

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE B

Date: Monday 17th August, 2026 Time: 10.00 am Venue: Mandela Room
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AGENDA

1. **Welcome, Fire Evacuation and Recording of Meetings**

In the event the fire alarm sounds for more than 10 seconds attendees will be advised to evacuate the building via the nearest fire exit and assemble at the Bottle of Notes opposite MIMA.

Members of the public have the right to film, record or photograph public meetings. If you intend to do so, please advise the Chair of this intention. You may be asked to stop filming, photographing or recording a meeting if the Chair feels that the activity is disrupting the meeting.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

(1) the type of interest concerned:

- *Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or*
- *Non-Pecuniary Interest (including personal or prejudicial interest)*

(2) the nature of the interest concerned.

If any member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

4. **Licensing Act 2003 - Application for Review of Premises
Licence - Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road,
Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP** 5 - 68
5. **Any other urgent items which, in the opinion of the Chair,
may be considered.**

Charlotte Benjamin
Corporate Director of Legal and Corporate Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Friday, 7 August 2026

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors S Hill (Chair), D Jones and A Romaine

Assistance in accessing information

The documents referred to on this agenda may be downloaded from the Council's
Website: [Committee structure | Middlesbrough Council](#)

**Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information,
such as alternative formats, please contact Joanne Dixon / Claire Jones, 01642
729713 / 01642 729112, joanne_dixon@middlesbrough.gov.uk /
claire_jones@middlesbrough.gov.uk**

INFORMATION ABOUT MIDDLESBROUGH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Venue Accessibility

All Committee Rooms are located on the first floor of Municipal Buildings (Town Hall). There is restricted disabled access to the first floor via a lift.

There is no on-site parking at Municipal Buildings. A map of town centre parking is attached below. A full map of town centre parking can be found on the Council's website: [Middlesbrough town centre parking plan - October 2025](#)



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COMMITTEE REPORT

LICENSING COMMITTEE

17 August 2026

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & HOUSING

Application for Review of Premises Licence

Applicant: Cleveland Police

Premises Licence Holder: Mr Percy Quarcoo

Premises: Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

Application received: 27 July 2026

Summary of Current Licensable Activities:

Films, Recorded Music, Live Music, Performances of Dance, Late Night Refreshment, Sale of Alcohol on the premises

Hours for Licensable Activities:

9:00 to 2am Monday to Sunday (Films)

9.00am to 02:30am Monday to Sunday (Live Music, Performance of Dance, Late Night Refreshment, Sale of alcohol)

9.00am to 3am Monday to Sunday

1. Summary of Application

The purpose of this report is for Members to consider an application for a review of the Premises Licence in respect of Lounge Afrique following an application for a summary review of the premises licence made by Cleveland Police on 27 July 2026.

A report outlining the Police's application for summary review was considered by the Licensing Sub Committee on 28 July 2026, along with written representations submitted by the Premises Licence holder, who was unable to attend the hearing in person.

After considering the report, representations from Cleveland Police and the written representations submitted by the Premises Licence holder the Licensing Sub Committee decided to suspend the Premises Licence and

remove the Designated Premises Supervisor as an interim measure pending the full review hearing.

The full decision and reasons were as follows:-

1. *The Committee considered an application from the Police for a summary review of a Premise Licence in respect of Premises at Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough TS1 1LP.*
2. *Under Section 53B of the Act, Licensing Sub Committee must consider whether it is necessary to take interim steps pending a full review where, in the Police's opinion, the Premises is associated with serious crime or disorder, or both.*
3. *The Committee therefore considered the report, the application, the certification made by the Superintendent, the representations made by the Police and the written representations of the Premises Licence Holder.*
4. *The Committee considered Sections 53A and 53B of the Act, it considered the Council's Licensing Policy and the Government Guidance.*
5. *The Committee considered it was necessary to take the following interim steps pending the determination of the full review of the Premises under section 53B of the Act:*
 - a. *To suspend the whole of the Premises Licence*
 - b. *To remove the Designated Premises Supervisor*
6. *The reasons for the decision are as follows:*
 1. *A serious incident occurred in the vicinity of the Premises between 01:30am and 02:30am on 18 July 2026. It is alleged that the Victim, a child, was subject to serious sexual offence, namely rape, whilst at or following their attendance at the Premises.*
 2. *The Premises were open and serving alcohol at the time when a group of individuals, who were under the age of 18, including the Victim, attended the Premises and gained entry on more than one occasion.*
 3. *CCTV footage shows the Victim, along with a group of friends enter the Premises without showing Photographic ID on two occasions. On one further occasion, on the same evening, the Victim and their friends was stopped by a member of the door staff. Upon showing ID, of some form, on their phones they were subsequently allowed to enter.*
 4. *The CCTV footage from inside the premises shows the Victim purchasing what is believed to be an alcoholic drink on at least two occasions.*
 5. *The CCTV further shows the Designated Premises Supervisor at the Premises, behind the bar, with underage individuals including the Victim, within the Premises drinking what appeared to be alcoholic beverages.*

6. *The Committee believe that the failure of the staff to properly adhere to the conditions, namely executing age verification, has subsequently put the victim at risk, which then later led to the serious incident.*
7. *The Committee considered the history of other allegations, that were submitted by the Police, including other reports of sexual assaults and spiking, as well as this serious incident, and determined that there was serious crime at the Premises.*
8. *The Committee considers it necessary, pending the determination of the review, to address the immediate problems with the Premises, in particular the likelihood of further serious crime.*
9. *The Committee considered the circumstances of the incident that has given rise to the application, as well as the Victim being under the age of 16, the ongoing criminal investigation and thus determined that the interim steps are proportionate to prevent further serious crime and to promote the licensing objectives.*
10. *The interim steps take place immediately.*
11. *There is no right of appeal against the interim steps.*
12. *A full review is required to take place within 28 days from the date of receipt of the Application by the Police.*
13. *If the Premises Licence Holder makes representations to the interim steps a hearing will be convened to hear those representations within 48 hours (not including any non-working day).*

On 30 July 2026 an application was received from the Premises Licence holder to review the Interim Steps imposed by the Licensing Sub Committee on 28 July 2026.

On 31 July 2026 Members of the Licensing Sub Committee met to consider the application to review the Interim Steps imposed. After considering a report and representations submitted by the Premises Licence holder, Members determined to maintain the Interim Steps imposed at the hearing on 28 July 2026 until the full hearing.

A copy of the report considered by the Licensing Sub Committee on 31 July 2026 is attached at Appendix A.

The full decision and reasons were as follows:-

1. *On 28 July 2026, the Committee considered an application from the Police for a summary review of a Premise Licence in respect of Premises at Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough TS1 1LP.*
2. *Under Section 53B of the Act, the Licensing Sub Committee considered whether it was necessary to take interim steps pending a full*

review where, in the Police's opinion, the Premises is associated with serious crime or disorder, or both.

3. The Committee considered the report, the application, the certification made by the Superintendent, the representations made by the Police and the written representations of the Premises Licence Holder, who was not in attendance on the first occasion.

4. The Committee considered Sections 53A and 53B of the Act, it considered the Council's Licensing Policy and the Government Guidance.

5. At the summary review, the Committee considered it was necessary to take the following interim steps pending the determination of the full review of the Premises under section 53B of the Act:

a. To suspend the whole of the Premises Licence

b. To remove the Designated Premises Supervisor

6. On 30 July 2026, the Premises Licence Holder made representations against the decision of the Committee and requested a hearing be held within 48 hours. As there had been a material change in circumstances, namely a number of steps that the Premises Licence Holder has implemented since the summary review, a hearing was listed for 31 July 2026.

7. At the hearing the Committee considered whether the interim steps are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives; and determine whether to withdraw or modify the steps taken.

8. The Committee considered the submissions of the Premises Licence Holder, specifically that the Premises has put in place a new security team, ordered electronic ID scanners, begun to strengthen the safeguarding procedures, arranged further challenge 25 training, reviewed staff responsibilities/management procedures and started to implement safeguarding policies throughout the business.

9. The Committee considered the submissions of the Police who state a senior police officer certifies that in their judgment serious crime is associated with the premises. The Police state that there have been catastrophic failures from the Premises in their duty to promote the licensing objectives and comply with their licensing conditions.

10. The Committee further considered the Police's assertions that the Premises had started to put correct procedures in place to rectify issues, but that it is simply too early to be certain of the steps being fully fulfilled.

11. The Committee considered and understood the number of proposals that have been made by the Premises Licence Holder. However, the Committee were not satisfied that they were all implemented. The Committee note the new security team have not been fully engaged and that simply a preliminary meeting has taken place with the Owner of Alpha Security. The Committee note that the Premises Licence Holder concedes the new safeguarding training has not yet been provided to staff. The Committee note the ID

scanners are not yet in situ. The Committee also considered that the new proposed DPS is not yet engaged fully nor was the Premises Licence Holder certain of the proposed DPS' name.

12. The Committee, whilst they appreciate that the Premises Licence Holder has tried to remedy the issues, are not satisfied that these steps have all been actioned and have ensured the promotion of the Licensing Objectives.

13. The Committee consider the interim steps continue to be necessary to promote the licensing objectives and do not withdraw or modify the steps taken.

14. The interim steps continue.

15. There is no right of appeal against the interim steps.

16. A full review is required to take place within 28 days from the date of receipt of the Application by the Police, thus by 24 August 2026.

