

Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub Committee

1 July 2025

Application to review the premises licence for Duke of Edinburgh, Weymouth

For Decision

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr G Taylor, Health and Housing

Local Councillor(s):

Cllr J Orrell

Executive Director:

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary: An application has been made to review the premises licence for the Duke of Edinburgh, 3-4 St Thomas Street, Weymouth, Dorset. The application has been out to public consultation. A Licensing Sub-Committee must consider the application and representations at a public hearing.

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee determines the application in the light of written and oral evidence and resolves to take such steps as it considers appropriate and proportionate for the promotion of the licensing objectives:

- a) The prevention of crime and disorder
- b) The prevention of public nuisance
- c) Public safety
- d) The protection of children from harm

Reason for Recommendation: The Sub-Committee must consider all the written representations, the oral representations, and any information given at the hearing before reaching a decision.

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 4 of the Licensing Act 2003 sets out the duties of the Licensing Authority, it states that a Council's licensing functions must be carried out with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives of:
- (a) the prevention of crime and disorder;
 - (b) public safety;
 - (c) the prevention of public nuisance; and
 - (d) the protection of children from harm.
- 1.2 All applications and decisions are made with due regard to the [Licensing Act 2003](#) (the Act), the [Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003](#) (the Guidance) and the [Dorset Council Statement of Licensing Policy](#) (the Policy).

2. Details of the review application

- 2.1 Dorset Police has applied for a review of the premises licence for the Duke of Edinburgh, 3-4 St Thomas Street, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8EW. The application form is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The review is made under the licensing objective of the prevention of crime and disorder and public safety on the grounds that:

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Dorset Police bring this premises licence before the members of the Licensing Sub-Committee for review on the basis that there is evidence that the Premises Licence Holder and DPS has deliberately obstructed Police when investigating the circumstances leading to a male being found unconscious on the pavement outside The Duke of Edinburgh.

Public Safety

The operator has chosen to withhold basic First Aid to this male who was in evident need of medical attention. Dorset Police are therefore concerned that there is a significant risk to Public Safety associated with this premises.

Dorset Police no longer have confidence in the Premises Licence Holder and DPS to uphold the licensing objectives.

3. The Licence

- 3.1 The licence is currently held by Ms Laura Norris.
- 3.2 Ms Norris has held the licence since February 2025.
- 3.3 The licence allows for the following:

Live and recorded music, performance of dance & entertainment of a similar description to E, F or G (indoors)	
Monday to Saturday	1000 hours to 0200 hours
Sunday	1200 hours to 0200 hours
Supply of alcohol (consumption on and off the premises)	
Monday to Saturday	1000 hours to 0200 hours
Sunday	1200 hours to 0200 hours

A copy of the licence is at Appendix 2.

4 Responsible Authorities

- 4.1 Section 13 of the Licensing Act contains the list of Responsible Authorities who must be consulted on each application. Dorset Police, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service, Public Health Dorset, the Immigration Authority, Dorset Council Trading Standards, Dorset Council Children's Services, Dorset Council Planning, Dorset Council Licensing, Dorset Council Environmental Protection and Dorset Council Health and Safety have all been consulted.
- 4.2 There were no representations from any of the other Responsible Authorities.

5 Representations from other persons

- 5.1 There have been 32 representations in support of the premises licence holder. These representations are attached at Appendix 3.
- 5.2 Two representations were received in support of the review. These can be found at Appendix 4.

6 Reviews

- 6.1 The Home Office Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (the S182 Guidance) contains a chapter on Reviews.

This chapter is included in full under Background Papers of the report. Paragraphs 11.1 and 11.2 of the s182 Guidance states that:

The proceedings set out in the 2003 Act for reviewing premises licences and club premises certificates represent a key protection for the community where problems associated with the licensing objectives occur after the grant or variation of a premises licence or club premises certificate.

At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence or club premises certificate, a responsible authority, or any other person, may ask the licensing authority to review the licence or certificate because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives.

- 6.2 Section 13 of the Dorset Council Licensing Policy (the DC Policy) contains guidance on how the Licensing Authority will deal with enforcement and reviews. Paragraph 13.1 states; -

The Licensing Act contains measures to ensure that the council, and responsible authorities, are able to deal with premises that wilfully and persistently undermine the licensing objectives. The council and responsible authorities are committed to encouraging a thriving day time and night-time licensed economy but will not tolerate those premises whose activities break the law or infringe upon the quality of life for local residents and businesses.

