

APPENDIX C

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

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
Contact telephone number	

Name of the person the notice refers	Ben Longman
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 police enquiries with St Helens Council and Merseyside police where Mr Longman has run licensed premises has identified a number of concerns.

Mr Longman has run a number of licensed premises in St Helens where serious concerns have arisen, resulting in the premises licences being reviewed.

Mollies Bar – PLH/Manager and DJ – Sept 2020 to Oct 2021

There were numerous incidents at the premises relating to the sale of alcohol to underage persons, proxy sales, violence and disorder and a sexual assault relating to a 16 year old who had been drinking at the premises, assault on police, robbery where a drug user arranged to meet at the premises for a drug deal and assaulted the male to steal the money and make good his escape, all of this with a drunken undertone.

Mr Longman was issued a fixed penalty notice by the Council on 23/12/2021 for Breach of COVID Regs.

In Oct 2021 a standard review of the premises was completed and the committee determined to revoke the licence, however an appeal was lodged within the 21 days allowing the premises to continue to trade.

In January 2022 there were further incidents at the premises including an alleged rape of a 17-year-old girl in the beer garden and a further assault where a male had his nose broken in the toilets.

Following meetings with management, Mr Longman informed the council and the police that the appeal was being withdrawn and therefore the licence was revoked.

Duke of Cambridge – DPS & DJ March 2022 to December 2023

Within 2 weeks of the premises opening the police were receiving intel of drug dealing at the premises, various reports received throughout 2022 with [REDACTED] named as dealing but this was never substantiated.

In 2022 there were 19 incidents reported at the premises including assaults, fights in progress, drunk and disorderly people being ejected due to intoxication and being dumped behind the premises.

In 2023 there were 35 incidents reports attributed to the premises. With further intel on drug dealing, various levels of assault, complaints from neighbours regarding ASB in the street, fighting outside the premises. The door team refused to work there any longer. Allegations of assaults by the door staff.

The police and council had numerous meetings with the management and tried various interventions and then in November 2023 there was a serious incident with a number of males fighting over a substantial period of time, the door staff were useless and one male was hit over the head with a bottle, large amounts of blood, other people also assaulted, no call to the police to report the matter, staff mopped up the blood and no first aid given.

The police requested a summary review of the licence and initial measures resulted in the premises licence being suspended.

Mr Longman was the tenant at the premises and there was a clause in the tenancy agreement, that made the tenancy void when the review application was made, the licence was transferred back to the landlord who was a reputable licensee who had to attend the committee hearing, fighting to try and retain his premises licence.

Given all of this information Cheshire police have very serious concerns regarding Mr Longman's ability to manage the premises, especially given that this premises has already had incidents where an underage person was found very intoxicated on the premises, there have also been numerous noise complaints from local residents resulting in noise equipment being seized and when police have attended and carried out drugs wipes in the toilets they have all tested positive for cocaine use at the premises.

The police believe that should this application be granted it would seriously undermine the licensing objective of prevention of crime and disorder and would therefore ask the licensing committee to refuse the application.

Signed:

Lesley Halliday

Date: 29/07/2025

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