2. Legislation

The Licensing Act 2003 requires the Licensing Authority to carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- The Protection of Children from Harm

The Licensing Authority must also have regard to its Licensing Policy and any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Section 53 of the Licensing Act 2003 provides a procedure for a summary review of a premises licence by the Police for an expedited or 'fast track' review of a premises licence which authorises the sale of alcohol in cases where a senior police officer of the rank of superintendent or above gives a certificate indicating that in his/her opinion the premises are associated with serious crime and disorder or both. The procedure allows the licensing authority to respond by taking interim steps quickly, where appropriate, pending a full review.

Section 53 of the Licensing Act 2003 also makes provision for a Premises Licence Holder to make further representations to Members against any interim steps imposed at the Summary Review hearing. The Premises Licence Holder may do so at any time prior to the full review hearing. Where such representations are received a further hearing must be arranged within 48 hours to allow for these representations to be heard.

The Licensing Act also provides that the Licensing Authority must hold a full review of the premises licence and determine the review within 28 days after the day of the application for Summary Review made by the Police.

3. Consultation on review application

The premises licence holder, any responsible authority or any other person are permitted to make representations in respect of the review application following publication of a notice.

In response to the publication of the notice on 27 July 2026 a representation was received from Fiona Helyer on 5 August 2026 on behalf of Middlesbrough Council Licensing Service. (Appendix B).

Middlesbrough Council's Children's Services and Middlesbrough's Public Health have indicated that representations will be submitted by the end of the consultation period on 10 August 2026. These representations will be circulated upon receipt.

4. The Licensing Policy

Members are referred to the following relevant sections of the Council's Licensing Policy.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder	Page 20
Public Safety	Page 25
Prevention of Public Nuisance	Page 27
Protection of Children from Harm	Page 30
Reviews	Page 47

And any other sections of the Policy which Members consider to be relevant.

5. Guidance to the Licensing Act 2003

Members are referred to the following relevant sections of the Guidance.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder	Starting at paragraph 2.1
Public Safety	Starting at paragraph 2.7
Prevention of Public Nuisance	Starting at paragraph 2.15
Protection of Children from Harm	Starting at paragraph 2.22
Summary Reviews	Starting at paragraph 12.1
Economic Benefits	Starting at paragraph 1.18

Members may note that section 1.18 is a recent addition to the statutory guidance, which states that 'when making licensing decisions, all Licensing Authorities should consider the need to promote growth and deliver economic benefits.'

Members may also consider any other sections of the Guidance that may be relevant.

6. Members' Options

Members may consider the following options:

- To modify the conditions of the licence.
- To exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence.
- To remove the Designated Premises Supervisor
- To suspend the licence for a period of not exceeding 3 months.
- To revoke the licence.
- Alternatively, Members may consider that it is not necessary to take any of the above steps and may issue an informal warning and/or or recommend improvement within a certain time period.

Any party to the hearing who may be aggrieved by the decision taken by the Licensing Sub-Committee would have a right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court.

Contact Officer: Tim Hodgkinson
Public Protection Manager (Licensing & Trading Standards)
Tel. 01642 728720

Contact Officer: Tim Hodgkinson, Licensing Manager
Tel. 728720

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COMMITTEE REPORT

LICENSING COMMITTEE

31 July 2026

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & HOUSING

Application for Review of Interim Steps following Summary Review of Premises Licence

Applicant: Mr Percy Quarcoo (Premises Licence Holder)

Premises: Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

Application received: 30 July 2026

Summary of Current Licensable Activities:

Films, Recorded Music, Live Music, Performances of Dance, Late Night Refreshment, Sale of Alcohol on the premises

Hours for Licensable Activities:

9:00 to 2am Monday to Sunday (Films)

9.00am to 02:30am Monday to Sunday (Live Music, Performance of Dance, Late Night Refreshment, Sale of alcohol)

9.00am to 3am Monday to Sunday

1. Summary of Application

The purpose of this report is for Members to consider an application for a review of the Interim Steps imposed by the Licensing Sub Committee on 28 July 2026 following an application for a summary review of the premises licence for Lounge Afrique made by Cleveland Police on 27 July 2026.

A copy of the report considered by the Licensing Sub Committee on 28 July 2026, along with written representations submitted by the Premises Licence holder, who was unable to attend the hearing in person, is attached at Appendix 1.

After considering the report, representations from Cleveland Police and the written representations submitted by the Premises Licence holder the Licensing Sub Committee decided to suspend the Premises Licence and remove the Designated Premises Supervisor as an interim measure

pending the full review hearing which must take place on or before 24 August 2026.

A copy of the full decision letter sent to the Premises Licence holder on 29 August 2026 is attached at Appendix 2.

2. Legislation

The Licensing Act 2003 requires the Licensing Authority to carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- The Protection of Children from Harm

The Licensing Authority must also have regard to its Licensing Policy and any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Section 53 of the Licensing Act 2003 provides a procedure for a summary review of a premises licence by the Police for an expedited or 'fast track' review of a premises licence which authorises the sale of alcohol in cases where a senior police officer of the rank of superintendent or above gives a certificate indicating that in his/her opinion the premises are associated with serious crime and disorder or both. The procedure allows the licensing authority to respond by taking interim steps quickly, where appropriate, pending a full review.

Section 53 of the Licensing Act 2003 also makes provision for a Premises Licence Holder to make further representations to Members against any interim steps imposed at the Summary Review hearing. The Premises Licence Holder may do so at any time prior to the full review hearing. Where such representations are received a further hearing must be arranged within 48 hours to allow for these representations to be heard.

On 30 July 2026 a representation was received from the Premises Licence holder to review the Interim Steps imposed by the Licensing Sub Committee on 28 July 2026. A copy of that representation is attached at Appendix 3.

3. Notification to Cleveland Police and the Premises Licence Holder

A copy of the application and this report has been served on Cleveland Police and the Premises Licence Holder.

4. The Licensing Policy

Members are referred to the following relevant sections of the Council's Licensing Policy.

5. Guidance to the Licensing Act 2003

Prevention of Crime and Disorder Starting at Paragraph 2.1

Summary Reviews Starting at Paragraph 12.1

6. Members' Options

- consider whether the interim steps are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives; and
- determine whether to withdraw or modify the steps taken.

- the senior officer's certificate that accompanied the application;
- the chief officer's representations (if any); and
- any representations made by the premises licence holder.

Contact Officer: Tim Hodgkinson, Licensing Manager
Tel. 728720

COMMITTEE REPORT

LICENSING COMMITTEE

28 July 2026

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & HOUSING

Applicant: Cleveland Police

Ref.No. PR0086

Premises: Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

Premises Licence Holder: Mr Percy Quarcoo

Designated Premises Supervisor: Mr Jerry Edward Quarcoo

Application received: 27 July 2025

Summary of Current Licensable Activities:

Films, Recorded Music, Live Music, Performances of Dance, Late Night Refreshment, Sale of Alcohol on the premises

Hours for Licensable Activities:

9:00 to 2am Monday to Sunday (Films)

9.00am to 02:30am Monday to Sunday (Live Music, Performance of Dance, Late Night Refreshment, Sale of alcohol)

9.00am to 3am Monday to Sunday

1. Summary of Application

The purpose of this report is for Members to consider an application for a summary review of the premises licence for Lounge Afrique made by Cleveland Police on 27 July 2025 under Section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003.

A copy of the application from Cleveland Police, is attached at Appendix 1, and a copy of the existing premises licence is attached at Appendix 2.

2. Legislation

The Licensing Act 2003 requires the Licensing Authority to carry out its

functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- The Protection of Children from Harm

The Licensing Authority must also have regard to its Licensing Policy and any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

The Licensing Act 2003 provides a procedure for a summary review of a premises licence by the Police for an expedited or 'fast track' review of a premises licence which authorises the sale of alcohol in cases where a senior police officer of the rank of superintendent or above gives a certificate indicating that in his/her opinion the premises are associated with serious crime and disorder or both. The procedure allows the licensing authority to respond by taking interim steps quickly, where appropriate, pending a full review.

3. Notification to Responsible Authorities and the Premises Licence Holder

A copy of the application has been served on the Responsible Authorities and the Premises Licence Holder.

4. Application advertised by the licensing authority: 27 July 2026

5. Background

These premises operate as a popular night-club in Middlesbrough Town Centre in the hub of the night-time economy. The premises have had the benefit of a premises licence under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 since 2014.

6. The Licensing Policy

Members are referred to the following relevant sections of the Council's Licensing Policy.

Prevention of Crime & Disorder	Pages 20-24
Reviews	Pages 47-50

And any other sections of the Policy which Members consider to be relevant.

7. Guidance to the Licensing Act 2003

Members are referred to the following relevant sections of the Guidance.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder	Starting at Paragraph 2.1
Summary Reviews	Starting at Paragraph 12.1

And any other sections of the Guidance which Members consider to be relevant.

8. Members' Options

The interim steps that Members must consider taking are:

- The modification of the conditions of the premises licence
- The exclusion of the sale of alcohol from the scope of the licence
- The removal of the designated premises supervisor from the licence
- The suspension of the licence

If Members decide to take any steps at the interim stage then the decision takes immediate effect pending the full review hearing.

Should the Premises Licence Holder wish to make further representations to Members against any interim steps imposed at this hearing, the Premises Licence Holder may do so at any time prior to the full review hearing. If any such representations are received a further hearing will be arranged within 48 hours to allow for these representations to be heard.

Contact Officer: Tim Hodgkinson, Licensing Manager
Tel. 728720

ANNEX B

Chief Constable of Cleveland Police
c/o Sgt 417 Bavin
Bridge Street West
Middlesbrough
TS2 1AB

CERTIFICATE UNDER SECTION 53A(1)(b) OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003

I hereby certify that in my opinion the premises described below are associated with serious crime / serious disorder / both serious crime and serious disorder¹.

