSON, PC 3230 KUBICA-MARCELA and A/PS 10 ROBBS DE LA HOYDE. We were on the public order van based in the Town Centre and checking licencing at different pubs/clubs in Barnsley Town Centre. Our call sign was Papa one.

We entered the Sugar club, 7 PITT STREET, BARNSELY. I looked around and saw a group of females. I went over to them and asked them for their ID. Two of the females showed me their driving licence and another female, showed me her driving licence on her mobile phone. She was asked if she had her original and she said that she didn't have it. I now know this female to be ██████████ looked around 17/18 years old. She was around 5ft 2 and was slim with long dark hair. She was wearing a black dress with cut outs material on the stomach area. I asked ██████████ for her details and noted them in my pocket notebook.

██████████

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature of Witness:



Date: 24-04-2022

**Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate
under the Licensing Act 2003**

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form.
If you are completing this form by hand, please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary.
You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

**I, Kirsty Green (for and on behalf of the Chief Constable, South Yorkshire Police)
apply for the review of a Premises licence under section 51 / apply for the review
of a club premises certificate under section 87 of the licensing Act 2003 for the
premises described in Part 1 below (delete as applicable)**

Part 1 – Premises or club premises details

Postal address of premises or club premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description. Sugar Club, 7 Pitt Street, Town Centre	
Post town Barnsley	Post code (if known) S70 1AL
Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known) Sugar Events Ltd	
Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known) 069586	

Part 2 – Applicant details

I am

Please tick yes

1) an interested party (Please complete (A) or (B) below)

a) a person living in the vicinity of the premises

b) a body representing persons living in the vicinity of the premises

c) a person involved in business in the vicinity of the premises

d) a body representing persons involved in business in the vicinity of the premises

2) a responsible authority (please complete (c) below)

3) a member of the club to which this application relates

(please complete (A) below)

(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT (fill in as applicable)

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other title
(For example, Rev)

Surname

First names

Please tick yes

I am 18 years old or over

Current address

Post Town

Post Code

Daytime contact telephone number

Email address (optional)

(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT

Name and address
Telephone number (if any)
E-mail (optional)

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address South Yorkshire Police Barnsley Police Headquarters Churchfield Barnsley S70 2DL
Telephone number (if any) 01226 736046
E-mail (optional) John.Kirkham@southyorks.pnn.police.uk / kirsty.green@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)

Please tick one or more boxes Y

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) the prevention of crime and disorder | Y |
| 2) public safety | |
| 3) the prevention of public nuisance | |
| 4) the protection of children from harm | Y |

<p>Please state the ground(s) for the review (please read guidance note 1)</p> <p>The grounds for this review are based on the following aspects of the 2003 Licensing Act objectives:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prevention of crime and disorder Protection of Children from Harm</p>

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 2)

Evidence to support this application centres around the protection of children from harm and the prevention of crime and disorder. Recent history will show that:

On the 8th January 2022 at 23:24, South Yorkshire Police received a complaint alleging that there was a number of underage people in the venue. (SYP Incident 0968 08.01.2022).

Police officers visited Sugar Club following the complaint and conducted a licensing check. Upon entering a number of patrons left. Four patrons were confronted who all admitted to being 15 and 16, stating that they had visited Sugar Club as they knew no one was challenging for ID. Officers spoke with several other people inside Sugar Club who appeared to be under 18 and were unable to produce any ID. Footage from body worn cameras will be disclosed at a later date.

On the 27th January 2022, Mr Stockton was served with an action plan following the incident on the 8th January where underage persons were found drinking in the venue and a subsequent review of the policies and procedures at the venue on the 20th January 2022.

On Friday 4th March 2022, as part of 'Street Safe' which is the operation name given to policing of the night-time economy, patrols officers attended the Sugar Club at 23:00. PC Pollard was amongst officers who approached the venue on foot and witnessed the security guard on the door go into the premise briefly and a number of individuals exit that appeared to be possibly under age. Unfortunately, officers were unable to obtain details of these individuals.

