

Mr Percy Quarcoo
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dated: 05 August 2026

Dear Sirs,

LICENSING ACT 2003

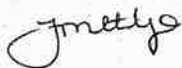
Premises: Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

I am writing to advise you that as the Responsible Authority for Licensing a representation has been made to the Licensing Authority in support of the review application made by Cleveland Police in respect of the above premises.

This representation is made in relation to the crime and disorder, public safety, and protection of children from harm licensing objectives. There are several areas of concern regarding these premises including children under the age of 18 years being allowed access into the premises resulting in a serious alleged sexual offence on a minor.

If you would like to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Fiona Helyer
Principle Public Protection Officer
Licensing

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

Name of RA Representative: Fiona Helyer, Principal Public Protection Officer (Licensing).

Address: Public Protection, Middlesbrough Council, PO Box 500, Middlesbrough, TS1 9FT.

Email: EHTS@middlesbrough.gov.uk **Tel** 01642 728717

Licence holder details

Name and Address of Premises – Lounge Afrique

Address: 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

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

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

MBRO/PR0086/083647

Representation

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

☒	Prevention of Crime and Disorder
☐	Prevention of Public Nuisance
☒	Public Safety
☒	Protection of Children from Harm

Grounds for representation (including details of any previous representations)

Representation by Middlesbrough Council (Licensing Authority)
Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Premises Licence: Lounge Afrique, Middlesbrough

This representation is submitted by Middlesbrough Council in its capacity as the Responsible Authority for Licensing, in support of the summary review application made by Cleveland Police in respect of Lounge Afrique.

The Licensing Authority supports the review on the grounds that the premises is being operated in a manner that undermines the licensing objectives, specifically the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, and the protection of children from harm. The operation of the premises presents an ongoing risk to public safety.

Lounge Afrique is located on Corporation Road within the Central Ward, an area designated as a Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP1) zone. This designation reflects the high concentration of licensed premises and associated levels of alcohol-related crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, and health-related harm.

The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) for these premises is Mr Percy Quarcoo, the nominated Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) is a male named Jerry Quarcoo. The Premises Licence was transferred to the PLH on 16 December 2022; Jerry Quarcoo has held the position of DPS since this time.

The premises is licensed for the following licensable activity:

- Films – 9am- 2am
- Recorded Music – 9am – 03:00
- Live Music 9am – 2.30am
- Performance of Dance – 9am – 02.30am
- Late Night Refreshment – 11pm – 2.30am
- Sale of alcohol (onsales) – 9am – 3.00am

All the above are across seven days a week

Lounge Afrique is a well- established nightclub in Middlesbrough that attracts a high proportion of night-time revellers from the Afro Caribbean community to Middlesbrough town centre on a weekly basis.

Cleveland Police have provided information regarding a serious incident that reportedly occurred between 01:30hrs and 02:30hrs on 18 July 2026. The incident involved a female under the age of 16 who had allegedly left her home address without parental permission and attended Lounge Afrique accompanied by two other females, also under the age of 16.

It is alleged that whilst at the premises, the female became the victim of a serious sexual offence, namely rape.

These circumstances raise significant concerns regarding the safeguarding of children and vulnerable young persons. Furthermore, they call into question the effectiveness of the measures in place at the premises to prevent persons under the age of 18 from gaining entry and accessing alcohol.

The Premises Licence is subject to several conditions designed to promote the licensing objectives and protect children from harm, including the deployment of SIA-registered door supervisors, the operation of a Challenge 25 age-verification policy, and the provision of staff training in relation to age-restricted sales. It is a matter of significant concern that, notwithstanding these measures, three children under the age of 16 were allegedly able to gain access to the premises. The circumstances surrounding this incident suggest that the licence conditions may not have been effectively implemented or complied with.

It is further concerning that this incident does not appear to be isolated when considered alongside reports received by Cleveland Police over the preceding two years, which include allegations of serious criminal activity and safeguarding concerns associated with the premises.

On 11 October and in a previous role as a Middlesbrough Council Public Health Officer I was working alongside PC Amy Roberts from Cleveland Police Licensing Section in the town centre visiting licensed premises to deliver materials and communications around a night-time safety campaign.

During our visits, I accompanied PC Roberts to Lounge Afrique as she advised that there had been a complaint/allegation received regarding spiking's, female toilets being closed on the ground floor and alleged sexual offences being committed in a room situated on the 2nd floor of the premises.

Upon entering the premises, we were met by both Mr Percy (PLH) and Jerry Quarcoo (DPS). PC Roberts advised them both about the complaint/allegations received and asked them to show us around the premises, in particular, the 1st floor and 2nd floor where it had been alleged that females were having to use a toilet (1st floor) and where potential sexual offences were occurring (2nd Floor).

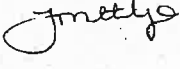
During the visit, it was confirmed that the ground floor ladies' toilets was out of use and that the toilet on the first floor was being used as an alternative by females. It was also confirmed that there was a room on the 2nd floor that was being used as a bedroom by the PLH and DPS due to them living out of the area. This room had two double sized beds which were made up with quilts and pillows.

At the time both the PLH and DPS advised that they felt the allegations made to Police were malicious due to a disgruntled female member of staff that had since stopped working at the premises.

On 17th October 2024 I attended Middlesbrough Council's Responsible Authorities meeting which is held monthly and attended by the named Responsible Authorities within the Licensing Act 2003. During the meeting, PC Roberts provided an update regarding our visit to Lounge Afrique on 11 October 2024. A representative of Cleveland Fire Brigade (CFB) was present at the meeting and due to the concerns being raised regarding people sleeping at the premises, an action was taken from the meeting for CFB to visit the premises to check compliance against fire safety regulations

At a further Responsible Authorities meeting held on 21st November 2024 a representative of CFB provided an update advising that they had visited the premises and had found evidence that people were sleeping at the premises. They advised that a prohibition notice had been served to prevent this from happening as there was only one fire escape route in the event of fire and this was through premises. This was deemed a Public Safety risk.

Given the seriousness of the allegations, the age of those involved, and the apparent failures in the implementation of measures intended to prevent underage access to the premises, the Licensing Authority considers that the continued operation of the premises in its current manner poses a serious risk to public safety and fails to promote the licensing objectives, namely the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety and the protection of children from harm. The responsibility rests with the Premises Licence Holder, DPS, and staff to always ensure lawful and responsible operation, including the safeguarding of young and vulnerable persons and compliance with licensing conditions.

Signed: 

Dated 05.08.26