Premises²:

Lounge Afrique
25 Corporation Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 1LP

Premises licence number (if known): MBRO/PR0086/083647

Name of premises supervisor (if known): Mr Jerry QUARCOO

I am a Chief Superintendant Barker ³ in the Cleveland police force.

I am giving this certificate because I am of the opinion that other procedures under the Licensing Act are inappropriate in this case, because⁴:

APPLICATION FOR AN EXPEDITED REVIEW

Lounge Afrique, Middlesbrough

Cleveland Police seek an Expedited Review of the premise licence for Lounge Afrique following a serious incident that occurred during the early hours of 18 July 2026 between approximately 01:30hrs and 02:30hrs.

Police received a report from the parent of a female under 16 stating that her

¹ Delete as applicable.

² Include business name and address and any other relevant identifying details.

³ Insert rank of officer giving the certificate, which must be superintendent or above.

⁴ Give a brief description of why other procedures such as a standard review process are thought to be inappropriate, e.g. the degree of seriousness of the crime and/or disorder, the past history of compliance in relation to the premises concerned.

daughter had left home without permission and attended Lounge Afrique in Middlesbrough town centre. Whilst at, or following her attendance at, the premises, the child is alleged to have become the victim of a serious sexual offence, namely rape.

Cleveland Police have significant safeguarding concerns arising from this incident. The victim is classed as vulnerable because of her age and witnesses who were present with her are also of the same age, significantly below the age of 18. Information obtained during the investigation indicates that these children were able to gain entry to the licensed premises.

Investigating officers have further reported difficulties in obtaining information from the premises. It is alleged that members of staff, including the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and/or Premises Licence Holder, have not fully cooperated with enquiries and have frustrated aspects of the ongoing investigation.

In addition to the current investigation, Cleveland Police are concerned by the volume and nature of previous reports linked to the premises over the preceding two years. These incidents along with this triggering incident demonstrate that this is not an isolated incident. There have been other incidents over the past 24 months involving serious crime and safeguarding concerns around the premise.

The latest incident constitutes both serious crime and a lack of safeguarding of members of the public particularly children, in a premise where children should not be present.

Cleveland Police does not believe it is appropriate to address these issues through the standard review process, the incident is serious and involves a person under 16 years old and any delay as a result of the process would be disproportionate to the risk of another victim being seriously harmed. Given the seriousness of the incident that has given rise to this application, the age of the victim, the ongoing criminal investigation.

Cleveland Police believe that Immediate Action is required to prevent further risk to the public. Cleveland Police respectfully request that the Licensing Authority treat this matter as one of exceptional urgency and grant an Expedited Review of the Premises Licence under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.

DEBoul 287 27/7/2026
(Signed) (Date)

FORM FOR APPLYING FOR A SUMMARY LICENCE REVIEW

[Insert name and address of relevant licensing authority and its reference number (optional)]

Middlesbrough Borough Council

Application for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 (premises associated with serious crime or disorder)

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form. If you are completing the form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. **Use additional sheets if necessary.**

I Sgt 417 Bavin [on behalf of] the chief officer of police for the Cleveland police area apply for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003.

1. Premises details:

Postal address of premises, or if none or not known, ordnance survey map reference or description:

**Lounge Afrique
25 Corporation Road**

Post town: Middlesbrough

Post code (if known): **TS1 1LP**

2. Premises licence details:

Name of premises licence holder (if known): Mr Percy QUARCOO

Number of premises licence holder (if known): MBRO / PR0086/083647

3. Certificate under section 53A(1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 [Please read guidance note 1]:

I confirm that a certificate has been given by a senior member of the police force for the police area above that in his opinion the above premises are associated with 'serious crime or disorder or both, and the certificate accompanies this application.

(Please tick the box to confirm) ☒

4. Details of association of the above premises with serious crime, serious disorder or both:

[Please read guidance note 2]

APPLICATION FOR AN EXPEDITED REVIEW

Lounge Afrique, Middlesbrough

Cleveland Police seek an Expedited Review of the premise licence for Lounge Afrique following a serious incident that occurred during the early hours of 18 July 2026 between approximately 01:30hrs and 02:30hrs.

Police received a report from the parent of a female under 16 stating that her daughter had left home without permission and attended Lounge Afrique in Middlesbrough town centre. Whilst at, or following her attendance at, the premises, the child is alleged to have become the victim of a serious sexual offence, namely rape.

Cleveland Police have significant safeguarding concerns arising from this incident. The victim is classed as vulnerable because of her age and witnesses who were present with her are also reported to be of the same age. Information obtained during the investigation indicates that these children were able to gain entry to the licensed premises.

Investigating officers have further reported difficulties in obtaining information from the premises. It is alleged that members of staff, including the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and/or Premises Licence Holder, have not fully cooperated with enquiries and have frustrated aspects of the ongoing investigation.

In addition to the current investigation, Cleveland Police are concerned by the volume and nature of previous reports linked to the premises over the preceding two years. These incidents along with this triggering incident demonstrate that this is not an isolated incident. There have been other incidents over the past 24 months involving serious crime and safeguarding concerns around the premise.

Licensing Objectives

Cleveland Police submit that the above incident, together with the history of associated reports with the premises, demonstrates serious concerns regarding the management and operation of Lounge Afrique.

The current incident involves the alleged rape of a child under 16 who was able to gain entry to the premises. This, alongside reports of sexual offending, suspected drink spiking, violence, safeguarding concerns and the apparent failure of staff and security personnel to respond appropriately, indicates that the premises is failing to promote the licensing objectives, namely:

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder;
Public Safety;
The Protection of Children from Harm.

The latest incident constitutes both serious crime and a lack of safeguarding for members of the public particular the vulnerable. Cleveland Police does not

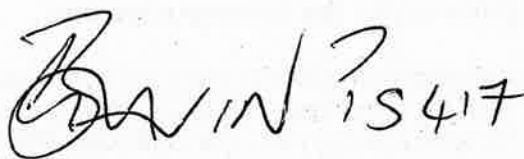
believe it is appropriate to address these issues through the standard review process, the incident is serious and involves a person under 16 years old and any delay as a result of the process would be disproportionate to the risk of another victim being seriously harmed.

Given the seriousness of the incident that has given rise to this application, the age of the victim, the ongoing criminal investigation, Cleveland Police believe that Immediate Action is required to prevent further risk to the public. Cleveland Police respectfully request that the Licensing Authority treat this matter as one of exceptional urgency and grant an Expedited Review of the Premises Licence under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.

Signature of applicant: Sgt 417 Bavin

Date: 27.07.2026

Capacity: Licensing Support Unit Sergeant



Contact details for matters concerning this application:

Address: Middlesbrough Police HQ

Bridge Street West

Middlesbrough

TS2 1AB

Telephone number(s): 01642 302361

Email: glyn.bavin@cleveland.police.uk

Notes for guidance:

1. A certificate of the kind mentioned in the form must accompany the application in order for it to be valid under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003. The certificate must explicitly state the senior officer's opinion that the premises in question are associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both.

Serious crime is defined by reference to section 81 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. In summary, it means:

- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences for which a person who has attained the age of eighteen and has no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of three years or more; or

- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences and involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose.

Serious disorder is not defined in legislation, and so bears its ordinary English meaning.

2. Briefly describe the circumstances giving rise to the opinion that the above premises are associated with serious crime, serious disorder, or both.

PREMISES LICENCE

Part A

Premises licence number

MBRO/PR0086/083647

Part 1 - Premises details

Postal address of premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description	
Lounge Afrique 25 Corporation Road	
Post town	Post code
Middlesbrough	TS1 1LP
Telephone number	
01642 241221	

Where the licence is time limited the dates
N/A

Licensable activities authorised by the licence
Films Recorded Music Live Music Performances of Dance Late Night Refreshment Sale of Alcohol

The times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities
FILMS
Monday to Sunday: 9am to 2am
RECORDED MUSIC
Monday to Sunday: 9am to 3.00am
LIVE MUSIC
Monday to Sunday: 9am to 2.30am
PERFORMANCES OF DANCE
Monday to Sunday: 9am to 2.30am

LATE NIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Monday to Sunday: 11pm to 2.30am

SALE OF ALCOHOL ON PREMISES

Monday to Sunday: 9am to 2.30am

The opening hours of the premises

Monday to Sunday: 9am to 3.00am

Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and/or off supplies

Alcohol sales permitted ON the premises

Part 2**Name, (registered) address, telephone number and email (where relevant) of holder of premises licence**

Mr Percy Quarcoo
33F St Chadfields
Winsford
CW7 1LQ

hello@lounge-afrique.co.uk

Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable)

N/A

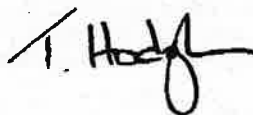
Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol

Mr Jerry Edward Quarcoo
6 Londonderry Close
Billingham
TS22 5WD

Personal licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises for the supply of alcohol

MBRO/PL1780/103720 issued by Middlesbrough Council

Granted on 17 August 2023



Authorised Officer

Licence issued 24 February 2026 – Change of DPS

Annex 1 - Mandatory conditions

Supply of Alcohol

1. No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence:

(a) at a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, or

(b) at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended.

2. Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

Exhibition of Films

3. Where a premises licence authorises the exhibition of films, the licence must include a condition requiring the admission of children to the exhibition of any film to be restricted in accordance with this section.

4. Where the film classification body is specified in the licence, unless subsection (3)(b) applies, admission of children must be restricted in accordance with any recommendation made by that body.

5. Where-

(a) The film classification body is not specified in the licence, or

(b) The relevant licensing authority has notified the holder of the licence that this subsection applies to the film in question, admission of children must be restricted in accordance with any recommendation made by that licensing authority.

