



Application for Review of a Club Premises Certificate Supporting Representation

Weymouth Angling Society, Commercial Road, Weymouth

This representation is in support of an Application for Review of a Club Premises Certificate submitted by Martin Longman. This report is intended to provide both the members of the Licensing Sub-Committee and the certificate holder (and any representative) with additional information, context, and evidence in support of the Application for Review. This representation is being completed and submitted as soon as practicable for the benefit of all parties. Whilst all details are correct at the time of completion, Dorset Police reserve the right to amend / introduce additional information and evidence in advance of the hearing. Dorset Police are concerned that the licensing objectives to Prevent Crime & Disorder and maintain Public Safety have been undermined.

Background

This licensed premises is a private members club located in the centre of Weymouth, on the quayside, delivering licensable activity under a Club Premises Certificate. There are a variety of businesses operating nearby along Commercial Road, including retailers, food and drink establishments, and other valuable business services, operating through the daytime and some through to the late evening.

Dorset Police work closely with Dorset Council, and other enforcement partners, to assist us in achieving our priorities, particularly with our priority to relentlessly pursue those responsible for criminality in our communities.

Dorset Police received a report of an assault that occurred at approximately 1630hrs on the 16th September 2023. The report was that a male aged in his 50's had been assaulted outside Weymouth Angling Club and that an Ambulance had attended following a request from a member of the public. An investigation followed, including an interview conducted with the named suspect.

During the interview, the alleged suspect stated that they were hosting a crab fishing competition at the club, ensuring that the participants had refreshments available to them and that their welfare needs were being met. They stated that the victim had been pestering him and the participants, causing a nuisance and distracting him away from the event. The alleged suspect stated that they had a discussion with the victim outside the club, whereby the victim appeared to raise his hand with a closed fist. The alleged suspect believed that the victim was about to hit him, so he punched the victim. The alleged suspect acknowledged that the victim had fallen to the ground but stated that he knew that the victim had sustained no injuries and was imitating being injured. The alleged suspect returned inside the club. The alleged suspect stated that he was embarrassed by the incident but that any CCTV would support his account of the incident.

Several other key investigative enquiries were conducted by the investigating officer. The first enquiry related to the CCTV footage that would have coverage of the site where the incident occurred. The Manager of the club stated to the investigating officer that no CCTV footage was available due to a power outage at the time of the incident. There were also no Town Centre camera coverage in that area at the time of the incident.

A media appeal was made via the local newspaper and no further witnesses to the incident were identified. A request was made to speak with any witnesses within the club that might have witnessed the incident. The manager stated that they were making efforts to remove the victim from the club due to their conduct and further advised that as the club was a 'closed in' environment, no persons would support the investigation even if they had witnessed the incident.

This investigation was filed pending due to no corroborating evidence to support the allegation. Due to the severity of the alleged assault, any new evidence must be produced and the offender prosecuted within 6 months of the incident occurring.

In July 2025 Dorset Police were alerted to CCTV footage of an incident at Weymouth Angling Society that appeared to support the allegation made by the victim in September 2023. This footage was circulated online via Facebook and is the focus of this Application for Review.

Enquiries have been conducted into this report and due to Statutory Time Limit restrictions, no further criminal action could be pursued in respect of this new evidence.

Concerns

Dorset Police, through our Drug & Alcohol Harm Reduction Team, support all licensed premises to provide value to their communities and to do so compliantly and in promotion of the licensing objectives. This premises, having operated for some time under a Cub Premises Certificate, has caused no previous significant concerns that have been reported to Police.

It is imperative that all licensed premises promote Public Safety and discourage any violence, which can tarnish the reputation of the licensed communities throughout Dorset.

The members of the Sub-Committee will have had the opportunity to review the CCTV relating to this incident. This footage is both shocking and clearly demonstrates the lack of care and attention that should be afforded to an injured person.

Dorset Police are concerned that this footage has been deliberately withheld with the intent on preventing an offender from being brought to justice.

Revised Guidance issued by the Home Office (Section 182 Licensing Act 2003)

Paragraph 11.7 *In every case, any application for a review must relate to particular premises in respect of which there is a premises licence or club premises certificate and must be relevant to the promotion of one or more of the licensing objectives.*

This incident relates entirely to activity connected with this licensed premises.

Paragraph 11.20 *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*

This incident occurred as a direct consequence of the actions of a member of the club who, it seems, may have significant control or influence at the club. The apparently deliberate action to withhold the CCTV that corroborates the account of the victim adversely impacts on the confidence that Dorset Police have in the overall management of this club.

