

COMMITTEE REPORT

LICENSING COMMITTEE

18 August 2025

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Applicant: Cleveland Police

Ref.No. PR0072

Premises: Cleveland Huntsman, Cass House Road, Middlesbrough, TS8 9DW

Premises Licence Holder: Star Pubs Trading Limited.

Designated Premises Supervisor: N/A

Application received: 25 July 2025

Summary of Current Licensable Activities:

Live music, recorded music, facilities for dancing, facility like music/dance, sale of alcohol on and off the premises

Hours for Licensable Activities:

11.00am to Midnight Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday

11.00am to 11.00pm Tuesday and Wednesday

Noon to 10.30pm Sunday

1. Summary of Application:

1. Members will recall that at its meeting held on Monday 28 July 2025, the Licensing Sub-Committee considered an application for a summary review of the premises licence for Cleveland Huntsman following a submission made by Cleveland Police.
2. A copy of the application made by Cleveland Police is attached at Appendix 1, and a copy of the existing premises licence for Cleveland Huntsman is attached at Appendix 2.
3. Having considered the summary review application at the above meeting, the Licensing Sub-Committee decided to suspend the Premises Licence and to

remove the Designated Premises Supervisor as interim steps pending a full review hearing. The full decision and reasons are as follows:-

4. The Committee considered an application from the Police for a summary review of a Premises Licence in respect of the Cleveland Huntsman, Cass House Road, Middlesbrough, TS8 9DW which operates as a pub 11.00am to Midnight, Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 11:00 to 11.00pm Tuesday and Wednesday and Noon to 10:30pm Sundays.
5. 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.
6. The Committee considered the report, the application, the certification made by the Superintendent, the representations made by the Police and the Premises Licence Holder.
7. The Committee considered Sections 53A and 53B of the Act, it considered the Council's Licensing Policy and the Government Guidance.
8. The Committee carefully considered the application, certificate and representations of the Police and the representations and information provided by the Premises Licence Holder and its representatives.

Decision

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**

The reasons for the decision are as follows:

9. A serious incident occurred at the Premises on Thursday 24 July 2025 at around 18:40.
10. The Premises were open and serving alcohol when an argument broke out between two individuals. The perpetrator has then used a bladed article to slash at the victim's neck as well as stab the victim to the abdomen area causing a puncture wound. The victim was taken to hospital.
11. No attempts were made by the Designated Premises Supervisor to contact the Ambulance service or Cleveland Police, the Police only became aware when the Ambulance service notified them. The Ambulance service was contacted by a 3rd party.
12. The Committee viewed the CCTV footage of the incident and determined that it was both serious crime and disorder.
13. The Committee concluded that this incident was so significant that the interim steps are proportionate to prevent further disorder and to promote the licensing objectives.

14. The Designated Premises Supervisor lives on the Premises and whilst they remain there, there are serious concerns with the Premises being opened.
15. The Premises Licence Holder and Police were both in agreement with the interim steps that have been subsequently taken by the Committee.
16. The interim steps take place immediately.
17. There is no right of appeal against the interim steps.
18. If the Premises Licence Holder makes representations to the interim steps a hearing will be convened to hear those representations with 48 hours (not including any non-working day)

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 issues 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.

Should interim steps be imposed by the Licensing Authority the Licensing Act 2003 provides that the premises licence holder may make representations against the interim steps taken by the Licensing Authority. In this instance the premises licence holder has not made any further representations in respect of the interim steps taken to suspend the premises licence and remove the designated premises supervisor, the premises has remained closed since the hearing on 28 July 2025.

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.

Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee are also reminded that in addition to determining the outcome of the application to review the Premises, they must also review the interim measures imposed at the hearing on 28 July 2025.

Members may consider the following options:

- To keep interim measures in place
- To modify the interim measures
- To remove the interim measures.

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 25 July 2025, 2 further representations were received.

On 3 August 2025 a representation was received from Nicola Morley, a local resident (Appendix 3).

On 5 August 2025 a representation was received from Jade O'Brien, a local resident (Appendix 4).

On 6 August 2025 a representation was received from Neil Thompson, a local resident (Appendix 5).

On 7 August 2025 a representation was received from Tracey Hufton, a local resident (Appendix 6).

On 7 August 2025 a representation was received from Scarlet Hufton, a local resident (Appendix 7).

On 7 August 2025 a representation was received from Jamie Hufton, a local resident (Appendix 8).

On 8 August 2025 further evidence was received from Sgt Glyn Bavin of Cleveland Police (Appendix 9).

4. Background

These premises operate as a community pub situated in Hemlington, Middlesbrough near to a parade of local shops that serve the community. The premises have had the benefit of a premises licence under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 since 2005 and a Justices Licence and Public Entertainment Licence for many years prior to that date.

5. The Licensing Policy

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

Prevention of Crime & Disorder
Reviews

Pages 20-24
Pages 47-50

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

6. Guidance to the Licensing Act 2003

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

Prevention of Crime and Disorder
Summary Reviews

Starting at Paragraph 2.1
Starting at Paragraph 12.1

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

7. 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.

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