6. In this section "Children" - means persons aged under 18; and "Film

classification body" means the person or persons designated as the authority under section 4 of the Video Recordings Act 1984 (c.39) (authority to determine suitability of video works for classification).

Door Supervision

7. Where a premises licence includes a condition that at specified times one or more individuals must be at the premises to carry out a security activity, that licence must include a condition that each such individual must:

(a) Be authorised to carry out that activity by a licence granted under the Private Security Industry Act 2001;

(b) Be entitled to carry out activity by virtue of section 4 of the Act.

8. But nothing in subsection (1) requires such a condition to be imposed:

(a) In respect of premises within paragraph 8(3)(a) of Schedule 2 to the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (c.12) (premises with premises licences authorising plays or films); or

(b) In respect of premises in relation to:

(i) Any occasion mentioned in paragraph 8(3)(b) or (c) of that Schedule (premises being used exclusively by club with club premises certificate, under a temporary event notice authorising plays or films

or under a gaming licence), or

(ii) Any occasion within paragraph 8(3)(d) of that Schedule (occasions

prescribed by regulations under that Act).

9. For the purposes of this section:

- (a) "Security activity" means an activity to which paragraph 2(1) (a) of that Schedule applies, and which is licensable conduct for the purposes of that Act.
- (b) Paragraph 8(5) of that Schedule (interpretation of references to an occasion) applies as it applies in relation to paragraph 8 of that Schedule.

Age Verification

10. The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.

11. The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.

12. The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either:

- (a) a holographic mark, or
- (b) an ultraviolet feature.

Permitted Price

13. A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.

14. For the purpose of this condition set out in paragraph 1:

(a) "duty" is to be construed in accordance with the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979;

(b) "permitted price" is the price found by applying the formula-

$$P = D + (D \times V)$$

Where:

(i) P is the permitted price,

(ii) D is the amount of duty chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the duty were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol, and

(iii) V is the rate of value added tax chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the value added tax were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol;

(c) "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a premises licence -

- (i) the holder of the premises licence,
- (ii) the designated premises supervisor (if any) in respect of such a

licence, or

(iii) the personal licence holder who makes or authorises a supply of alcohol under such a licence;

(d) "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a club premises certificate, any member or officer of the club present on the premises in a capacity which enables the member or officer to prevent the supply in question; and

(e) "value added tax" means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994.

15. Where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 would (apart from this paragraph) not be a whole number of pennies, the price given by that sub-paragraph shall be taken to be the price actually given by that sub-paragraph rounded up to the nearest penny.

16. (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 on a day ("the first day") would be different from the permitted price on the next day ("the second day") as a result of a change to the rate of duty or value added tax.

(2) The permitted price which would apply on the first day applies to sales or supplies of alcohol which take place before the expiry of the period of 14 days beginning on the second day.

Irresponsible Drink Promotions (applicable to 'on' & 'off' sales)

17. The responsible person must ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.

18. In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises:

(a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to:

(i) drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or

(ii) drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise).

(b) provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;

(c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less in a manner which carries a

significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;

(d) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner;

(e) dispensing alcohol directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of disability).

19. The responsible person must ensure that free potable water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.

Alcoholic Drink Measures

20. The responsible person must ensure that:

(a) where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures-

- (i) beer or cider: 1/2 pint;
- (ii) gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25 ml or 35 ml; and
- (iii) still wine in a glass: 125 ml;

(b) these measures are displayed in a menu, price list or other printed material which is available to customers on the premises; and

(c) where a customer does not in relation to a sale of alcohol specify the quantity of alcohol to be sold, the customer is made aware that these measures are available."

1. (1) The responsible person shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.

(2) In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises in a manner which carries a significant risk of leading or contributing to crime and disorder, prejudice to public safety, public nuisance, or harm to children -

(a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to -

(i) drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or

(ii) drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise);

(b) provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic (other than any promotion or discount available to an individual in respect of alcohol for consumption at a table meal, as defined in section 159 of the Act);

(c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less;

(d) provision of free or discounted alcohol in relation to the viewing on the premises of a sporting event, where that provision is dependent on -

(i) the outcome of a race, competition or other event or process, or

(ii) the likelihood of anything occurring or not occurring;

(e) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner.

2. The responsible person shall ensure that no alcohol is dispensed directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of disability).

3. The responsible person shall ensure that free tap water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.

4. (1) The premise licence holder or club premises certificate holder shall ensure that an age verification policy applies to the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.

(2) The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and a holographic mark.

5. The responsible person shall ensure that -

(a) where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures -

(i) beer or cider: 1/2 pint;

(ii) gin, rum, vodka or whiskey: 25ml or 35ml; and

(iii) still wine in a glass: 125ml; and

(b) customers are made aware of the availability of these measures.

Condition requiring the admission of children to the exhibition of any film to be restricted in accordance with Section 20 of the Licensing Act 2003:

(1) Where the film classification body is specified in the licence, unless subsection (2) (b) applies, admission of children must be restricted in accordance with any recommendation made by that body.

(2) Where -

(a) the film classification body is not specified in the licence, or

(b) the relevant licensing authority has notified the holder of the licence that this subsection applies to the film in question, admission of children must be restricted in accordance with any recommendation made by that licensing authority.

(3) In this section -

'children' means persons aged under 18; and

'film classification body' means the person or persons designated as the authority under section 4 of the Video Recordings Act 1984 (c.39) (authority to determine suitability of video works for classification).

Mandatory conditions in accordance with Section 21 of the Licensing Act 2003:

(1) Where a premises licence includes a condition that at specified times one or more individuals must be at the premises to carry out a security activity, the licence must include a condition that each such individual must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority.

(2) But nothing in subsection (1) requires such a condition to be imposed -

(a) in respect of premises within paragraph 8(3)(a) of Schedule 2 to the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (c.12) (premises with premises licences authorising plays or films), or

(b) in respect of premises in relation to -

(i) any occasion mentioned in paragraph 8(3)(b) or (c) of that Schedule (premises being used exclusively by club with club premises certificate, under a temporary event notice authorising plays or films or under a gaming licence), or

(ii) any occasion within paragraph 8(3)(d) of that Schedule (occasions prescribed by regulations under that Act).

For the purposes of this section -

(a) 'security activity' means an activity to which paragraph 2(1)(a) of that Schedule applies, and

(b) paragraph 8(5) of that Schedule (interpretation of references to an occasion) applies as it applies in relation to paragraph 8 of that Schedule.

Annex 2 - Conditions consistent with the operating Schedule

LICENSING OBJECTIVES

GENERAL - ALL FOUR LICENSING OBJECTIVES

This Licence does not permit any adult entertainment or services, activities, other entertainment or matters ancillary to the use of the premises that may give rise to concern in respect of children.

THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

Dispersal Policy

The premises shall have an approved documented dispersal policy which shall be implemented for dispersal at all times the premises is open for licensable activity.

CCTV

A digital Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV) will be installed and maintained in good working order and be correctly time and date stamped:

- the system will incorporate sufficient built-in hard-drive capacity to suit the number of cameras installed;
- CCTV will be capable of providing pictures of evidential quality, in all lighting conditions, particularly facial recognition;
- cameras will encompass all ingress and egress to the premises and all areas where the sale/supply of alcohol occurs and all outside areas;
- the system will record and retain CCTV footage for a minimum of 28 days;
- the system will record from opening until close of the premises;
- the system will incorporate a means of transferring images from the hard-drive to a format that can be played back on a compatible computer;
- the Digital recorder will be password protected to prevent unauthorised access, tampering, or deletion of images;
- there will be at all times, when the premises is open, a member of staff on duty with access to the CCTV system who is trained in the use of the equipment;
- upon receipt of a lawful request for a copy of CCTV footage from Police, Licensing Officers or any other Responsible Authority, the member of staff will produce the footage within 24 hours, or less if urgently required for investigations of serious crime;
- CCTV footage must be made available to be viewed by the Police, Licensing Officers or other Responsible Authorities on lawful request during an inspection or visit to the Premises.

The entrance area and any subsequent queuing area will be sufficiently lit (excluding local authority lighting) and covered by CCTV.

Incident Book

An incident book must be kept at the Premises and maintained up to date (no later than 24 hours after the incident) at all times and will record the following:

- Time date and details of all incidents/complaints of

crime and disorder or anti-social behaviour

- All crimes reported to the venue
 - All ejections of patrons
 - All seizures of drugs or offensive weapons
 - Any faults in the CCTV system, searching equipment or scanning equipment
 - Any visit by a relevant authority or emergency service
- The incident book must be made available to Police, Licensing Officers, and all other Responsible Authorities on request or during an inspection

Registered SIA Doorstaff

Every day where the premises is open after midnight a minimum of 3 SIA registered door supervisors shall be employed from 10pm until closing.

They will be employed to control entry to the premises, to deal with the searching / scanning of customers, to deal with any anti-social or disorderly behaviour at the premises, to deescalate confrontations, to assist with emergency escape from the premises, to deal with the ejection of people from the premises and to assist management in liaising with the police regarding instances of crime and to assist with ensuring that the premises' dispersal policy is adhered to.

When deployed they shall remain at the premises until close and all patrons have vacated the premises.

Door staff shall be easily identified and have their SIA badges displayed on high visibility armbands

Counting devices shall be used by SIA doorstaff to keep an accurate count of the number of people on the premises.

Searches

The premises shall have a minimum of two handheld metal detector/wand on the premises that will be used to assist with searching patrons on entry to the premises.

Persons entering the premises shall be subject to random searches for drugs, weapons and any other prohibited or otherwise dangerous articles. A record of any searches leading to seizures of prohibited articles shall be recorded in the incident book.

