

BEFORE THE BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

Summary Review of Premises Licence

Velvet Music Rooms

Broad Street

Birmingham

Evidence submitted on behalf of Sugar Leisure Ltd

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Witness Statement

(CJ Act 1967, s.9 MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(A) and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of Elis Collins

Age if under 18 _____ (if over 18 insert "over 18") Occupation General Manager

This statement (consisting of 10 Pages 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.

Dated the 23 Day of June 2023

Signature 

I Elis Collins WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS: -

1. I am General Manager at Velvet Music Rooms. I have held that position since 2004. It's a family business. My sister Danielle (Dani) Hadley is the director.
2. My role as General Manager, on a day-to-day basis, is hands-on in marketing the business, meeting with customers, dealing with staff and suppliers. My parents no longer have a day-to-day role in the business, my sister and I are the ones who are very hands-on.
3. We have approximately 15 full-time and part-time staff. We employ a dedicated designated premises supervisor, Steve Emmison. Steve has been with us for over 13 years, and has been the DPS for 4 ½ years.
4. In terms of our management structure, Dani and I are here on a daily basis. Steve is the next person in line, he has two junior managers beneath him, Nathan and Jordan, in training for general manager positions. We then have duty managers who will be in charge in their absence, Hilary and Akille (?), both of whom are mature women and very experienced.
5. Most days of the week we open at 2 PM for food service, which is a large part of the business for us. We show sports during the week and live music three times a week. Our normal standard weekly trade is as follows:

Mondays

6. We open at 2 PM. This is probably one of the quietest days of our week, where we provide no entertainment or sports. We have a contract with Hampton hotel where we provide food for their residents, their everyday meals. It's a deal we have with them as they have no

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Ellis Collins

restaurant facility. Hilton issue a voucher and the guests come to us up to 10 PM daily for their meals. Our kitchen closes at 10 PM.

7. Last orders are generally at 11 PM on a Monday and we close shortly thereafter.

Tuesdays

8. Tuesdays is when we host 'Henry's Blues Hour'. Customers tend to arrive between 6 - 6:30 PM, and most customers will have an evening meal and go on to enjoy the blues session music. The live music usually ends by 10:30 PM. We find that customers arrive throughout the evening, it's free entry on the door and the majority of our customers purchase a meal as well as enjoy the entertainment. Tuesdays is one of our most mature nights in the week, when customer ages range from 60 to 80 years of age. We tend to attract approximately 50 to 60 customers, which can increase marginally depending on the calibre of the band playing.
9. This is not a hugely well attended evening, and 50 customers would be the average number of attendees. We call last orders between 11:30 PM and midnight. On these nights, no door staff are deployed. What we do have are several members of the employed staff who are SIA trained and hold valid SIA licences, we believe that as sensible operators we should have that training and resource should it be required. However, there is no need for externally engaged security staff on a Tuesday as the clientele we attract give rise to no concerns of crime or disorder.
10. Tuesdays is promoted by Jim Simpson, he also helps with our Friday and Sunday evenings, which are the three evenings where we have live music in the week. Jim is a gentleman in his 80s, and he has been championing the jazz festival in Birmingham for over two decades now.

Wednesdays

11. Depending on sport fixtures, we show football. We open at 2 PM, provide late lunches and drinks for the afterwork crowd. Football fans tend to arrive at around 7- 7:30 PM close to kick-off times and by 9:30 - 10 PM the bar winds down as the football clientele leave. Again, this is a night where no security is required or deployed as it is simply not needed.

Thursdays

12. We open at 2 PM for food and the afterwork crowd. Background music is played on a computer. We also host salsa classes on Thursdays. Customers arrive from 6:30 PM and classes are staggered with various coached classes which include ballroom, Latin, and other styles of dancing. The customers tend to arrive for the group in which they will participate. The salsa customers tend to leave by 11:30 PM. Each class lasts one hour. That's it for a

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Ellis Collins

Thursday. It's just bar vibes and no other entertainment. Some customers will simply come to have a drink, for example we have a number of individual/solo customers, those that are workers or those who are staying in nearby hotels, who come to our premises because they feel safe here and it's fine for them to be on their own in the bar.

Fridays

13. We open at midday, this is a day when we provide live entertainment, it is fairly new for us on Friday. Tuesdays and Sundays have worked well so we introduced live entertainment on Fridays too. The type of music we play can be described as Cajun music, lots of blues and some Indie. We have a whole band on stage, music usually starts at 7 PM, although this can vary slightly depending on whether there are sporting events being broadcast. The bands generally play two 45 minute sets, taking a break in between, and live music finishes around 10 PM. We then have background music to 1 AM.
14. Our customers are a little younger on a Friday, the majority of customers are aged between 40 to 65 years of age. We can have other customers in the bar, passers-by in their late 20s/early 30s, but predominantly we cater for the more mature customer. It's very much an equal split between male and female customers, possibly even more female led. We tend to have lots of couples who come into the premises.
15. We have two door supervisors on duty on Fridays from 7:30 PM, they finish between 1 - 1:30 AM. Door supervisors are provided by Safetynet Security Group, a provider that we have used for approximately 15 years.

