

## 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 disorder<sup>1</sup>.

*Premises<sup>2</sup>:*

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 <sup>3</sup> 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, because<sup>4</sup>:

#### **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

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<sup>1</sup> Delete as applicable.

<sup>2</sup> Include business name and address and any other relevant identifying details.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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)**

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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.

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(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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bavin 417', written over the printed name and capacity.

**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.