Paragraph 11.24 *....Licensing authorities do not have the power to judge the criminality or otherwise of any issue. This is a matter for the courts. The licensing authority's role when determining such a review is not therefore to establish the guilt or innocence of any individual but to ensure the promotion of the crime prevention objective.*

Paragraph 11.25 *Reviews are part of the regulatory process introduced by the 2003 Act and they are not part of criminal law and procedure. There is, therefore, no reason why representations giving rise to a review of a premises licence need be delayed pending the outcome of any criminal proceedings.*

Whilst no criminal action is likely to result from this incident, Dorset Police remain concerned that this premises may not be managed as responsibly as we would expect. The members of

the Sub-Committee are reminded that they are not required to determine guilt or otherwise and must only decide whether the licensing objectives are being promoted at this premises.

Dorset Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026

Section 4.7 *Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the council must exercise its functions, having regard to the likely effect on crime and disorder in its area, and **must do all it can to prevent crime and disorder.***

This section clarifies that it is incumbent upon members of the Licensing Sub-Committee to take the necessary steps to tackle the risk of crime and disorder associated with licensed premises.

Section 4.9 *There are many steps an applicant may take to prevent crime and disorder. The council will look to the Police for the main source of advice on these matters.*

This statement reflects the *Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under S182 of the Licensing Act 2003* which states that members of the Sub-Committee should look to Dorset Police for advice and guidance in determining matters involving crime and disorder.

Available Outcomes to the Sub-Committee

To assist the members of the Sub-Committee in their determination, Dorset Police make the following submissions in relation to the available outcome options in respect of this Application for Review of a Club Premises Certificate.

Take No Action

The Guidance issued by the Home Office under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Statement of Licensing Policy for Dorset Council stipulates that intervention is necessary to address significant concerns associated with crime and disorder.

Dorset Police are of the view that taking no action would not be an appropriate determination.

Exclude a qualifying club activity from the scope of the certificate

The current Club Premises Certificate permits the following –

- Indoor Sporting Event
- Performance of Live Music (indoors)
- Playing of Recorded Music (indoors)
- Supply of Alcohol by or on behalf of a club for consumption On and OFF the premises

This Club Premises Certificate permits the above licensable activities until 2.00am at the weekends, 11.00pm Monday – Thursday and 10.30pm on Sundays.

The removal of amendment of the above conditions would not have altered the events that are being highlighted to the members of the Sub-Committee, however, the assailant may have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

Modify the conditions of the certificate

The Statutory Guidance sets out 'General Principles' at Paragraph 1.16 which states that "*conditions on a premises licence...are important in setting the parameters within which premises can lawfully operate.*"

Amongst other requirements, the Guidance further states that "*licence conditions must be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, should not duplicate other statutory requirements or other duties or responsibilities placed on the employer by other legislation [and] should not replicate offences set out in the 2003 Act or other legislation*".

Dorset Police do not consider that any further conditions would resolve the concerns that have been detailed above. The conditions currently attached to the certificate are inconsistent with the conditions that would be placed on a new premises licence or club premises certificate at this location, however, it is the responsibility of the members of the Sub-Committee to apply conditions to the Club Premises Certificate only where doing so would remedy the concerns highlighted to the Sub-Committee.

The existing conditions that apply to this Club Premises Certificate are as follows –

Embedded Restrictions (para 6(8) Schedule 8 Licensing Act 2003)

1) No intoxicating liquor shall be supplied otherwise than to:

(a) A member of the club who has been a member for at least two days or whose nomination or application for membership was made at least two days before his admission; or

(b) A guest of such a member bona fide entertained by him at his expense; or

(c) Any person whose admission to the club premises is provided for by Rule 2(c) of the Rules.

2) No intoxicating liquor shall be supplied for consumption off the premises except to a member in person.

3) There shall be rules of the club for the election of members, and a copy of such rules and any other such rules shall be deposited with the Licensing Authority. Notice of any other alterations in any of the rules shall be given to the Licensing Authority within fourteen days.

4) A list of the names and addresses of all members of the club be kept on the premises.

Public Nuisance

(1) The holder of the club premises certificate will ensure that no members or guests are admitted to the premises after midnight (except at start and end of competitions)

Protection of Children from Harm

(2) The holder of the club premises certificate will ensure that access to the premises for all unaccompanied children under the age of 16 is prohibited after midnight.

Members will note that there are no conditions that relate to the Prevention of Crime & Disorder licensing objective. If members were inclined to introduce conditions that would be consistent with a premises of this nature and at this location, consideration should be given to the following (not exhaustive) –

- Door Supervision
- CCTV requirement
- Dispersal Policy
- Incident Log / Refusals Log
- Staff Training
- Welfare Policy

Had some of these requirements been enacted at the time of the incident then this would inevitably have supported a successful Police prosecution. This is supported by the attached statement from the investigating officer.

These conditions may have had a preventative impact on the behaviour of the individual(s) concerned, however, they may not have fully addressed the culture of reluctance to support a Police investigation that is apparent at the club.

Suspend the certificate for a period not exceeding 3 months

Any temporary suspension of this Club Premises Certificate is unlikely to result in any substantial improvement to this premises.

