

13 April 2022

**Bradford Council Licensing  
Britannia House,  
Bradford  
BD1 1HX**

**RE: 51 Westgate (First Floor), Bradford, BD1 2RD  
Application by Mr Ozan ASO**

**APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE – LICENSING ACT 2003:  
POLICE – LETTER OF REPRESENTATION – ‘QUALIFIED’ OBJECTION:**

West Yorkshire Police are of the opinion that the application contains insufficient information about how the applicant intends to meet the licensing objectives, insufficient information as to what the intended use of the premises will be and concerns over the operating hours of the proposed premises.

We therefore confirm that we are submitting a formal representation against the application on the grounds of:-

1. the prevention of crime & disorder.
2. Public Safety
3. The prevention of public nuisance
4. The protection of Children from harm.

We received the application, via an email from yourselves, on 17 March 2022. Having read and reviewed the application, there appeared to be a lack of information in regards to the ways in which the applicant would look to uphold the 4 licensing objectives and also some confusion over the proposed use of the premises and operating hours. Due to this I attempted to contact the applicant, using the telephone number provided on the application. On one occasion the phone was answered and the person who answered hung up the phone when I introduced myself. Due to this, on 24 March 2022, I sent an email to the address provided on the form asking for the applicant to reply or make contact (providing my contact details) and, to date, have not received a reply or a call. A letter, addressed to the applicant was also sent to his home address, as listed on the form, on 24 March 2022 with, to date, no response.

I have been informed, when checking the contact details for the applicant with yourselves that the applicant replied recently to an email from yourselves which would demonstrate that the email address on the form is, indeed, correct.

Due to this I am unable to address the concerns I have over the application, some of which I will outline below:

**1 – The Applicant**

Firstly, the named applicant is Mr Ozan ASO (dob 02/02/1983). From Police records I am led to believe that this person also goes by the name of Mr Ahmad Ali HUSSAIN (dob 02/02/1983) and also shown to live at the same address as provided on the application form. Mr HUSSAIN was the Designated Premises Supervisor for an off licence premises at 1041

Bolton Road, Bradford between 2017 and early 2020. During this period the premises were visited at least twice by Trading Standards officials and Police Officers and, on each occasion, suspected counterfeit goods were seized. Trading Standards have successfully prosecuted for these offences. Whilst Mr HUSSAIN was not present on these occasions or prosecuted, he was the responsible person for the premises.

Secondly, should Mr Hussain be the applicant, as suspected, then he is also currently under investigation for relevant offences (as defined in the Licensing Act 2003). Unfortunately, as these offences are still being investigated, we are unable to disclose further information at this stage in relation to these.

## 2 – The proposed use and operating hours of the premises

On the application there are comments written by the applicant which are a little ambiguous or confusing. For example “***This place (sic) is open at this time but it will start at 07.00pm sometime may open later then***” The previous quote is unclear as to whether the applicant is stating that their aim is to open beyond the hours requested or not.

When describing the premises, the applicant states “***This place has turned into party hall is going to be music and birthday party and tradition (sic)***” Again, this does not give a great amount of detail and is, again, confusing.

Being unable to contact the applicant by the phone number provided and with no reply to the email sent to him, I am unable to clarify any of these points to any degree of satisfaction.

## 3 – The proposed plan of the premises

Again, in the Home Office Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 Licensing Act 2003, under the section “Plans” Subsection 8.34, it states;

***Plans, for written and electronic applications, will not be required to be submitted in any particular scale, but they must be in a format which is “clear and legible in all material respects”, i.e. they must be accessible and provides sufficient detail for the licensing authority to be able to determine the application, including the relative size of any features relevant to the application. There is no requirement for plans to be professionally drawn as long as they clearly show all the prescribed information.***

Unfortunately, whilst there is a plan submitted with the application, it is crude to say the least, with no sizes noted or details as to what each room is to be utilised as. Similarly there does not appear to be a bar or sales area etc, so it is difficult to determine where any alcohol or late night refreshments will be served or sold from to patrons.

4 – The premises in question have been well know to Police for a number of years. Incidents involving violence, drugs and concerns for the welfare of children are documented at the premises whilst it was being used as a Snooker Hall with rooms for hire for patrons. This was until very recently and would suggest that the persons utilising the premises may well be attracted to any new business located at the same premises, raising concerns relating to safeguarding and crime prevention.

Noted events include;

24/05/2020 – During Covid restrictions, officers attended at the premises and found a number of males playing poker in the premises.

17/11/2021 – Following intelligence to state that there was a cannabis farm at the venue, officers attended and located a large scale cannabis set up. One male was detained and stated that he had come to the UK illegally and was employed at the premises to cultivate the plants being grown.

13/08/2021 – A male states that he was assaulted at the premises during a “sparring” event where boxers and wrestlers would spar with each other.

The above events are crimes recorded at the venue (the Snooker Hall) in recent months. Enquiries with our colleagues at Bradford Council show that they received a call from a gentleman identifying himself as Ozan ASO in May 2020, in relation to business grants, stating that he was the owner of the property and had been since June 2019. This is the same name given as on the application form and demonstrates that the applicant has been in control of these premises at the times of the offences listed above.

## 5 – The Licensing Objectives

In the Home Office Revised Guidance, issued under section 182 Licensing Act 2003, section “Steps to promote the licensing objectives” sub sections 8.41 – 8.42, the guidance clearly states that;

***In completing an operating schedule, applicants are expected to have regard to the statement of licensing policy for their area. They must also be aware of the expectations of the licensing authority and the responsible authorities as to the steps that are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, and to demonstrate knowledge of their local area when describing the steps they propose to take to promote the licensing objectives. Licensing authorities and responsible authorities are expected to publish information about what is meant by the promotion of the licensing objectives and to ensure that applicants can readily access advice about these matters. However, applicants are also expected to undertake their own enquiries about the area in which the premises are situated to inform the content of the application.***

***Applicants are, in particular, expected to obtain sufficient information to enable them to demonstrate, when setting out the steps they propose to take to promote the licensing objectives, that they understand:***

- the layout of the local area and physical environment including crime and disorder hotspots, proximity to residential premises and proximity to areas where children may congregate;***
- any risk posed to the local area by the applicants’ proposed licensable activities; and***
- any local initiatives (for example, local crime reduction initiatives or voluntary schemes including local taxi-marshalling schemes, street pastors and other schemes) which may help to mitigate potential risks.***

Section M of the application states “Describe the steps you intend to take to promote the licensing objectives” with individual boxes for;

- A – General – all four licensing objectives
- B – The prevention of crime and disorder
- C – Public Safety
- D – The Prevention of public nuisance

E – The protection of Children from harm

The applicant has taken the decision to leave all of the above sections blank. Due to this I would draw the conclusion that the applicant is either naïve towards to the licensing objectives, ignorant to the objectives or simply has no intention of promoting the licensing objectives, nor following the guidance issued and demonstrated above. Either conclusion would leave me with absolutely no confidence that the licensing objectives will be met should this application be granted. Indeed, if my above conclusion is correct in regards to the name of the applicant being an alias for Mr HUSSAIN, then it would also demonstrate that the applicant has previously been a responsible person at a licensed premises where some of the above licensing objectives have been proven to have been breached.

Based on the circumstances outlined above, West Yorkshire Police seeks the refusal of the granting of a new premises licence in this instance.

Kind Regards

PC3607 Brown

Licensing Officer, West Yorkshire Police, BD District