Anybody found with drugs/ weapons on their person will be ejected from the premises and shall not be admitted/ readmitted.

Where possible, efforts will be made to identify the person responsible and reported to Police.

Any person refusing to consent to a search will be refused entry/ejected from the premises.

Whenever searches of entrants to the premises are taking place persons who leave the premises and wish to re-enter the premises shall be subject to a further search on re-entry to the premises.

Clear & legible notices will be prominently displayed where they can easily be seen and read by customers stating that customers attending the venue may be searched prior to entry.

Weapons Policy

A written weapons policy approved by Police shall be in place for the premises and a copy of it shall be always accessible at the premises when in operation.

All relevant staff employed at the premises shall be trained in the latest version of the policy and a record of the training shall be kept in the staff training logs at the premises.

Drugs Policy The Premises will have a written drugs policy and a drugs box and register approved by the police which will be used to

record and dispose of all illegal substances found. Where possible, efforts will be made to identify the person responsible and reported to Police.

Any illegal, prohibited, or other dangerous articles seized shall be disposed of in accordance with the policy. Staff will be fully trained with regard to this policy.

Challenge 25 Policy

A Challenge 25 Policy will be in place at the premises

There will be a minimum of four notices/posters displayed in prominent positions inside the premises informing customers that a Challenge 25 policy is in operation.

Training in relation to Challenge 25, underage sales, sales to adults on behalf of minor (proxy sales), sales to intoxicated persons, refusals registers, incident records and all other conditions on the Premises Licence must be provided and undertaken by all members of staff (whether paid or unpaid) before he / she makes a sale, supply, or delivery of alcohol. Staff must require ID in the form of a current passport, photo card driving licence, PASS Hologram identity card or Military ID from any customer who appears to be under the age of 25 and verify the customer is over the age of 18 before any sale of alcohol is made

Any identification suspected of being fraudulently used, or not genuine will be confiscated and handed to Police at the earliest opportunity.

Training/Records

Induction training covering the following areas will be completed with every member of staff before employment commences and will be refreshed every 6 months thereafter:

Challenge 25

U/A/Proxy sales

Proof of age

Search/drug/dispersal/weapons policies

Documented training records must be completed in relation to the above and must include the name of the member of staff trained, date, time, and content of the training. The record must be signed by the member of staff who has received the training, the Designated Premises Supervisor/ Premises Licence Holder or external training providers.

Training records must be kept at the Premises and made available to the Police, Licensing Officers, and all other Responsible Authorities on request or during an inspection.

Refusals Register

A refusals register must be kept at the Premises to record any refusal of entry and/or sale of alcohol. Details recorded will include the date time, reasons for refusal and the name and signature of member of staff refusing the sale.

The Premises Licence Holder/Designated Premises Supervisor must monitor the refusals register monthly and must sign and date the register to confirm when this has been completed.

The refusals record must be made available to the Police, Licensing Officers, and all other Responsible Authorities on request or during an inspection.

Minimum Unit Price

Every sale of alcohol at the Premises shall not be less than the minimum price set out below or as varied by Condition 6 or 7: -
Bottle / 330ml of beer, lager, cider, perry or similar -

£3.50

Pint glass of beer, lager, cider or perry or similar -

£3.50

Half pint glass of beer, lager, cider or perry or similar-

£1.75

125ml of wine or similar -

£3.50

175ml of wine or similar -

£4.00

250ml of wine or similar -

£4.50

Bottle (750ml) of wine or similar -

£14.00

Measure / 25ml of spirits, liqueurs, or similar-

£3.50

Measure / 50ml of spirits, liqueurs or similar -

£4.50

Measure / 50 ml of Fortified wine or similar -

£3.50

Where alcohol is sold which is of a type not expressly referred to above, the minimum price applicable to the supply shall be the minimum price for the type of alcohol referred to above that is most similar to that supplied.

Unless the Licensing Authority consider it appropriate not to do so, the minimum price shall be varied every two years following discussion with the Premises License Holder as follows:

The "retail prices index" shall be as defined in Section 989 of the Income Tax Act 2007 (being currently, the general index of retail prices for all items) published by the Statistics Board or, if that index is not published for a relevant month, any substituted index or index figures published by the Board). The first variation shall take place on 1 July 2025 and each subsequent variation shall take place in every two years thereafter.

The varied minimum price shall be the sum produced by multiplying the minimum price then applicable by a figure expressed as a decimal and determined by the formula: $1 + (RD - RI)/RI$

Where RD is the retail prices index for the (1 July 23) or each subsequent second anniversary of (01 July 23) and RI is the retail prices index for the (01 July 23) (or each subsequent second anniversary of date).

The figure determined in accordance with this formula is rounded to the nearest third decimal place.

If in relation to any two-year period RD is equal to or less than RI, the figure determined in accordance with the formula shall be 1 and there shall be no change in the minimum price for that year.

The varied minimum price shall after application of the formula be rounded up or down to the nearest £0.05.

Before (01 July 25) and each second anniversary of (01 July 25) the Licensee shall give notice to the Licensing Authority of the varied minimum prices calculated in accordance with this condition unless otherwise agreed.

Glassware No glasses, open bottles or other open containers will be allowed to leave the premises at any time.

All glasses used at the premises shall be made from toughened glass

Public Nuisance

Notices requesting customers to leave the premises quietly

will be displayed at all exits.

Training/Campaigns

The premises shall take part in training offered by the Police or Local Authority about vulnerability, child sexual exploitation, Licensing Act 2003 best practice and any other training deemed necessary to promote the licensing objectives. Young Persons Children will not be allowed on the premises unless accompanied by a responsible adult. Children will not be permitted on the premises after 21:00hrs

There shall be a minimum of two notices displayed on the premise indicating that the sale of alcohol to those under the age of 18 is illegal and that those adults who buy alcohol for immediate disposal to those under the age of 18 are committing an offence.

Admission There shall be no new admission, or re-admission, of the public to the premises from 02.00am Monday to Sunday.

THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

All external doors and windows in the area where entertainment is being carried out shall be kept closed when regulated entertainment is being provided except in the event of an emergency and for ingress and egress. The doors on Corporation Road may remain open until 10pm daily.

Annex 3 - Conditions attached after a hearing by the licensing authority

Not Applicable

Annex 4 - Plans

Attached



LOUNGE AFRIQUE BAR & RESTAURANT

To: The Members of the Licensing Committee

Re: Summary Review of the Premises Licence – Lounge Afrique

We respectfully submit this statement in response to the application for an expedited review of the premises licence for Lounge Afrique.

First and foremost, we wish to express our deepest sympathy for the young person involved in the incident that has led to these proceedings. Any allegation involving a child is extremely distressing, and we fully recognise the seriousness of the matter. We sincerely hope that the ongoing criminal investigation provides the answers that everyone involved is seeking.

We respectfully ask the Committee to remember that this is an ongoing criminal investigation and that no findings have yet been made regarding the circumstances of the alleged offence. We therefore ask that today's decision is based on the evidence concerning the operation of our premises and the licensing objectives, rather than assumptions about matters that remain under investigation.

Lounge Afrique has always taken its responsibilities as a licensed premises seriously. On the evening in question, SIA-licensed door supervisors were on duty, and the premises were covered by comprehensive CCTV.

When Cleveland Police attended the premises, we immediately provided full access to our CCTV system. Officers downloaded footage until their USB storage device became full. They advised us they would return the following evening at approximately 8.00 pm to obtain the remaining footage. We remained ready and willing to assist, but the officers did not return. We therefore respectfully dispute any suggestion that Lounge Afrique has failed to cooperate and invite the Committee to ask the police to identify specifically what information or assistance they believe was withheld.

We also note that the police certificate states that the alleged offence occurred "at, or following her attendance at" the premises. We respectfully submit that the precise location and circumstances remain under investigation and that it has not yet been established where the alleged offence occurred or what direct connection, if any, exists between the incident and the management of Lounge Afrique.

If relevant, we also ask the Committee to establish whether the young person attended any other licensed premises during the course of the evening and, if so, whether those premises have been subject to similar licensing action. This request is not made to shift responsibility but to ensure that the Committee has the fullest possible understanding of the events before reaching its decision.

This is the first major incident of this nature that has ever been brought to our attention. To the best of our knowledge, Cleveland Police have never previously raised concerns with us



regarding underage persons gaining entry to our premises, nor have we received formal warnings or enforcement action relating to failures in our age-verification or safeguarding procedures. If there have been concerns in the past, we would have expected to have been informed so that we could address them immediately.

We respectfully ask the Committee to consider this history when assessing whether the premises present an ongoing and immediate risk requiring suspension.

If the Committee has concerns about safeguarding or operational procedures, we are fully committed to working constructively with Cleveland Police and the Licensing Authority. We are willing to accept additional licence conditions where appropriate, including:

Enhanced Challenge 25 procedures.

Additional SIA security staff where appropriate.

ID scanning for customers.

Further staff training in safeguarding and protecting children from harm.

Enhanced incident recording procedures.

Any other reasonable conditions the Committee believes will improve public safety.

Lounge Afrique has proudly served the local community for several years. We have always sought to provide a safe, welcoming and enjoyable environment for our customers. We do not take this incident lightly, and we recognise that there may be lessons to learn.

We want to reassure the Committee that we are committed to doing everything within our power to make Lounge Afrique even safer than it already is. We will continue to review our policies, invest in staff training and security measures, and work openly with Cleveland Police and the Licensing Authority to ensure the highest possible standards of public safety and the protection of children from harm.

We respectfully ask the Committee to consider whether additional licence conditions would adequately address any concerns, rather than imposing the severe and immediate step of suspending the premises licence while the criminal investigation remains ongoing.

We thank the Committee for taking the time to consider our representations and respectfully ask that our willingness to cooperate, our previous history, and our commitment to continuous improvement are all considered when reaching a fair and proportionate decision.

Yours faithfully,

The Premises Licence Holder

Lounge Afrique

Percy Quarcoo
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Direct Line : (01642) 728720

Switchboard: (01642) 245432

Email: licensing@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

29 July 2026

Dear Sir,

Decision of the Licensing Sub Committee, Hearing 28 July 2026
Summary Review of a Premises Licence under Section 53A and 53B of the
Licensing Act 2003 to consider interim steps .

Decision Licensing Sub Committee 28 July 2026

Application for Summary Review of the Premises Licence Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough - Section 53A and B of the Licensing Act 2003

Applicant

Cleveland Police

Premises Licence Holder

Percy Quarcoo

Premises

**Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road,
Middlesbrough**

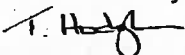
Designated Premises Supervisor

Gerry Quarcoo

1. The Committee considered an application from the Police for a summary review of a Premises Licence in respect of Premises at Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough TS1 1LP.
2. Under Section 53B of the Act, Licensing Sub Committee must consider whether it is necessary to take interim steps pending a full review where, in the Police's opinion, the Premises is associated with serious crime or disorder, or both.
3. The Committee therefore considered the report, the application, the certification made by the Superintendent, the representations made by the Police and the written representations of the Premises Licence Holder.
4. The Committee considered Sections 53A and 53B of the Act, it considered the Council's Licensing Policy and the Government Guidance.
5. The Committee considered it was necessary to take the following interim steps pending the determination of the full review of the Premises under section 53B of the Act:
 - a. To suspend the whole of the Premises Licence
 - b. To remove the Designated Premises Supervisor
6. The reasons for the decision are as follows:

7. A serious incident occurred in the vicinity of the Premises between 01:30am and 02:30am on 18 July 2026. It is alleged that the Victim, a child, was subject to serious sexual offence, namely rape, whilst at or following their attendance at the Premises.
8. The Premises were open and serving alcohol at the time when a group of individuals, who were under the age of 18, including the Victim, attended the Premises and gained entry on more than one occasion.
9. CCTV footage shows the Victim, along with a group of friends enter the Premises without showing Photographic ID on two occasions. On one further occasion, on the same evening, the Victim and their friends was stopped by a member of the door staff. Upon showing ID, of some form, on their phones they were subsequently allowed to enter.
10. The CCTV footage from inside the premises shows the Victim purchasing what is believed to be an alcoholic drink on at least two occasions.
11. The CCTV further shows the Designated Premises Supervisor at the Premises, behind the bar, with underage individuals including the Victim, within the Premises drinking what appeared to be alcoholic beverages.
12. The Committee believe that the failure of the staff to properly adhere to the conditions, namely executing age verification, has subsequently put the victim at risk, which then later led to the serious incident.
13. The Committee considered the history of other allegations, that were submitted by the Police, including other reports of sexual assaults and spiking, as well as this serious incident, and determined that there was serious crime at the Premises.
14. The Committee considers it necessary, pending the determination of the review, to address the immediate problems with the Premises, in particular the likelihood of further serious crime.
15. The Committee considered the circumstances of the incident that has given rise to the application, as well as the Victim being under the age of 16, the ongoing criminal investigation and thus determined that the interim steps are proportionate to prevent further serious crime and to promote the licensing objectives.
16. The interim steps take place immediately.
17. There is no right of appeal against the interim steps.
18. A full review is required to take place within 28 days from the date of receipt of the Application by the Police.
19. If the Premises Licence Holder makes representations to the interim steps a hearing will be convened to hear those representations within 48 hours (not including any non-working day).

Yours faithfully



Tim Hodgkinson
Licensing Manager

LOUNGE AFRIQUE BAR & RESTAURANT

To: Licensing Sub-Committee Middlesbrough Council

Re: Representations Against the Interim Steps – Premises Licence for Lounge Afrique

Dear Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee,

I write on behalf of the Premises Licence Holder to make formal representations against the interim steps imposed following the Summary Review Hearing held on 28 July 2026 under Sections 53A and 53B of the Licensing Act 2003.

Firstly, we wish to express our sincere concern for the young person involved. Any allegation involving the safety and welfare of a young person is deeply distressing. We fully support the ongoing investigation by Cleveland Police and remain committed to assisting them and the Licensing Authority in every way possible.

Since receiving the Committee's decision, we have undertaken a detailed review of our CCTV footage. During this review, we observed what appears to be older adult women accompanying the younger females at various stages of the evening. This has raised significant safeguarding concerns for us, as it suggests there may be wider circumstances surrounding how these young people gained access to the venue. We are not seeking to draw conclusions, as this remains a matter for the police investigation, but we believe this observation is relevant and should form part of the wider picture being considered.

We are also concerned that the Committee's decision refers to the alleged offence as occurring "in the vicinity of the premises" and "at or following their attendance at the premises," without identifying that the offence occurred inside the licensed premises. As the criminal investigation is ongoing, we respectfully submit that these important factual matters remain to be established.

We recognise the seriousness of the concerns raised and have acted immediately. We have not waited for the outcome of the full review before making significant improvements to our operation.

The actions we have already taken include:

The immediate recruitment of a new security team to strengthen supervision and customer safety with clear instructions of what is required of them in discharging their duties.

The purchase of an electronic ID scanning system, which has already been ordered and will be implemented as soon as it is delivered.

Full body cams and metal detectors for security staff.

A full review of all staffing arrangements.



Enhanced safeguarding training for all staff.

Refresher Challenge 25 and age verification training.

A review of door supervision procedures and responsibilities.

Strengthened management oversight during trading hours.

Improvements to incident reporting and record keeping.

A full review of our CCTV procedures and monitoring.

The development of enhanced safeguarding policies to better protect vulnerable persons.

An ongoing commitment to work closely with Cleveland Police and the Licensing Authority to implement any further recommendations.

These are not simply proposed measures—they are actions that are already underway because we are determined to ensure that Lounge Afrique operates to the highest possible standards of safety.

We respectfully submit that the complete suspension of the premises licence is a severe interim measure. In light of the immediate and substantial improvements already implemented, we ask the Committee to consider whether the licensing objectives could instead be adequately promoted through robust interim conditions rather than continued suspension.

We remain fully committed to working openly, honestly and constructively with Cleveland Police, the Licensing Authority and the Committee. Our focus is on learning from this situation, strengthening our safeguarding arrangements and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of every customer who attends our premises.

We therefore respectfully request that the Committee reconsider the interim suspension and replace it with appropriate interim conditions pending the full review hearing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Premises Licence Holder

Lounge Afrique

Mr Percy Quarcoo
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dated: 05 August 2026

Dear Sirs,

LICENSING ACT 2003

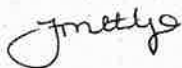
Premises: Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

I am writing to advise you that as the Responsible Authority for Licensing a representation has been made to the Licensing Authority in support of the review application made by Cleveland Police in respect of the above premises.

This representation is made in relation to the crime and disorder, public safety, and protection of children from harm licensing objectives. There are several areas of concern regarding these premises including children under the age of 18 years being allowed access into the premises resulting in a serious alleged sexual offence on a minor.

If you would like to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Fiona Helyer
Principle Public Protection Officer
Licensing

Middlesbrough Council
The Licensing Act 2003 - Responsible Authority (RA) Representation

Name of RA Representative: Fiona Helyer, Principal Public Protection Officer (Licensing).

Address: Public Protection, Middlesbrough Council, PO Box 500, Middlesbrough, TS1 9FT.

Email: EHTS@middlesbrough.gov.uk **Tel** 01642 728717

Licence holder details

Name and Address of Premises – Lounge Afrique

Address: 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

Name of licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)
Mr Percy Quarcoo

Number of premises licence or club premise certificate (if known)

MBRO/PR0086/083647

Representation

It is my opinion that the application fails to adequately satisfy the following licensing objectives:

☒	Prevention of Crime and Disorder
☐	Prevention of Public Nuisance
☒	Public Safety
☒	Protection of Children from Harm

Grounds for representation (including details of any previous representations)

Representation by Middlesbrough Council (Licensing Authority)
Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises Licence: Lounge Afrique, Middlesbrough

This representation is submitted by Middlesbrough Council in its capacity as the Responsible Authority for Licensing, in support of the summary review application made by Cleveland Police in respect of Lounge Afrique.

The Licensing Authority supports the review on the grounds that the premises is being operated in a manner that undermines the licensing objectives, specifically the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, and the protection of children from harm. The operation of the premises presents an ongoing risk to public safety.

Lounge Afrique is located on Corporation Road within the Central Ward, an area designated as a Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP1) zone. This designation reflects the high concentration of licensed premises and associated levels of alcohol-related crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, and health-related harm.

The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) for these premises is Mr Percy Quarcoo, the nominated Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) is a male named Jerry Quarcoo. The Premises Licence was transferred to the PLH on 16 December 2022; Jerry Quarcoo has held the position of DPS since this time.

The premises is licensed for the following licensable activity:

- Films – 9am- 2am
- Recorded Music – 9am – 03:00
- Live Music 9am – 2.30am
- Performance of Dance – 9am – 02.30am
- Late Night Refreshment – 11pm – 2.30am
- Sale of alcohol (onsales) – 9am – 3.00am

All the above are across seven days a week

Lounge Afrique is a well- established nightclub in Middlesbrough that attracts a high proportion of night-time revellers from the Afro Caribbean community to Middlesbrough town centre on a weekly basis.