Dorset Police would only support a short suspension of the Club Premises Certificate if the Sub-Committee members would be reassured that a suspension is necessary to implement any measures imposed by the members in their determination. Suspension of a Club Premises Certificate should not be utilised as a punitive measure.

Withdraw the Club Premises Certificate

Dorset Police support the view that this option should be a last resort for the Sub-Committee. Whilst fiscal issues are outside of the considerations of the Sub-Committee and private members' clubs deliver huge advantages and value to their communities, Dorset Police consistently adopt a proportionate and balanced approach to support an outcome which reflects the concerns identified.

Dorset Police acknowledge the value that private clubs add to communities as places of social and economic value, however, where the presence of a licensed premise becomes detrimental to a community or presents a risk to those that enjoy the use of a licensed premises, appropriate action must be taken to seek improvement or address those concerns proportionately.

On consideration of the incident and the available options, consideration of the Statutory Guidance issued by the Home Office and the Dorset Council Statement of Licensing Policy, Dorset Police recommend that this club premises certificate be revoked unless members of the Sub-Committee can be confident that there is no prospect of recurrence of this type of violence through improved management.

Conclusion

Dorset Police invites the members of the Sub-Committee to consider all the above options in their determination. If the members of the Sub-Committee take action that intends to avoid revocation of the club premises certificate, they should be satisfied that one of the alternative outcomes will sufficiently mitigate the concerns that have been highlighted above and within the associated evidence.

Violence associated with persons holding positions of authority within licensed premises cannot be acceptable and whilst the Licensing Team within Dorset Police expect high standards of delivery to maintain safety for patrons and promotion of the licensing objectives, this activity fell short of the most basic standards of behaviour expected of a private club member. The lack of welfare and the reluctance to support Police in their investigation further enhances these concerns.

Dorset Police do not intend to repeat our above concerns to the members of the Sub-Committee during the hearing, however, as the Licensing Authority's main source of advice on matters relating to crime and disorder (Paragraph 2.1 of the Licensing Act 2003 Section 182 Guidance produced by the Home Office which states that, "*Licensing authorities should look to the police as the main source of advice on crime and disorder*"), Dorset Police will be prepared to answer any further questions that members may have during the hearing.

Hearing Regulations

The members of the Sub-Committee are reminded the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 (Regulation 18) states that "*in considering any representations or notice made by a party the authority may take into account documentary or other information produced by a party in support of their application, representations or notice (as applicable) either before the hearing or, with the consent of all the other parties, at the hearing.*"

Dorset Police have been available for mediation in advance of this hearing and will be unable to verify or scrutinise any evidence produced during the hearing. Any additional evidence provided during the hearing can only be accepted with agreement of all parties.

If the Chair of the Sub-Committee orders an adjournment of the hearing, Dorset Police respectfully seek that any adjournment be for a **minimum of 48 hours** to enable appropriate scrutiny of any additional accepted evidence or information with our partners not in attendance at the hearing.

POLICE STATEMENT

NICHE Ref No: [REDACTED]

Statement of: 1302, Richard Symonds

I am a police sergeant based at Dorset Police Headquarters in the Investigation and Intelligence Assessment Centre. As part of my role, I manage all medium and high risk incidents that come to Dorset Police before officers arrive on scene, and also act as a 24/7 single point of contact for intelligence-related matters.

In 2023, when I was based in Weymouth, I investigated an assault on a club member. As part of this investigation, on 25 Septmeber 2023 I telephoned the club and spoke to a female member of staff called "[REDACTED]", who worked at the club. She informed me, at the time, that although they had CCTV cameras fitted, there was no CCTV of the incident as the club had suffered a power cut overnight.

A few days later, I attended the club in person to identify any witnesses and pry a bit more into the CCTV. I was told by the staff working behind the bar that there was no CCTV, and that the incident did not have any witnesses - and if anyone had seen anything, they would be very unlikely to give any form of statement. She was certain that there were no first hand witnesses, however. She informed me that the victim, Martyn Longman, was not well liked in the club and caused issues, and that there were moves afoot to ban him from the club due to his behaviour.

The investigation was filed by myself as there were no witnesses, no CCTV, and no further lines of enquiry.

Later, this year, I was made aware by Mr Longman that there was, in fact, CCTV of the incident. It had been sent to him by a friend. I watched this CCTV and it was clearly a recording of the incident in question. I had interviewed a suspect at the time, and he had given an account similar to Mr Longman's witness statement. It was clearly footage of the incident that I had been told, multiple times, did not exist.

As a result, I have significant concerns that the club have withed the CCTV, and in doing so, prevented a criminal investigation from taking place.

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: [REDACTED]

Date: 16-09-2025

Witness name: Richard Symonds
Statement started: 15-09-2025 23:49

Statement completed: 22-09-2025 06:36