



West Midlands Police objection to Premise licence application

European Mini Market

205 Holyhead Road

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WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

Crime No. URN

Statement of Ian WHITEHOUSE

Age if under 18 Over 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")

Occupation Police Sergeant

This statement (consisting of 4 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:  (witness)

Date 25/08/20

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

I am Police Sergeant 1331 WHITEHOUSE of the West Midlands Police currently stationed at Summerfield Police station on the Soho Neighbourhood Police Team.

Historically, Soho/Holyhead Road was an area that had significant police resources allocated to it, however this is no longer the case. My team is now made up of one sergeant, three PC's and two PCSO's.

The Soho/Holyhead Road is an area on the borders of Central Birmingham and Smethwick, approximately 2 miles north west of Birmingham city centre on the A41. The 2001 Population Census found that 25,634 people were living on the Soho ward with a population density of 5,369 people per km² compared with 3,649 people per km² for Birmingham. The Soho ward covers an area of 4.8 km². The ward is a very ethnically diverse area with ethnic minorities making up 76.2% (19,522) of the ward's population, compared with 29.6% for Birmingham. The Soho/Holyhead Road itself stretches for approximately 1 mile and has hundreds of independent retailers and is well established. Examples of such establishments are jewellery shops, clothing shops, financial services, food outlets and restaurants.

Some of the many issues we are trying to deal with on the Soho/Holyhead Road includes begging, Anti-social behaviour, street drinkers and prostitution. Sex workers are often seen on a daily basis, night and day, loitering for the purpose of prostitution. Many are drug and alcohol dependant and often refuse to engage with the Police.

There are high levels of crime along the Soho/Holyhead Road, including burglary and both business and street robberies.

There are also high levels of violent and public order offences, which are aggravated due to alcohol and drug addiction.

There are high levels of shop lifting that are often committed to finance alcohol and drug addiction.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

03/2016

OFFICIAL – (when complete)

①

Crime No.

[Redacted]

URN

[Redacted]

Statement of Ian WHITEHOUSE

The area of Soho road, Holyhead Road, Villa road and Rookery road have become priority locations and need a robust policing response on a daily basis. Failure to ensure the locations are effectively patrolled would lead to a significant increase in crime.

I have reviewed all of the crime across the Soho Ward and can confirm that a large number occur around licensed premises. This is often fuelled by alcohol or drugs and is concentrated in and around convenience stores, betting shops, Public Houses and late night refreshment houses. The large number of licensed premises selling cheap alcohol is a draw for those seeking those items, and has the effect of making the area a less desirable place to attend, live and work.

The Soho Ward has been identified as one of the 'priority areas' together with Birmingham City Centre, with crime levels on the Soho/Holyhead Road being generally quite high.

We have sought to address these problems in a number of different ways, and this has been possible by working with our partners. Some examples of partnership activity include the setting up of a streetwatch group that is made up of local residents, and provides weekly patrols in tackling the prostitution, litter and begging issues.

Soho BID are also a key partner and we have been working jointly with them to conduct patrols to try and help tackle the increase in aggressive begging, street drinking and people using mamba and passing out in shop doorways.

The Soho Road Team have also had heavy involvement in licensed premises on the Soho/ Holyhead Road who have been involved in allowing street drinking and drug dealing to take place in and around their premises.

Officers are conducting regular patrols within the Soho/Holyhead Road area, however, I have come to the conclusion that despite the best efforts of West Midlands police and our key partners we are not seeing the reductions in offending we had hoped for.

We are still experiencing a disproportionate amount of crime, ASB, street drinking in the area despite there being a current PSPO in place. With the constraints re Covid 19 also starting to be relaxed we are also now seeing an upsurge in sex workers along Soho Road/Holyhead Road.

We are working with our partners to try and offer diversion and support work around these issues, however having another location in this area selling alcohol will only hinder these activities and help fuel the difficulties the area is suffering from.

As I have already mentioned, there is already a significant amount of licensed premises along the

Signature

Signature witnessed by

03/2016

OFFICIAL – (when complete)

MG11

Crime No.

