



**Representations On An Application By  
A Responsible Authority  
(Form LA10RA)**

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Trading Standards, PO Box 232, 16 Church Road, Stockton on Tees TS18 1XD  
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**Representations On A Current Application For A Grant/Variation/Review Of A  
Premises Licence Or Club Premises Certificate Under The Licensing Act 2003**

**Section 1 – Licence Application Details**

Applicant Name (If Known)	<b>The George Pub and Grill</b>
Premises Name and Address	<b>102 High Street Stockton-On-Tees TS18 1BD</b>

**Section 2 - Responsible Authority**

- Trading Standards
- Cleveland Police
- Environmental Health
- Cleveland Fire Service
- Planning
- Protection of Children From Harm
- Health

**Section 3 – Representation Grounds**

<p><b>The representation is relevant to one or more of the following licensing objectives:</b></p> <p><b>Please tick relevant box(es)</b></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention of Crime and Disorder
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prevention of Public Nuisance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protection of Children from Harm <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety

Please Select:

- I object to the application being granted at all
- I object to the application being granted in its current form\*

\*If you choose this option remember to tell us what changes you would prefer to see.

**The grounds of the representation is based on the following:**  
(Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Stockton-on-Tees Trading Standards actively engages with partner agencies including Cleveland Police and Public Health, working towards an effective and robust licensing regime and the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Trading Standards has a primary role in the enforcement of consumer protection legislation. This includes a statutory duty to enforce parts of the Licensing Act 2003 covering the underage sale of alcohol, as well as a wide range of other legislation, including the Weights and Measures Act 1985 and the Food Safety Act 1990. In carrying out these duties, officers have had direct contact with Mr Craig Harker being the premise license holder and designated premises supervisor of The George Pub and Grill.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 officers, namely Jodie Allwood and John Morley, attended the George Pub and Grill as part of a Free Pouring Spirit Measuring Instrument project being conducted in the North East region, and also to carry out a comprehensive food standards inspection of the premises.

On arriving at the premises John Morley purchased two double measures (50ml) of whiskey. We then proceeded to use calibrated cylinders to check the accuracy of the measures provided and found that both were short, one measuring 41ml (18% deficient) and the other 44ml (12% deficient). At this time Mr Harker was not known to be at the premises but he later arrived and it was explained to him the purpose of our visit and the short-measure findings of the drinks that had been purchased.

Mr Harker was immediately abrupt and insisted that he himself pour the same measures and these be checked, we allowed this to be done and indeed on this occasion the short measure was worse than the previous findings. Mr Harker then began ringing around what he said were other pub landlords to make sure no one else got 'done over' by 'Trade Standards'. During these phone calls to 'trade friends' Mr Harker was highly disrespectful of the Council and the functions of Trading Standards.

I then made a visit to the kitchen area where it was apparent that there were no systems in place in relation to the control and display of allergen information, which I addressed with Mr Harker by way of an inspection report and advice and guidance posted out at a later date.

On returning to the office I was alerted by my manager to a Facebook post which had been posted by Mr Craig Harker stating the following 'To all pubs in Stockton. Trade and standards are in town and checking measures. Our pourer was down despite filling it up!!! Make sure it's full and you don't let too much spill when pouring. No one likes a rip and surely no ones in this game to rip anyone off. Twats'.

The following day there was a further post by Craig Harker indicating that the member of staff (working alone in the premises at the time of inspection) was an apprentice and made reference to the Council using tax payers money to concentrate on 'giving good head'. It was also alleged in the post that the Council had reported the incident to the local press. I can confirm that the incident was not reported to the local press by the Council, indeed it was the Evening Gazette that first contacted the Council about the incident having seen Mr Harker's original post.

Since this visit I am aware that Mr Craig Harker has made a number of derogatory posts regarding Stockton Council and employees of Stockton Council, including a recent post 'barring all Stockton Council employees from any of his premises'.

Under the Consumer Rights Act 2015, Trading Standards Officers have a right to enter business premises at all reasonable hours for the purposes of conducting statutory functions. Obstruction offences are contained within the legislation and if Mr Harker were to prevent officers from entering his premises then he could be committing an obstruction offence.

Indeed the Licensing Act 2003 by virtue of Section 179, provides a right of entry for a constable or authorised person in certain circumstances, and creates a criminal offence for a person who intentionally obstructs an authorised person exercising their powers.

In conclusion Trading Standards are in support of the review application brought by Cleveland Police, and consider the actions of Mr Craig Harker to be undermining the licensing objectives.

Signed: 	Position: Principal Trading Standards Officer	Dated: 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2019
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When complete this form should be returned to the address above or e-mailed to [licensing.administration@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:licensing.administration@stockton.gov.uk)

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