- 6.3 Paragraph 13.9 of the DC Policy states; -

The council will seek to establish the cause or causes of the concern and remedial action will be targeted at such causes. Any action will be proportionate to the problems involved.

- 6.4 Section 13 of the DC Policy is attached in full at under Background Papers of the Report.

7 Options

- 7.1 The Sub-Committee will determine the application in the light of all of the written representations and any oral evidence from the hearing. They will take such steps as it considers appropriate and proportionate for the promotion of the licensing objectives of;

- a. The prevention of crime and disorder
- b. The prevention of public nuisance
- c. Public safety

d. The protection of children from harm

The steps that the Sub-Committee may take are:

- modify the conditions of the premises licence
- exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence, for example,
- remove the designated premises supervisor (if applicable)
- suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months
- revoke the licence.

8 Considerations

8.1 Paragraphs 11.16 to 11.17 and 11.19 to 11.23 of the s182 Guidance set out the powers available to the Licensing Authority:

The 2003 Act provides a range of powers for the licensing authority which it may exercise on determining a review where it considers them appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

The licensing authority may decide that the review does not require it to take any further steps appropriate to promoting the licensing objectives. In addition, there is nothing to prevent a licensing authority issuing an informal warning to the licence holder and/or to recommend improvement within a particular period of time. It is expected that licensing authorities will regard such informal warnings as an important mechanism for ensuring that the licensing objectives are effectively promoted and that warnings should be issued in writing to the licence holder.

Where the licensing authority considers that action under its statutory powers is appropriate, it may take any of the following steps:

- modify the conditions of the premises licence (which includes adding new conditions or any alteration or omission of an existing condition), for example, by reducing the hours of opening or by requiring door supervisors at particular times
- exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence, for example, to exclude the performance of live music or playing of recorded music (where it is not within the incidental live and recorded music exemption)
- remove the designated premises supervisor, for example, because they consider that the problems are the result of poor management
- suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months
- revoke the licence.

In deciding which of these powers to invoke, it is expected that licensing authorities should so far as possible seek to establish the cause or causes of the concerns that the representations identify. The remedial action taken should generally be directed at these causes and should always be no more than an appropriate and proportionate response to address the causes of concern that instigated the review.

For example, licensing authorities should be alive to the possibility that the removal and replacement of the designated premises supervisor may be sufficient to remedy a problem where the cause of the identified problem directly relates to poor management decisions made by that individual. Equally, it may emerge that poor management is a direct reflection of poor company practice or policy, and the mere removal of the designated premises supervisor may be an inadequate response to the problems presented. Indeed, where subsequent review hearings are generated by representations, it should be rare merely to remove a succession of designated premises supervisors as this would be a clear indication of deeper problems that impact upon the licensing objectives.

Licensing authorities should also note that modifications of conditions and exclusions of licensable activities may be imposed either permanently or for a temporary period of up to three months. Temporary changes or suspension of the licence for up to three months could impact on the business holding the licence financially and would only be expected to be pursued as an appropriate means of promoting the licensing objectives or preventing illegal working. So, for instance, a licence could be suspended for a weekend as a means of deterring the holder from allowing the problems that gave rise to the review to happen again. However, it will always be important that any detrimental financial impact that may result from a licensing authority's decision is appropriate and proportionate to the promotion of the licensing objectives and for the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises. But where premises are found to be trading irresponsibly, the licensing authority should not hesitate, where appropriate to do so, to take tough action to tackle the problems at the premises and, where other measures are deemed insufficient, to revoke the licence.

9 Financial Implications

Any decision of the Sub Committee could lead to an appeal by any of the parties involved that could incur costs.

10 Environmental Implications

None.

11 Well-being and Health Implications

None.

12 Other Implications

None.

13 Risk Assessment

13.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: High

Residual Risk: High

14 Equalities Impact Assessment

Not applicable

15 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Review application

Appendix 2 – Current licence

Appendix 3 – Comments in support of premises

Appendix 4 – Comments in support of review

16 Background Papers

[Licensing Act 2003](#)

[Home Office Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003](#)

[Dorset Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2021](#)