

Halton Borough Council
Notice under Section 37 (5) Licensing Act 2003

APPENDIX E

Following an application to vary a licence to specify an individual as a premises supervisor under Section 37 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Your Name	Lesley Halliday
Job Title	Police Licensing Officer
Postal and email address	Warrington Police Station, Charles Stewart House, 55 Museum Street, Warrington WA1 1NE [REDACTED]
Contact telephone number	[REDACTED]

Name of the person the notice refers	Lorraine ASHTON
Address of the person the notice refers	
Name and address of premises subject to the application to vary the DPS	Blundell Arms, Hale Road, Widnes, WA8 8SX

The chief officer of police is satisfied that the exceptional circumstances of the case are such that granting the application to vary the designated premises supervisor would undermine the crime prevention objective.

The broad grounds for such an objection are inter-alia: -

Cheshire Police would like to object to the application to vary the DPS in respect of the above premises.

The grounds for the objection are that the applicant is unsuitable.

I was made aware that Ms Ashton was a duty manager at the premises during a compliance visit on 02/04/2025, although she was not present at the time of the visit. The premises has been non-compliant with the terms of the premises licence for over 12 months and an action plan has recently been agreed with the current DPS Mr Steven Hewitt to try and bring this premises into compliance.

Police officers attended the premises as part of a routine licensing check on 07/06/2025 at 19:56 there were approx. 10 customers at the premises and one male was subject to a Section 23 Stop Search, although nothing was found. All toilets tested positive for cocaine use.

There was no personal licence holder on duty at the time of the visit, which is a requirement of the premises licence, which both Mr Hewitt and Mr Longman have been made aware of.

[REDACTED]

I believe that this DPS variation to Ms Ashton is an attempt to circumvent the action plan that has recently been agreed with Mr Hewitt to attempt to bring the premises into compliance. Following this application Mr

Ward the council's licensing enforcement officer made Ms Ashton aware of the action plan and that it still applied, and it would become her responsibility to meet the requirements set out in the action plan. Mr Hewitt contacted Mr Ward he was unhappy and claiming that he was no longer involved with the running of the premises, and he didn't see why the action plan would still apply.

Ms Ashton is not named on the tenancy for the premises and is just a manager employed by Mr Hewitt and Mr Longman and I would argue that Mr Hewitt is still very much involved in the running of the premises, and I believe that Ms Ashton would just be the name on the licence with little or no involvement in the day to day operation of the business.

It is the considered view of the Chief Officer of Police that the likely effect of this variation of DPS on the promotion of the licensing objectives would be adverse and it would undermine the Crime and Disorder licensing objective.

Signed:

Lesley Halliday

Date: 18/06/2025

This form must be returned within the Statutory Period. Generally 14 days from the date of the application was given to the responsible authority.