

WITNESS STATEMENT				
Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9				
		URN		
Statement of: Claire Hime				
Age if under 18:		(if over 18 insert 'over 18')	Occupation: Police Inspector 754	
This statement (consisting of page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.				
Signature: C Hime			Date 09/07/21	

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for Lincoln City Centre. I am writing this statement to make representations regarding the alcohol licence application for the High Street Convenience Store, Unit 7, Stonebow Centre, Silver Street, Lincoln, LN2 1 DY to operate off sales, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, as part of a Post Office.

I would like to make the following representations to demonstrate that 24 hour a day alcohol sales in this location are likely to contribute to alcohol related crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in this area, which is already a repeat location for this type of activity.

The location of the High Street Convenience Store falls within a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) that was granted in 2015 due to high levels of street drinking and substance misuse in this area. The order states that 'No person in the restricted area shall engage in any of the following activities: ingesting, inhaling, injecting, smoking or otherwise using an intoxicating substance, unless for an exempted use' this includes alcohol. The PSPO was reviewed on 27th February 2021 and granted for a further 3 years. My concern would be that off sales 24 hours a day would result in PSPO breaches, particularly when this is an area of concentrated pubs and clubs, and individuals leaving those establishments or refused entry by them may attempt to buy alcohol from this location.

Silver Street falls within a relatively small geographical area of the city centre in which the majority of Lincoln City Centre's pubs, clubs and taxi ranks are located. If we look at pre pandemic lockdown

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reporting on Silver Street, for the years 2017- 2019, 444 incidents were reported on Silver Street Lincoln, 123 of these were incidents relating to violence. On review, these are overwhelmingly linked to licensed premises and alcohol consumption. There are 89 incidents of antisocial behaviour: drunken or inconsiderate behaviour. A further 38 incidents are concerns for welfare, once again predominately linked to licensed premises and alcohol consumption. The incidents during this period have resulted in 336 crimes being recorded: 199 offences of violence, 44 crimes of public disorder and 27 offences of criminal damage. As lockdown restrictions are eased and the hospitality sector fully reopens, I have no doubt that there will be a return to pre pandemic levels of reporting of alcohol related crime disorder and antisocial behaviour in this area.

In summary, this application is for an alcohol licence for around the clock alcohol sales that I have concerns would contribute to what historically has been a repeat location for alcohol related crime and ASB. In light of this, I would request consideration of any conditions that would ensure responsible alcohol sales by any new licensed premises in this area.

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