



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)	The George Pub and Grill
Premises Name and Address	102 High Street Stockton-On-Tees TS18 1BD

Section 2 - Responsible Authority

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

Section 3 – Representation Grounds

<p>The representation is relevant to one or more of the following licensing objectives:</p> <p>Please tick relevant box(es)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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
<p>Please Select:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">I object to the application being granted at all</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">I object to the application being granted in its current form*</p> <p>*If you choose this option remember to tell us what changes you would prefer to see.</p>	

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

Stockton-On-Tees Licensing service are working towards an effective and robust licensing regime and the promotion of the four licensing objectives. The Licensing Service has a primary role in the administration and compliance of the Licensing Act 2003.

In carrying out these duties, ██████████, Licensing Team Leader at the time, visited The George Bar and Grill, 102 High Street, Stockton in August 2017, with colleagues from Cleveland Police to speak to the Premise Licence Holder and DPS Mr Craig Harker.

The meeting was arranged to discuss a public Facebook post by Mr Harker asking the public "Would you punch your ex in the face for a Parmo?" During the discussion it was put to Mr Harker the post trivialised domestic violence and undermined the licensing objective of preventing crime and disorder and protection of children from harm.

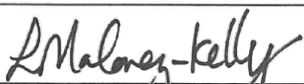
The post was removed and the Advertising Standards Agency (ASA) considered that the post referred to domestic violence and was likely to cause serious offence and that referring to domestic violence in an advert for a fast food dish trivialised and condoned domestic violence. The ASA concluded that the advert was not prepared in a socially responsible manner.

On the 28 July 2019 the licencing service was again made aware of a Facebook post on the public page THE GEORGE BAR & GRILL asking the public "would you punch your ex in the face for a steak". Members of the public contacted the Licensing Service independently expressing "concern" and "disgust" at the post, and questioning what action the Licensing Service would take in relation to the premises. I attach copies of the emails received as LMK1- LMK4.

In response, I attended the premises on 13 August 2019 with colleagues from Cleveland Police to discuss the second post with Mr Harker and he commented "Facebook is a powerful tool". The premise licence holder and DPS Mr Harker holds full responsibility for the premises. Unfortunately, responses given by Mr Harker DPS during this second visit clearly suggests a serious failure to understand and consider the wider social impact of his management of the premises, including the use of social media in trivialising and condoning domestic violence as a promotional tool. Such behaviour undermines the prevention of crime and disorder objective.

THE GEORGE BAR & GRILL Facebook page is publically accessible to members of the public with no restrictions on viewing posts. The Licensing Service is extremely concerned that children can freely access this page, which trivialises and condones domestic violence. These posts clearly undermines the protection of children from harm objective.

To compound matters, previous warnings, visits and advice given to Mr Harker by the Licensing Service have failed to address and prevent a repetition of the behaviour. As such, the Licensing Service must have regard to the licensing objectives outlined above and the most recent concerns raised by members of the public in the emails responses referred to above (and attached at LMK1 to LMK4) which are relevant to this review. This representation is, therefore, submitted on behalf of the Licensing Service with responsibility for the administration of, and compliance with, The Licensing Act 2003.

Signed: 	Position: Licensing Team Leader	Dated: 24 September 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

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Date Received		Checked By	
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From: [REDACTED] CT
Sent: 14 August 2019 08:36
To: Leanne Maloney-Kelly [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Existing licence query / challenge

Good morning

Further to your email - I have seen that the establishment's licence is under review.(an announcement on their Facebook page)

I am grateful that my -and I'm sure many other people's views were heard.

Sadly their comments on their Facebook page does not show any understanding of the responsibility of holding a licence nor the importance of the licensing process.

Furthermore naming individuals in the way he has incites quite vocal and offensive remarks against professional involved. Police, MP's etc

I am Concerned that he deletes any negative comments about his actions or promotions and blocks to restrict such views. Hence my email to you to say I am certain many many peoples views are not reflected on his page. Certainly mine are not.

Again thank you again.

[REDACTED] CT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED] JC
Sent: 28 July 2019 13:31
To: Licensing Admin (ES) <licensing.administration@stockton.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]; info@myharbour.gov.uk
Subject: The George Pub and Grill 102 High Street

JB,AM,SN



I write to express my concern about a pub in your district using domestic abuse to promote its steaks.

In a facebook post this week, the landlord wrote:

"Would you punch your ex in the face for this steak?"

Screenshot attached.

The landlord has defended this post - a repeat of a previous viral campaign from 2 years ago - suggesting it was just "banter".

Reading the council's domestic abuse policy it is clear to me that your authority is aware that domestic abuse thrives in a culture that normalises violence and abuse against women and girls and that normalises abuse in intimate relationships. I'm sure you are also aware of the links between aggressive pub culture and heavy drinking and perpetration of domestic abuse. As an expert in domestic abuse, I am strongly aware of the importance of challenging the culture that enables and perpetuates this kind of violence.

I believe that in promoting his business in this manner, the license holder is demonstrating encouragement for domestic abuse, and violence against women and girls. I have grave concerns about his appropriateness as a license holder.

I would appreciate your feedback on the action you will take.

Kind regards

████████████████████

JC

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] AM
Sent: 28 July 2019 16:03
To: Licensing Admin (ES) <licensing.administration@stockton.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: The George Pub and Grill - advertising which encourages domestic violence

I wish to report the license holder of the George Bar and Grill, Stockton on Tees for appearing to encourage and support violence against women / domestic violence through a Facebook advertisement yesterday.

It offers deals on the menu alongside the question 'Would you punch your ex in the face for a steak?'

Anticipating that this post may be deleted (most shocked and distressed Facebook comments have already been deleted), I attach a screen shot below.

My understanding of the responsibilities of being a license holder include wider social responsibilities including an understanding of the connections between alcohol and violence. If this is a matter more suited to the police, for example in requesting a review of license, please let me know.

With thanks for your time,

Dr [REDACTED]



The George Pub & Grill
Like This Page · Yesterday

LMK2-2

LMulroy-kelly

Would You Punch Your Ex In The Face For A Steak?

👍👎👤 573

992 Comments
125 Shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Oldest ▾

[View previous comments](#)

6 of 415

██████████ Unacceptable... not funny ... never visiting your premises .. the fact that you have caused offence / bad humour or otherwise and you've not got the common sense to own it and apologise says it all... 🙄 crappy marketing

Like · Reply · 53m

👍 4

██████████ I thought 'banter' was supposed to be funny? Very very professional also with the attitude of the owner commenting on this page. Disgusting , clearly hasn't been involved in DV , there's humour then there's being a twat. Is your food that bad that you have



Write a comment...



LMK4 *R Maloney-Kelly*

From: [REDACTED] NC
Sent: 28 July 2019 20:28
To: Licensing Admin (ES) <licensing.administration@stockton.gov.uk>
Subject:
As a victim of domestic violence this is disgusting

20:25 ↗



<  **The George Pub & Grill**
Yesterday at 09:42 · 🌐



Would You Punch Your Ex In The Face For A Steak?



 Like  Comment  Share

 667

 Write a comment...  

