

Representations For A Review Of A Premises Licence Or Club Premises Certificate Under The Licensing Act 2003

Section 1 – Licence Application Details

Applicant Name (If Known)	Dhillon Food & Wine
Premises Name and Address	68, Dovecot Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1LL

Section 2 - Responsible Authority

- ☐ Trading Standards
- ☐ Cleveland Police
- ☐ Environmental Health
- ☐ Cleveland Fire Service
- ☐ Planning
- ☐ Protection of Children From Harm
- ☒ Public 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>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention of Crime and Disorder</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention of Public Nuisance</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protection of Children from Harm</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Safety</p>
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<p>The grounds of the representation is based on the following: (Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)</p> <p>This representation is in support of Stockton Borough Council Licensing's application for a licence review for Dhillon Food & Wine in relation to the undermining of the following licencing objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of Crime and Disorder • Public Safety • Prevention of Public Nuisance • Protection of Children from Harm <p>Historically there have been a number of issues at this premises, however, this has not stopped since the change of PLH and DPS in April 2025. There have been a number of visits, with both verbal and written warnings being issued. The main issues are in regards to the persistent sale of alcohol to street drinkers,</p>

which has directly caused ASB in the vicinity of the premises, litter being left in the area and people congregating in large groups drinking alcohol nearby. Many of the regular customers are ASB offenders. This undermines the objectives of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety and Prevention of Public Nuisance.

Safety and the perception of safety is currently a major issue in Stockton Town Centre, including in the vicinity of Dhillon Food & Wine. The incidents mentioned above contribute negatively to the area and will not only be making residents feel unsafe, but will be deterring them from visiting the Town Centre and the nearby arts centre, thus having a negative impact on not only their wellbeing, but also the local economy.

Alcohol is known to be a significant contributor to crime, factoring in 39% of all violent crimes in England. It also has a significant role in the perpetration of domestic violence, child neglect, and the abuse and exploitation of vulnerable individuals.

The incidents mentioned above have led to Civic Enforcement being called out to deal with ASB, directly due to sales from this premises.

In the Stockton Town Centre Ward:

- In 2024/25 there were 107 incidences of domestic violence where drug or alcohol use were cited as the reason in the Stockton Town Centre Ward, compared to 586 incidences across the Borough as a whole.
- In the 12 months up to the end of May 2024, the Stockton Town Centre ward had the third highest crime and violent crime rates per 1,000 population (including sexual offences) in the Borough.
- In 2024/25, 94% of ASB incidents relating to alcohol occurred in the Stockton Town Centre ward.

It is concerning also that there are reports that those who look underage are being served alcohol (in particular high strength, low priced cider) without being challenged for identification, as well as those who are under the influence. This undermines the licensing objectives, including the Protection of Children from Harm.

Alcohol is a poison which can harm the body, particularly when it is consumed in large quantities, including:

- Physical health harms to an individual, including increased risk of cancer, stroke, dementia, heart attacks and liver damage.
- Mental health harms to an individual, including increased risk of anxiety and depression.
- Health inequalities, in that, people of a lower Socioeconomic Status (SES) are more likely to experience greater alcohol-related harm, even at the same or lower levels of alcohol intake than people of a higher SES. It should be noted that the premises is located in a ward in the lowest deprivation decile (1 on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the most deprived).

In regards to the high strength, low priced cider, it is concerning that when interviewed the premises reported that they rely on the sale of these high strength cans to survive, and this accounts for over 50% of sales.

High strength alcohol:

- Makes it easy to drink above the low risk drinking guideline amount of 14 units per week and so poses a greater health risk to the individual, with a single can potentially containing over four units of alcohol
- Goes against harm reduction advice, which advises cutting down on the amount of units consumed, including the transition to drinking lower strength drinks
- Goes against the principles of the Reducing the Strength scheme, which identifies that street drinkers often consume high strength alcohol and therefore is linked to the issues of alcohol-related anti-social behaviour seen in Stockton Town Centre, which has resulted in the implementation of the PSPO (Public Space Protection Order)

By selling to those who appear to be under the influence and those who appear to be underage, as well as selling low priced, high strength cider, the premises is contributing negatively to the health of these individuals.

The incidence of suspected underage sales is particularly concerning. The law restricting alcohol sales to those aged eighteen and over is primarily to protect children's health from alcohol harm. This is supported by the Chief Medical Officer's Guidance (Department of Health and Social, 2009).

Children who regularly drink are more likely to get involved in risk taking behaviour such as smoking and drugs, as well as an increased risk of violence, underage sex and accidents (<https://whatstheharm.co.uk/myths/>, accessed 6/11/2024). Drinking alcohol can also be a predictor of increased truancy as well as having a negative impact on educational attainment (Department of Education Brief DFE-RB005, 2010).

By selling to those under eighteen, Dhilon Food and Wine is not only putting children's health at risk at a time when their brain is still developing, but is also adding to the problems of anti-social behaviour and underage drinking in the local community.

It is the responsibility of the licence holder to uphold the conditions on their licence and to uphold the four licensing objectives, with robust procedures and staff training in place to support these. Public Health supports all aspects of promoting the licensing objectives, particularly, protecting the health of the Borough and local communities.

There is a strong correlation between availability, affordability and consumption (Balance, 2017). The premises is currently licenced to sell alcohol between 6am and midnight every day. This is not only outside of the local licensing policy, but it is longer than the opening hours of other premises in the Borough.

In 2017, 62% of respondents supported restricting alcohol sales in off licences to between 10am and 10pm (Balance, 2017). Similarly, 43% of respondents felt there were too many off-licences, supermarkets and shops that sell alcohol.

In the 2025 Stockton-on-Tees Alcohol Harm Survey

- 58.7% thought alcohol was a significant problem in the area they lived / worked / studied
- Participants suggested that limiting early morning sales, capping purchase volumes, and raising the legal drinking age could help reduce excessive alcohol use.
- 63.3% agreed that access to alcohol off-sales (buying from shops and corner shops should be restricted until after 9am at the earliest)
- 40.5% thought that there should be stricter regulations on pricing / offers
- 35.4% thought that there should be stricter regulation around opening times

In conclusion, the reasons stated above support the review of licence.

Signed: T. Hyman	Position: Public Health Practitioner, SBC Public Health	Dated: 15/08/2025
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