On entry into the club, PC Pollard noted that there was approximately 30 people inside with no one appearing obviously underage. After leaving the premise officers returned to their van and observed a male that had left on officers initial approach attempt to re-enter the club stating he had left his hat. When challenged by officers he did not have any ID on him and security refused entry this time.

On the 19th March 2022, temporary Police Sargent Botham whilst conducting duties as part of 'Street Safe' spoke with a female on Pitt Street. The female was underage, and although she was not seen going in or coming out of premise, stated that she had been in the Sugar Club.

On the 25th March 2022, police officers attended and conducted a licensing visit and observed underage youths drinking within the premises who confirmed that they have been sold alcohol.

Sugar Club opened in December 2021 and between the 31.01.2022 and the 05.04.2022 several intelligence reports were received by South Yorkshire Police detailing how underage people had been frequenting the venue.

On **9th April 2022**, South Yorkshire Police carried out a targeted operation on Sugar Club. Safeguarding issues were highlighted as part of the operation with the club allowing entry and serving alcohol to underage children. Several underage children admitted to drinking alcohol, one identified as being vulnerable and at risk of child exploitation.

On the **13th April 2022**, South Yorkshire Police received a late report of a serious assault that occurred at the venue on the 4th March 2022, 14/71225/22. This incident involved a male who was punched in his eye causing trauma and requiring medical treatment at Barnsley Hospital and Royal Hallamshire hospital in Sheffield. At this time this is still an on-going investigation.

On the **14th April 2022**, South Yorkshire Police received a homophobic complaint that occurred in the venue, 14/71073/22.

On the **20th April 2022**, Licensing visit carried out with BMBC & South Yorkshire Police Licensing Officers at the venue. Visit highlighted that CCTV only recorded until 04:00 when the venue is open until 05:30. No refusal logs had been recorded since the 02.04.2022, incident logs were missing and ones that were present were completely incorrectly with very little detail and the Premise licence was not displayed.

Further information, statements and body worn footage will be submitted at a later date.

Please tick Y yes

Have you made an application for review relating to this premises before

If yes please state the date of the application

Day Month Year

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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If you have made representations before relating to these premises please state, what they were and when you made them

Please tick ✓ yes

- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities
In addition, the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate,
as
Appropriate
- I understand that if it do not comply with the above requirements my application x
Will be rejected

IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION

Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 3)

Signature of applicant or applicant’s solicitor or other duly authorised agent (please read guidance note 4). If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.

Signature

Kirsty Green

Date

20.04.2022.....

Capacity

Licensing Enforcement

Officer.....

Contact name (where not previously given) and address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 5) John Kirkham / Kirsty Green Licensing Enforcement Officers Barnsley Police Headquarters	
Post town Barnsley	Postcode S70 2DL
Telephone number (if any) 01226 736046	
If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional) John.kirkham@southyorks.pnn.police.uk/Kirsty.green@southyorks.pnn.police.uk	

Notes for Guidance

1. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
2. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
3. The application form must be signed.

4. An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
5. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about the application.

WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)

URN

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Statement of J Thornton PC 3164

Age if under 18 Over 18.... (If over 18 insert "over 18") Occupation: Police Constable 3164

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature J Thornton PC 3164..... (witness) Date: 25/04/22

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am a Police Constable with South Yorkshire Police. I am currently based at Barnsley.

Around 2230 hours, on Saturday 23rd April 2022, I was on duty as the driver of a public order van tasked with patrolling the night-time economy in Barnsley town centre, referred to as operation street safe. As part of our patrols, we were tasked with conducting licencing checks on several licenced premises. This is in order to check for several things within the licence including ,but not exhaustive to underage drinking, CCTV is on the premises and works, numbers of people and behaviour of the crowd inside as well as if there is a DPS onsite. I have been a serving Police officer for over 5 years and have conducted many of these checks before and in my experience I have very few objections from staff in the licenced premises I have checked in the past. Due to the likely hood of coming into contact with drunk members of the public I have always gone into these premises with a number of other officers for safety reasons. One of the licenced premises that the licencing officer had requested to be checked that evening was the Sugar Club, Pitt Street, Barnsley.