Cleveland Police have provided information regarding a serious incident that reportedly occurred between 01:30hrs and 02:30hrs on 18 July 2026. The incident involved a female under the age of 16 who had allegedly left her home address without parental permission and attended Lounge Afrique accompanied by two other females, also under the age of 16.

It is alleged that whilst at the premises, the female became the victim of a serious sexual offence, namely rape.

These circumstances raise significant concerns regarding the safeguarding of children and vulnerable young persons. Furthermore, they call into question the effectiveness of the measures in place at the premises to prevent persons under the age of 18 from gaining entry and accessing alcohol.

The Premises Licence is subject to several conditions designed to promote the licensing objectives and protect children from harm, including the deployment of SIA-registered door supervisors, the operation of a Challenge 25 age-verification policy, and the provision of staff training in relation to age-restricted sales. It is a matter of significant concern that, notwithstanding these measures, three children under the age of 16 were allegedly able to gain access to the premises. The circumstances surrounding this incident suggest that the licence conditions may not have been effectively implemented or complied with.

It is further concerning that this incident does not appear to be isolated when considered alongside reports received by Cleveland Police over the preceding two years, which include allegations of serious criminal activity and safeguarding concerns associated with the premises.

On 11 October and in a previous role as a Middlesbrough Council Public Health Officer I was working alongside PC Amy Roberts from Cleveland Police Licensing Section in the town centre visiting licensed premises to deliver materials and communications around a night-time safety campaign.

During our visits, I accompanied PC Roberts to Lounge Afrique as she advised that there had been a complaint/allegation received regarding spiking's, female toilets being closed on the ground floor and alleged sexual offences being committed in a room situated on the 2nd floor of the premises.

Upon entering the premises, we were met by both Mr Percy (PLH) and Jerry Quarcoo (DPS). PC Roberts advised them both about the complaint/allegations received and asked them to show us around the premises, in particular, the 1st floor and 2nd floor where it had been alleged that females were having to use a toilet (1st floor) and where potential sexual offences were occurring (2nd Floor).

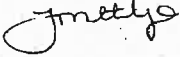
During the visit, it was confirmed that the ground floor ladies' toilets was out of use and that the toilet on the first floor was being used as an alternative by females. It was also confirmed that there was a room on the 2nd floor that was being used as a bedroom by the PLH and DPS due to them living out of the area. This room had two double sized beds which were made up with quilts and pillows.

At the time both the PLH and DPS advised that they felt the allegations made to Police were malicious due to a disgruntled female member of staff that had since stopped working at the premises.

On 17th October 2024 I attended Middlesbrough Council's Responsible Authorities meeting which is held monthly and attended by the named Responsible Authorities within the Licensing Act 2003. During the meeting, PC Roberts provided an update regarding our visit to Lounge Afrique on 11 October 2024. A representative of Cleveland Fire Brigade (CFB) was present at the meeting and due to the concerns being raised regarding people sleeping at the premises, an action was taken from the meeting for CFB to visit the premises to check compliance against fire safety regulations

At a further Responsible Authorities meeting held on 21st November 2024 a representative of CFB provided an update advising that they had visited the premises and had found evidence that people were sleeping at the premises. They advised that a prohibition notice had been served to prevent this from happening as there was only one fire escape route in the event of fire and this was through premises. This was deemed a Public Safety risk.

Given the seriousness of the allegations, the age of those involved, and the apparent failures in the implementation of measures intended to prevent underage access to the premises, the Licensing Authority considers that the continued operation of the premises in its current manner poses a serious risk to public safety and fails to promote the licensing objectives, namely the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety and the protection of children from harm. The responsibility rests with the Premises Licence Holder, DPS, and staff to always ensure lawful and responsible operation, including the safeguarding of young and vulnerable persons and compliance with licensing conditions.

Signed: 

Dated 05.08.26

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Mr Percy Quarcoo
Lounge Afrique
25 Corporation Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 1LP

Dated: 05 August 2026

Dear Sirs,

LICENSING ACT 2003

Premises: Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

I am writing to advise you that as the Responsible Authority for Licensing a representation has been made to the Licensing Authority in support of the review application made by Cleveland Police in respect of the above premises.

This representation is made in relation to the crime and disorder, public safety, and protection of children from harm licensing objectives. There are several areas of concern regarding these premises including children under the age of 18 years being allowed access into the premises resulting in a serious alleged sexual offence on a minor.

If you would like to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Fiona Helyer
Principle Public Protection Officer
Licensing

Middlesbrough Council
The Licensing Act 2003 - Responsible Authority (RA) Representation

Name of RA Representative: Fiona Helyer, Principal Public Protection Officer (Licensing).

Address: Public Protection, Middlesbrough Council, PO Box 500, Middlesbrough, TS1 9FT.

Email: EHTS@middlesbrough.gov.uk **Tel** 01642 728717

Licence holder details

Name and Address of Premises – Lounge Afrique

Address: 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

Name of licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)
Mr Percy Quarcoo

Number of premises licence or club premise certificate (if known)

MBRO/PR0086/083647

Representation

It is my opinion that the application fails to adequately satisfy the following licensing objectives:

☒	Prevention of Crime and Disorder
☐	Prevention of Public Nuisance
☒	Public Safety
☒	Protection of Children from Harm

Grounds for representation (including details of any previous representations)

Representation by Middlesbrough Council (Licensing Authority)
Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises Licence: Lounge Afrique, Middlesbrough

This representation is submitted by Middlesbrough Council in its capacity as the Responsible Authority for Licensing, in support of the summary review application made by Cleveland Police in respect of Lounge Afrique.

The Licensing Authority supports the review on the grounds that the premises is being operated in a manner that undermines the licensing objectives, specifically the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, and the protection of children from harm. The operation of the premises presents an ongoing risk to public safety.

Lounge Afrique is located on Corporation Road within the Central Ward, an area designated as a Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP1) zone. This designation reflects the high concentration of licensed premises and associated levels of alcohol-related crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, and health-related harm.

The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) for these premises is Mr Percy Quarcoo, the nominated Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) is a male named Jerry Quarcoo. The Premises Licence was transferred to the PLH on 16 December 2022; Jerry Quarcoo has held the position of DPS since this time.

The premises is licensed for the following licensable activity:

- Films – 9am- 2am
- Recorded Music – 9am – 03:00
- Live Music 9am – 2.30am
- Performance of Dance – 9am – 02.30am
- Late Night Refreshment – 11pm – 2.30am
- Sale of alcohol (onsales) – 9am – 3.00am

All the above are across seven days a week

Lounge Afrique is a well- established nightclub in Middlesbrough that attracts a high proportion of night-time revellers from the Afro Caribbean community to Middlesbrough town centre on a weekly basis.

Cleveland Police have provided information regarding a serious incident that reportedly occurred between 01:30hrs and 02:30hrs on 18 July 2026. The incident involved a female under the age of 16 who had allegedly left her home address without parental permission and attended Lounge Afrique accompanied by two other females, also under the age of 16.

It is alleged that whilst at the premises, the female became the victim of a serious sexual offence, namely rape.

These circumstances raise significant concerns regarding the safeguarding of children and vulnerable young persons. Furthermore, they call into question the effectiveness of the measures in place at the premises to prevent persons under the age of 18 from gaining entry and accessing alcohol.

The Premises Licence is subject to several conditions designed to promote the licensing objectives and protect children from harm, including the deployment of SIA-registered door supervisors, the operation of a Challenge 25 age-verification policy, and the provision of staff training in relation to age-restricted sales. It is a matter of significant concern that, notwithstanding these measures, three children under the age of 16 were allegedly able to gain access to the premises. The circumstances surrounding this incident suggest that the licence conditions may not have been effectively implemented or complied with.

It is further concerning that this incident does not appear to be isolated when considered alongside reports received by Cleveland Police over the preceding two years, which include allegations of serious criminal activity and safeguarding concerns associated with the premises.

On 11 October and in a previous role as a Middlesbrough Council Public Health Officer I was working alongside PC Amy Roberts from Cleveland Police Licensing Section in the town centre visiting licensed premises to deliver materials and communications around a night-time safety campaign.

During our visits, I accompanied PC Roberts to Lounge Afrique as she advised that there had been a complaint/allegation received regarding spiking's, female toilets being closed on the ground floor and alleged sexual offences being committed in a room situated on the 2nd floor of the premises.

Upon entering the premises, we were met by both Mr Percy (PLH) and Jerry Quarcoo (DPS). PC Roberts advised them both about the complaint/allegations received and asked them to show us around the premises, in particular, the 1st floor and 2nd floor where it had been alleged that females were having to use a toilet (1st floor) and where potential sexual offences were occurring (2nd Floor).

During the visit, it was confirmed that the ground floor ladies' toilets was out of use and that the toilet on the first floor was being used as an alternative by females. It was also confirmed that there was a room on the 2nd floor that was being used as a bedroom by the PLH and DPS due to them living out of the area. This room had two double sized beds which were made up with quilts and pillows.

At the time both the PLH and DPS advised that they felt the allegations made to Police were malicious due to a disgruntled female member of staff that had since stopped working at the premises.

On 17th October 2024 I attended Middlesbrough Council's Responsible Authorities meeting which is held monthly and attended by the named Responsible Authorities within the Licensing Act 2003. During the meeting, PC Roberts provided an update regarding our visit to Lounge Afrique on 11 October 2026. A representative of Cleveland Fire Brigade (CFB) was present at the meeting and due to the concerns being raised regarding people sleeping at the premises, an action was taken from the meeting for CFB to visit the premises to check compliance against fire safety regulations

At a further Responsible Authorities meeting held on 21st November 2024 a representative of CFB provided an update advising that they had visited the premises and had found evidence that people were sleeping at the premises. They advised that a prohibition notice had been served to prevent this from happening as there was only one fire escape route in the event of fire and this was through premises. This was deemed a Public Safety risk.

