

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

Name of RA Representative: Fiona Helyer, Public Health Officer

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Licence holder details

Name and Address of Premises

The Middlesbrough Empire

Address: Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 2RT

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

The Middlesbrough Empire 2008 Limited

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

MBRO/PL0173/019242

Representation

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

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

Grounds for representation (including details of any previous representations)

This representation is being made by the Responsible Authority for Health on the grounds of crime and disorder, public safety, and the protection of children from harm to support the application made by Cleveland Police for review of the premises licence in respect of The Middlesbrough Empire.

The Middlesbrough Empire is a well-known nightclub in Middlesbrough that attracts a high proportion of night-time revellers to Middlesbrough town centre on a weekly basis. These premises are situated on Corporation Road, Middlesbrough. A premises licence is in place which allows licensable activities to take place, including the sale of alcohol, between the

hours of 11am – 3.30am, seven days a week.

In September 2022 a Licensing Sub Committee was held following a number of serious incidents occurring at the premises including a stabbing of a 19-year-old male. Person(s) arrested were found to be all under the age of 18 years. There were also concerns around persons under the age of 18 years being allowed to frequent these premises for the purpose of consuming alcohol and concerns around the doorstaff operating at the premises.

Middlesbrough Council's Licensing Committee heard evidence from Cleveland Police, Public Health, and Licensing representatives as to their concerns. Following this, a full committee report was produced which included the outcome of the hearing (Exhibit Ref FMH/1).

On 26 March 2024, Cleveland Police applied for an expedited review following a further serious incident that occurred at the premises on Saturday 23 March 2024 involving a member of the doorstaff team. During this incident the member of doorstaff was seen to pick up a young male, placing him in the upside-down position before forcibly throwing him to the ground on his head. Members of the doorstaff team were then seen to drag the young male by his clothing whilst he was clearly unconscious, placing him onto the pavement before walking away.

Members of the doorstaff and management team failed to provide any immediate first aid and care to the injured male and/or contact emergency services for help.

On 22 March 2024, I along with a member of Cleveland Police had cause to attend Middlesbrough Empire to carry out follow up enquiries for a further incident that had occurred during a 14+ Bad Boy Chiller Crew event that had been held at the premises on Saturday 16 March 2024. As this was a 14+ event, children aged 14-18 years were allowed entry to the premises.

During this event a young 16 year old male who had been drinking at the premises and was intoxicated, assaulted another young customer before leaving the premises. When outside of the premises the same male hit the window of a passing taxi that was transporting passengers, causing the glass window to smash, showering the passengers in glass. He then went on to damage an ambulance that had been called to the premises to help another young customer inside of the premises before assaulting a Police Officer.

On 15 December 2024 I was in attendance at the front door of the premises with Police and Community Safety Officers when a fight spilled out onto the street from inside of the venue. This incident left the injured party needing hospital treatment for missing teeth and a suspected broken nose and jaw bones.

Such incidents impact massively on all blue light services including Ambulance, Police and local Accident and Emergency departments.

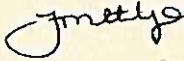
Data received from Middlesbrough Council's Safe Haven Service indicates that the medical team have tended to several incidents of alcohol related violence, intoxication and/or substance misuse that have taken place at The Empire.

It is apparent that there are still ongoing issues at these premises since the last review and that the safety of the public is being put at risk. The information provided above demonstrates the extent of the risks to public safety presented by this premise. , in terms of the extent of the injury, treatment required and the demands which have been placed on the Emergency services and hospital resources, all of which raise serious concerns.

It is the responsibility of the Premises Licence Holders/Designated Premises Supervisors and all staff working at the premises including doorstaff to ensure that they uphold the law and the licensing objectives and provide a duty of care to anyone visiting the premises. It is clear from the latest serious incident that the licensing objectives have been undermined and that there is a clear lack of control at these premises.

Further evidence will be submitted prior to any future licensing sub-committee hearing

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jmettys', is written over the printed word 'Signed:'.

Dated 4 April 2024