

Mr Percy Quarcoo
Lounge Afrique
25 Corporation Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 1LP

Dated: 10 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 Childrens Services 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 and protection of children from harm licensing objectives. There are several areas of concern regarding these premises including the potential risk that children may be exposed to criminality, violence, sexual exploitation, alcohol and drug misuse.

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

Yours faithfully,

Kay Darque
Head of Partnerships
Middlesbrough Children's Services

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

Name of RA Representative: (Childrens Services).

Address: Children's Services, 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)

I, Kay Dargue, as the designated officer for the 'Responsible Authority', Children's Services, Middlesbrough Council fully support the summary review application made by Cleveland Police in respect of Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough. We do so on the following grounds;

On 18 July 2026, between approximately 01:30hrs and 02:30hrs, three children, believed to be aged 14 and 15 years, were reportedly able to enter the premises without being challenged in relation to their age. It is further alleged that the children were subsequently supplied with alcohol whilst on the premises.

During the same period, a serious incident was reported involving one of the children, namely an allegation of rape.

It would appear that the three children involved were not challenged regarding their age either

upon entry to the premises or at the point at which alcohol was supplied to them. This raises significant concerns about the adequacy and effectiveness of the premises' age-verification procedures, access controls, and wider safeguarding measures designed to protect children from harm.

The circumstances of this incident also call into question the adequacy of staff training and the effectiveness of procedures intended to ensure compliance with licence conditions. Staff failed to challenge the age of the children concerned and, in doing so, failed to identify and respond appropriately to the risks associated with underage persons being present in licensed premises late at night, consuming alcohol and being exposed to an adult environment.

Of particular concern is the potential risk to other children should these measures continue to be inadequately applied. In the absence of robust and consistently enforced age-verification and safeguarding procedures, there is a risk that children may be exposed to criminality, violence, sexual exploitation, alcohol and drug misuse, and other forms of harm.

Having considered the circumstances of this incident and the apparent failure to safeguard the children involved, there are serious concerns regarding the effectiveness of the controls currently in place at Lounge Afrique. In particular, whether the premises is promoting the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm. The incident suggests that existing systems and procedures are either inadequate or are not being implemented effectively, resulting in a failure to prevent underage persons from accessing the premises and being supplied with alcohol.

Signed: K.Dargue

Date: 10.8.2026