



Maidstone Police Station
Palace Avenue
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 6NF
13/07/12

For the attention of Maidstone Licensing Committee,

Kent Police have received an application for a Sex Establishment Licence (SEL) to be located on part of the first floor of 87-88 Bank Street Maidstone. The building is already the subject of a Premises Licence (10/3716/LAPRE) which covers both the ground floor and the first floor including the area concerned in this application. The original application was for a Night Club style of establishment and conditions were applied to the licence to reflect that style of business.

It is our understanding that a variation will be submitted to the existing Licence to allow for the building alterations which will be necessary for this project.

It appears that the area designated under the SEL application can act as a stand alone premises, therefore Kent Police make these representations in respect of this application and it's use as a Sexual Establishment. It is our understanding that the area designated will still be subject of the conditions from the original Premises Licence

By the very nature of its business this type of premises attracts groups of males, often out for a particular purpose i.e. stag nights, birthday celebration etc. Groups of just males do cause more problems than mixed groups or groups of just females, in fact many clubs at times operate a system of refusing entry to groups consisting of males only.

Unfortunately it often appears that the main purpose of a stag night or even a birthday celebration "night out with the lads" is to get the subject completely drunk. Therefore sexual establishments often attract groups of males intent on getting drunk and it is this combination which can cause a disproportionately high number of issues if not controlled.

Not only is the safety of the customers important but so is the safety of the staff, it must be remembered that what might be a common assault upon a staff member at other establishments could be a sexual assault at this one. Therefore conditions need to be specifically designed to allow this premises to run safely.

The main way of dealing with problems is by the use of door staff. From talking to the applicants it is our understanding that the premises intend to use 2 door staff however it is Kent Police's belief that this will not be sufficient. The premises main entrance will be down a flight of stairs therefore the staff member controlling this area will be some way/time from being able to respond to any issue in the main area. It also needs to be remembered that as mentioned above often the clientele will be in groups and therefore door staff will need support when dealing with issues. 2 door staff will not be able to control the front door and eject anyone from inside. The application mentions that the CCTV can be monitored and that dancers in private booths will have access to panic alarms. However there must be enough staff to monitor the CCTV and respond should an alarm sound.

The town already has a Sexual Establishment and they operate with a proportionately high number of doors staff, this appears to work as they have relatively few problems. Therefore Kent Police believe that this venue will also need a higher number of door staff than currently planned for by the applicants.

Kent Police believe that the premises should operate with an absolute minimum of 4 door staff. This would cover a typical everyday scenario of:

One door man covering the main entrance, 2 door men ejecting a customer and one to remain on the floor to control/monitor the premises.

It should also be remembered that this premises is on the first floor and so persons being ejected will need to be taken downstairs safely.

Yours sincerely



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