Given the seriousness of the allegations, the age of those involved, and the apparent failures in the implementation of measures intended to prevent underage access to the premises, the Licensing Authority considers that the continued operation of the premises in its current manner poses a serious risk to public safety and fails to promote the licensing objectives, namely the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety and the protection of children from harm. The responsibility rests with the Premises Licence Holder, DPS, and staff to always ensure lawful and responsible operation, including the safeguarding of young and vulnerable persons and compliance with licensing conditions.

Signed: 

Dated 05.08.26

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Mr Percy Quarcoo
Lounge Afrique
25 Corporation Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 1LP

Date: 10 August 2026

Dear Sir

LICENSING ACT 2003

Premises: Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

I am writing to advise you that as the Responsible Authority for Public Health a representation has been made to the Licensing Authority in support of the review application made by Cleveland Police in respect of the above premises.

This representation is made in relation to the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, and the protection of children from harm licensing objectives. Serious concerns have been identified regarding an allegation of rape and safeguarding concerns relating to underage access to your premises and the exposure of significant risks of physical and psychological harm to young people.

If you would like to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Lindsay Clode
Senior Public Health Officer
Licensing
Middlesbrough Council

Middlesbrough Council
The Licensing Act 2003 - Responsible Authority (RA) Representation

Name of RA Representative: Lindsay Clode, Senior Public Health Officer

Address: Public Health and Public Protection Service, Civic Centre, Middlesbrough.

Email: lindsay.clode@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Licence holder details

Name and Address of Premises

Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

Name of licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)

Mr Percy Quarcoo
25 Corporation Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 1LP

Number of premises licence or club premise certificate (if known)

MBRO/PR0086/083647

Representation

It is my opinion that the application fails to adequately satisfy the following licensing objectives:

☒	Prevention of Crime and Disorder
☐	Prevention of Public Nuisance
☒	Public Safety
☒	Protection of Children from Harm

Grounds for representation (including details of any previous representations)

This representation is made by the Responsible Authority for Public Health in support of the application submitted by Cleveland Police to review the premises licence for Lounge Afrique. Public Health makes this representation on the grounds of the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, and the protection of children from harm.

Lounge Afrique is a well-known nightclub located on Corporation Road, Middlesbrough. The current Premises Licence Holder is Mr Percy Quarcoo and the named Designated Premises

Supervisor is Mr Jerry Edward Quarcoo. A premises licence is in place permitting licensable activities, including the sale of alcohol, between 09:00 and 02:30 hours seven days a week.

The premises are situated within Middlesbrough Council's designated Cumulative Impact Policy Area (CIP1) for on-licensed premises. This area has been identified due to the concentration of licensed venues and the associated levels of alcohol-related crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, violence and health harms. Premises operating within the CIP area have an important responsibility to promote the licensing objectives and minimise alcohol-related harm.

On 27 July 2026, Cleveland Police applied for an expedited review following a serious incident which occurred during the early hours of 18 July 2026. Police received a report from the parent of a female aged under 16 who had left home without permission and attended Lounge Afrique. Whilst at, or following her attendance at, the premises, the child is alleged to have become the victim of a serious sexual offence, namely rape. Significant safeguarding concerns arise from this incident, particularly given the age of the victim and the fact that accompanying witnesses were also under the age of 16.

The investigation identified that multiple children, including the victim, gained access to the licensed premises despite a licence condition prohibiting children from being present after 21:00 hours and a requirement to operate a Challenge 25 policy. The apparent failure of age-verification and safeguarding measures enabled underage individuals to enter an adult licensed environment and purchase and consume alcohol. These circumstances raise serious concerns regarding the adequacy of management oversight, compliance with licence conditions, and the effectiveness of controls intended to safeguard children and young people.

Alcohol consumption by children and young people is associated with increased risks of injury, violence, impaired judgement, vulnerability to exploitation and other alcohol-related harms. Alcohol may also reduce awareness of risk and increase susceptibility to unsafe situations. Effective age-verification measures are a critical safeguard for protecting children and young people, and their apparent failure in this case exposed children to avoidable risks within the night-time economy.

Data published by the Office for National Statistics demonstrates that sexual offending remains a significant issue across the Cleveland area. During 2024/25, Cleveland Police recorded 2,759 sexual offences, including 961 rape offences, with both categories increasing compared with the previous year. This broader picture is reflected within Middlesbrough town centre, where data presented to the Middlesbrough Town Centre Strategic Partnership recorded 21 sexual offences between July 2025 and June 2026, including five rape offences. Taken together, this evidence

demonstrates that sexual violence remains an ongoing local concern and reinforces the importance of effective safeguarding arrangements and measures to protect children from harm, particularly within the night-time economy.

Children and young people are a particularly vulnerable population, and child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and safeguarding remain key priorities across Middlesbrough. Dedicated multi-agency arrangements, including the Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) process, reflect the recognised risks faced by vulnerable children and young people locally.

Information provided by Cleveland Police indicates that this is not an isolated incident and that there have been previous reports involving serious crime and safeguarding concerns linked to the premises over the last two years. When considered alongside the current allegation involving a child, these matters raise significant concerns regarding the effectiveness of management oversight, compliance with licence conditions and the adequacy of measures in place to prevent crime and disorder, protect vulnerable persons and uphold the licensing objectives.

The allegations that staff and management have failed to fully cooperate with investigative enquiries are also concerning. Effective safeguarding relies upon partnership working, timely information sharing and full cooperation with responsible authorities. Any barriers to safeguarding investigations may undermine the ability of agencies to assess and manage risk, particularly where children and vulnerable individuals are involved.

The protection of children from harm is a fundamental licensing objective, serious sexual violence against a child can have devastating and lifelong consequences for health, wellbeing, education and future life opportunities. Such experiences are recognised as significant adverse childhood experiences and are associated with increased risks of poor physical and mental health, substance misuse, social isolation and future victimisation.

Given the seriousness of the allegation, the age of the victim, the apparent failure of measures intended to prevent underage access, and the wider pattern of crime and safeguarding concerns associated with the premises, Public Health supports Cleveland Police's application for a premises licence review. The available evidence raises significant concerns regarding the promotion of the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety and the protection of children from harm

Signed: 

Dated August 10th 2026

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Mr Percy Quarcoo
Lounge Afrique
25 Corporation Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 1LP

Dated: 10 August 2026

Dear Sirs,

LICENSING ACT 2003

Premises: Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

I am writing to advise you that as the Responsible Authority for Childrens Services a representation has been made to the Licensing Authority in support of the review application made by Cleveland Police in respect of the above premises.

This representation is made in relation to the crime and disorder and protection of children from harm licensing objectives. There are several areas of concern regarding these premises including the potential risk that children may be exposed to criminality, violence, sexual exploitation, alcohol and drug misuse.

If you would like to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Kay Darque
Head of Partnerships
Middlesbrough Children's Services

Middlesbrough Council
The Licensing Act 2003 - Responsible Authority (RA) Representation

Name of RA Representative: (Childrens Services).

Address: Children's Services, Middlesbrough Council, PO Box 500, Middlesbrough, TS1 9FT.

Email: EHTS@middlesbrough.gov.uk **Tel** 01642 728717

Licence holder details

Name and Address of Premises – Lounge Afrique

Address: 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

Name of licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)
Mr Percy Quarcoo

Number of premises licence or club premise certificate (if known)

MBRO/PR0086/083647

Representation

It is my opinion that the application fails to adequately satisfy the following licensing objectives:

☒	Prevention of Crime and Disorder
☐	Prevention of Public Nuisance
☐	Public Safety
☒	Protection of Children from Harm

Grounds for representation (including details of any previous representations)

I, Kay Dargue, as the designated officer for the 'Responsible Authority', Children's Services, Middlesbrough Council fully support the summary review application made by Cleveland Police in respect of Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough. We do so on the following grounds;

On 18 July 2026, between approximately 01:30hrs and 02:30hrs, three children, believed to be aged 14 and 15 years, were reportedly able to enter the premises without being challenged in relation to their age. It is further alleged that the children were subsequently supplied with alcohol whilst on the premises.

During the same period, a serious incident was reported involving one of the children, namely an allegation of rape.

It would appear that the three children involved were not challenged regarding their age either

upon entry to the premises or at the point at which alcohol was supplied to them. This raises significant concerns about the adequacy and effectiveness of the premises' age-verification procedures, access controls, and wider safeguarding measures designed to protect children from harm.

The circumstances of this incident also call into question the adequacy of staff training and the effectiveness of procedures intended to ensure compliance with licence conditions. Staff failed to challenge the age of the children concerned and, in doing so, failed to identify and respond appropriately to the risks associated with underage persons being present in licensed premises late at night, consuming alcohol and being exposed to an adult environment.

Of particular concern is the potential risk to other children should these measures continue to be inadequately applied. In the absence of robust and consistently enforced age-verification and safeguarding procedures, there is a risk that children may be exposed to criminality, violence, sexual exploitation, alcohol and drug misuse, and other forms of harm.

Having considered the circumstances of this incident and the apparent failure to safeguard the children involved, there are serious concerns regarding the effectiveness of the controls currently in place at Lounge Afrique. In particular, whether the premises is promoting the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm. The incident suggests that existing systems and procedures are either inadequate or are not being implemented effectively, resulting in a failure to prevent underage persons from accessing the premises and being supplied with alcohol.

Signed: K.Dargue

Date: 10.8.2026

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