At 2313 hours, the same date, I parked the Police vehicle on Pitt Street and got out along with several colleagues who were ahead of me and heading towards the main entrance of the Sugar Club. I was stood behind 2 other officers as we got to the door. Officers allowed 2 males who I could clearly see were over 18

Signature: J Thornton PC 3164 Signature Witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of: J Thornton PC 3164

to leave. These males were followed by another male who stayed in the doorway and appeared to be refusing entry to officers, although I couldn't hear what he was saying due to the loud music coming from inside. He appeared to be arguing with PC 1134 Aspinall. I have been involved in checks on this premises before and I have never seen staff object. This raised concerns as to why this male was being obstructive. At the time I didn't know who he was, but his how he was behaving suggested he worked there rather than being a member of the public who was out drinking. Believing that he was obstructing us in our lawful duty I went past PC 1332 Cole and PC 1134 Aspinall who were in front of me and stated to the male to move out of our way so we could conduct the licensing check. As I said this I then went towards the male and pushed past him using minimal force. He didn't offer any physical resistance against this. He was shouting and appeared annoyed as I entered, he said something about DPS check. I now know this male to be VLAD SEVCIUC. I conducted a check throughout the bottom floor of the premises. There may have been 6 people maximum downstairs all of which appeared to me to be over the age of 18 years old. I remained inside whilst other officers checked the upstairs and then left. I spent around 5 minutes within the premises.

During in the incident, I wore body worn video which was activated and recording throughout. I can identify this as exhibit:

JT/1 – PC 3164 Thornton body cam licencing check of sugar club

This has been downloaded onto police systems.

Signature: J Thornton PC 3164 Signature Witnessed by:

WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)

URN

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Statement of Jodie KEAN

Age if under 18 Over 18.... (If over 18 insert "over 18") Occupation: Police Sergeant 2030.....

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature J Kean (witness).....Date: 26/4/2022.....

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am a Police Sergeant in South Yorkshire Police currently stationed at Barnsley police station, Churchfields, Barnsley. On Saturday 23th April 2022 I was on duty working on a public order van under the call sign BP1.

At 02:07 hours on Sunday 24th April 2022 we received information that there may be four underage males drinking in The Sugar Club on Pitt Street, Barnsley. At 02:19 hours I approached the door of The Sugar club in company with PC 1584 WRIGHT, PC 1639 GRANGE, PC 755 CRESSEY and PC 194 BINNS. As we walked into the venue, I was met by the Designated Premises Supervisor, Vlad SERCIUC. I had met SERCIUC the previous evening when we completed a premise check on the venue.

SERCIUC was angry that a second check was being completed on the premises. He was gesticulating and shouting something I could not hear due to the loud music inside the venue. As officers continued to complete a search of The Sugar Club for the underage males who had been reported to be inside, I spoke to SERCIUC and explained that we had received a call reporting that there were underage people drinking inside the venue. SERCIUC was clearly disgruntled and was shouting over the top of me, telling me that we were ruining the business and that we were scaring away all the customers.

Signature: Signature Witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of: Jodie KEAN

Page 2

SERCIUC then appeared to calm down as I explained that we had received the report and had a duty to investigate. No underage males were located in The Sugar Club so I directed the officers to leave. As we were at the door leaving the premises SERCIUC was shouting that he wanted all collar numbers and names of Officers who had been inside. I provided the information to him. He was again, clearly unhappy that Police were in attendance and stated that he would make a complaint. He said he wanted no more than four officers in total when completing licensing checks. He claimed that police were affecting the business as we were 'SCARING AWAY CUSTOMERS'. He was questioning why there were so many officers and why we had returned for a second time.

Throughout this incident I would describe SERCIUC as being angry and difficult. He did not prevent us entering the venue, but he was visibly disgruntled. His actions could clearly be seen by members of the public and staff in and outside of The Sugar Club.

Signature: J Kean Signature Witnessed by: