

Carole,

I have received the representations from John Coen on behalf of Punch Taverns in relation to the Summary Review application I have made on behalf of the Chief Officer of Police. Please ask the licensing committee to consider the following:

1. I have noted that the licensing committee are being asked to remove the interim condition 'That no persons under the age of 21 shall be permitted to enter the premises'. This was requested by the police in recognition that the premises had potentially undermined the licensing objective of protecting children from harm and was asked for to try and ensure the premises didn't allow inappropriate access to alcohol by young people. However I now accept that such a condition may have unintended consequences such as preventing families from dining there at lunchtimes or preventing employees under the age of 21 from entering their place of work. This was never the police intention and whilst it is of course a matter for the committee I would not oppose such an application from Punch Taverns.
2. However having acceded to the previous request to remove the condition preventing access to people under the age of 21 I think it even more important that robust measures are in place to make sure the ages of young people are being properly checked at these premises. I therefore see the interim condition requiring the proof of age scheme 'Challenge 25' to be operated for all sales of alcohol at these premises nothing more than an entirely appropriate, necessary and proportionate response to the events of the night of the 25th April 2009.

Please advise me of the time, date and venue when the committee will consider Punch Taverns' representation and if they are to allow any representation to be made in person.

kindest regards

David Smethurst MIoL
Police Licensing Officer

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