


Public Health and Public Protection

Percy Quarcoo



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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

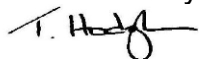
Designated Premises Supervisor

Gerry Quarcoo

1. The Committee considered an application from the Police for a summary review of a 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:

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