

Evidence presented by Middlesbrough Council Licensing acting as Responsible Authority, in relation to the Review Application made by Cleveland Police under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of The Empire Nightclub, Corporation Road, Middlesbrough.

Further to my earlier representation made on 30 May 2022 I wish to add the following:

On 30 June 2022 I visited the Empire with Officers from the Council, Cleveland Police and Cleveland Fire Service. Following the visit I was copied into correspondence dated 5 July 2022 from Cleveland Fire Service to The Empire highlighting a number of Fire Safety Deficiencies at the premises (Exhibit TH1). The letter advises that the Fire Service will carry out a further inspection of the premises on 4 October 2022 to ensure the requirements of the schedule of works have been completed.

On 4 August 2022 I received an email from Ashley Wem, Managing Director of The Empire informing me that he wished to remove Peter Hope as Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) from the premises licence and to appoint himself as the DPS (Exhibit TH2).

According to the Council's records Ashley Wem has always been the DPS on the premises licence since the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003 (in 2005). It is surprising to note that Mr Wem was not aware that he held the position of DPS at the premises.

Signed: T. Hodgkinson Dated 6 September 2022