

Statutory Form for Applying For a Summary Licence Review

West Midlands Police Wolverhampton LPU

Application for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 (premises associated with serious crime or disorder)

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 PC 1080 HARVEY [on behalf of] the chief officer of police for West Midlands Police apply for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003.

1. Premises details: The Talisman

Postal address of premises, or if none or not known, ordnance survey map reference or description:

Wildtree Avenue

Post town: **Wolverhampton**

Post code (if known): **WV10 8LL**

2. Premises licence details: WN/05/003613

Name of premises licence holder (if known): **Punch Taverns Plc.**

Number of premises licence holder (if known):

3. Certificate under section 53A (1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 [Please read guidance note1]:

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.

(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]

The Talisman public house is situated between Wildtree Avenue, and Underhill Lane Wolverhampton. It is a detached property situated a short drive off the A460 Cannock Road and is located directly opposite Berrybrook Primary School. It is surrounded mainly by residential properties.

The hours of trading are Monday to Thursday; 10:00 to 01:30. Friday and Saturday; 10:00 until 02:30 and Sunday; 10:00 to 00:30.

Alcohol sales are Monday to Thursday; 10:00 to 01:00. Friday and Saturday; 10:00 to 02:00 and Sunday; between 10:00 to 00:00.

The premises licence holder is Punch Taverns Plc. Jubilee House, Second Avenue, Burton Upon Trent, DE14 2WF.

The DPS is Mr Peter THACKER who lives in the residential space above the premises.

This application outlines an incident of serious crime identified at the premises, highlighted by a recent intelligence led Police raid.

The brief circumstances of the matter is as follows:

On Friday the 4th of March 2016 at around 19:20 hours, officers from the West Midlands police executed a drugs warrant under S.23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act, at The Talisman public house. The entire premises, including the residential area above, were subject of the warrant.

Upon initial entry, all occupants of the premises were detained for the purposes of a search under powers conferred by the warrant.

It has been noted by attending officers that upon entering the rear lounge area, it was clear that cannabis was openly being smoked. This was due to heavy smoke in the air and the overpowering odour of the drug.

A systematic search of the; location, patrons and staff was conducted; the following items of police interest were found and seized. Two boxes containing large quantities of herbal cannabis in the living quarters. One large whole rock of "crack cocaine" was found in the bar area, along with a set of digital scales. A small self-seal bag of cocaine and two further self-seal bags of cannabis were also found in the bar area. There were also numerous empty self-seal packets littered around the floor and in the male toilets, indicating heavy and regular drug use. Upon inspection of the storage areas, items of equipment consistent with cannabis production were found being stored.

Officers from Wolverhampton trading standards also attended and listed the following items of interest; a large amount of Golden Virginia tobacco pouches, believed to be contraband. A quantity of suspected counterfeit clothing and evidence of supplying non duty paid alcohol to customers.

There were four arrests made by police following the warrant. Two of those were the staff of the premises. Namely, the DPS Mr Peter THACKER who lives in the residential flat above the pub and another member of bar staff. Both were arrested on suspicion of possessing a controlled drug with intent to supply.

One customer was arrested for possession of a Class "A" substance; another was issued a street caution for possession of cannabis.

Another customer was arrested for failing to appear at Court.

Investigations into these offences are live and on-going at the time of writing. If convicted of offences of possessing with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class "B", Mr THACKER and his staff could be sentenced to a maximum 14 years in prison. This clearly constitutes serious crime as defined by the licensing act.

West Midlands Police are gravely concerned regarding the findings of the executed warrant. Not only has it identified serious crime during the operating hours of the venue, we believe there is a criminal culture being allowed to fester unchallenged at the premises.

It appears that the DPS and staff of The Talisman are either implicit in serious criminal activity or, equally as alarmingly, are turning a blind eye to it. On this basis we will be seeking interim steps of an immediate suspension of the premises licence, pending the evidence gathering prior to full review.

Signature of applicant:

Date: **8th March 2016**

Capacity: **Responsible Authority (Police)**

Contact details for matters concerning this application:

Address: **Wolverhampton Police station, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 3AA.**

Telephone number(s): **101 ex 871 3202**

Email: **wv_licensing@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk**

West Midlands Police
Wolverhampton LPU
Wolverhampton Police station
Bilston Street
Wolverhampton

Annex A

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;

**The Talisman
Wildtree Avenue
Low Hill
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV10 8LL**

Premises licence number (if known): **WN/05/003613**

Name of premises supervisor (if known): **Mr Peter THACKER**

I am a superintendent in the West Midlands Police. I am giving this certificate because I am of the opinion that other procedures under the Licensing Act are inappropriate in this case because procedures such as a standard review process are not thought to be sufficient to promote public safety or the prevention of crime licensing objectives due to the seriousness of the crime associated with this case.

Name:

M. O'HARA

Signature:



Rank:

SUPERINTENDENT

Date:

08/03/16