URN

Statement of Ian WHITEHOUSE

Soho/Holyhead Road. Therefore there is no public need/demand for such a further establishment. I believe allowing another establishment in this location to sell alcohol will have a significant negative impact on crime and ASB in the area as well as having a detrimental effect on the quality of life for local residents, shoppers and business owners.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

03/2016

OFFICIAL – (when complete)

③

Abdool Rohomon

From: Gareth Snyman
Sent: 14 August 2020 13:53
To: Abdool Rohomon; Steven Lloyd; Ian Whitehouse
Cc: Christopher Jones; Samantha Bonehill
Subject: RE: 205 - Holyhead road

Hi Abs,

We would definitely oppose this from a LWW/PB Sector point of view. The rationale behind this would be that we are currently seeing a disproportionate amount of crime, ASB, Begging and Street Drinking in the Soho Road area despite the fact that there is currently a PSPO present at this location. Further to this we are also experiencing an upsurge in Sex Workers along the Hollyhead/Soho Road area. The sale of liquor will only intensify this situation. We are currently working in conjunction with the Soho BID particularly around the rough sleepers/beggars who are drinking and falling asleep in the shop doorways. We are trying to do diversion and support work around these individuals and having a further location selling alcohol will only serve to hinder and prevent these activities.

Sam- Can you please pen an email ASAP to support us in objecting to this?

Thanks

Kind regards,

Gareth Snyman
Police Sergeant 3082

Ladywood West Coordinator
Birmingham West Neighbourhood Policing Unit
Summerfield Police Station
Icknield Port Road
Birmingham
B16 0DA

101 ext 862 6063
Airwave Issi: 9781
email g.snyman@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk
Please phone 101 for all non emergencies.

'If it's not 999, search WMP Online'

From: Abdool Rohomon
Sent: 14 August 2020 13:47
To: Gareth Snyman; Steven Lloyd; Ian Whitehouse
Cc: Christopher Jones
Subject: RE: 205 - Holyhead road

Hi all

Abdool Rohomon

From: Samantha Bonehill
Sent: 17 August 2020 10:28
To: Gareth Snyman; Abdool Rohomon; Steven Lloyd; Ian Whitehouse
Cc: Christopher Jones; Dominic McGrath; Sean Stanley
Subject: RE: 205 - Holyhead road - Objection new licence application for 205 Holyhead Road, for an off licence where they want to trade from 0700-2300

Dear Colleagues,

Pls can I add an objection to the new licence application for 205 Holyhead Road for an off licence to trade 0700 – 2300.

I echo everything that PS Snyman has said and must add that we are seeing increasing numbers of beggars (who are aggressive) and persons who are drunk, in our area. These numbers appear to be increasing as they appear to be pushed out of the city centre by recent events and have told our officers that it's just as good around Soho Road ie that they can make just as much money and get drink easily here in Soho Road as they can in the City Centre.

Our local Neighbourhood teams are struggling to deal with the demand caused by these greater numbers of beggars and drunken persons and traders and local members of the public have told us that they are afraid to go shopping and that they have never seen "Soho Road so bad." This is terrible to hear as a local police officer but we are simply struggling to deal with more and more beggars, drinkers, especially when they often congregate in big groups or work on what seems to be a shift rota of some coming in to beg, drink, before handing over to others. Indeed, only last week were our teams called out to persons collapsed through drink (two times) and reports from the local BID about aggressive drinking beggars who will actively follow and pester people for money. Coupled with that are reports that some are now also taking the drug "Mamba" which causes further concern for a shopping area based near to residential premises and where women, children, the elderly go to shop locally.

There are already several licensed premises in this area and many street drinkers who congregate around them. A further one selling alcohol from 7am (!) would contribute to these issues.

I hope that this information assists you but should you need anything further, please let me know.

Many thanks

Kindest regards

Sam

PS 2042 Sam Bonehill
Neighbourhood Sergeant
Perry Barr Constituency
Handsworth Police Station
53 Thornhill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 9BT
Tel - 101 or 0345 113 5000 ext. 8623037
Email s.bonehill@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

"Preventing crime, protecting the public and helping those in need."

From: Gareth Snyman
Sent: 14 August 2020 13:53
To: Abdool Rohomon; Steven Lloyd; Ian Whitehouse