Saturdays

16. We open for breakfast at 11 AM, a late breakfast/brunch. Saturdays are influenced by sporting fixtures if there are any, normally football. Saturday is the only day of the week we have DJs, and these play from as early as 7 PM, playing a collection of 70s and 80s music, normally soulful, Motown-type vibes.
17. At 10 PM, our next DJ comes on. The music becomes more current and up-to-date, and this DJ plays commercial tracks from the charts (pop, dance music, anything you would perhaps hear, say, on Capital FM). Music finishes at 3 AM on a Saturday.
18. By broad Street standards, we are a grown-up bar. We do not have 18-year-olds, the majority of our customers are late 20s ranging 25 – 60 years. We engage 5 security staff on a Saturday.

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Eilis Collins

19. Another feature Saturdays from early in the day is our hosting of hen parties and other celebratory groups. We put on cocktail master classes and 'Sip and Paint' art classes which include still life, life models et cetera. This is not a serious art class, but it's an activity-based group activity which provides entertainment.

Sundays

20. We open earlier at the weekend, at 11 AM, to catch the hotel guests for breakfast and so on. If there is any sport on we will show that, it depends on the fixtures, usually there is rugby, football, Formula One or tennis. There is usually something sporting on the screens.
21. Sunday is a busy day for food. We do lunches and evening meals especially on the terrace area near the street which is popular. We are also a dog friendly venue so it's not uncommon to have dogs outside too.
22. On Sunday evening it's another live music day for us which we term 'Birmingham Rocks'. Entry begins around 6:30 PM. Our customers normally come in for a meal first and then to see the show. It's a varied array of music, for example in the week following the incident giving rise to this review we had a 17 piece brass band. It is quirky and eclectic, we've had, for example, bands that use unusual instruments e.g. washboards, etc. Jim Simpson organises the bands for these performances. Birmingham Rocks finishes at about 10 PM. Customers are there mainly for the music, arriving quite early. Customers are attracted to the premises throughout the evening to enjoy the live music because live music is so rare in Broad Street these days, no other venue locally provides live music like we do.
23. The clientele are generally aged 55 years to 80 years, This is apparent viewing our CCTV footage which will indicate the customer age and profile.
24. There is no need for security for the Birmingham Rocks nights, but we always maintain two members of the bar team who are both SIA trained and badged during these evenings.
25. The above is a recurring theme of how Velvet Music Room operates on a standard weekly basis.

Non-standard events

26. Non-standard events have and do take place at Velvet Music Room. Recently, Birmingham University Union approached us to hold an event in our separately licensed first floor premises Sugar Suite, entry to that event was still through our ground floor Velvet Music Room.

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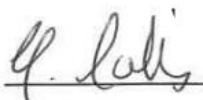
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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Ellis Collins

27. On bank holiday Sundays for example we've had a DJ for those evenings between 10 PM and 1:30 AM and we've put the event on and promoted it ourselves.
28. In terms of the ground floor Velvet Music Room externally promoted events are very rare, we normally place them in our separately licensed first floor event space, Sugar Suite.

The After Party event

29. Steve and Dani can give evidence about the organisation for that event. Generally Steve would take all of the information regarding a proposed event and feed that back to me and Dani. For this After Party event, we were aware of the promoters, Double Impact. One is a DJ and the other is an MC, they are a duo act and quite well-known in Birmingham, possibly better known 10 years ago, but gained revival during lockdown and throughout covid.
30. I did not take part in the initial discussions with the promoter, but between me, Steve and Dani we agreed to hire the venue to them. I think they first contacted Steve with a request to host an After Party, this is a party following a main event held elsewhere during the day. We had worked well with them in the past, and never experienced trouble with them or their attendees. This was the third After Party we had agreed to host, the others being in January and March 2023. The two previous events gave no cause for concern.
31. Our DPS, Steve, was on annual leave the night of the incident. Prior to commencing leave Steve had hand-picked the security team, he went to the effort of naming at least half the team he wanted, including engaging two security Compliance officers who are more experienced and have better training than your average doorman. The compliance officers have a role akin to an area manager and frequent different venues in the city, they are good at leading a team, have advanced first aid, and are generally good at delegating. They have more skills than the average doorman. We requested two compliance officers, we always have one for external events but with Steve on annual leave we felt it best to have another Compliance officer in place. I should add that Steve is also SIA trained and holds an SIA licence, and without him it was sensible for us to request another Compliance officer.
32. On the night, we decided to serve with plastic cups, for speed of service and as a precautionary measure. This was in the knowledge that customers were coming from a party earlier in the day where they may have been consuming alcohol.
33. Steve had risk assessed the event, and sent the risk assessment to me and Dani a couple of weeks before the event took place.

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Eilis Collins

34. We also had a WhatsApp group set up between me, Steve, Dani and the two promoters to enable clear communication with everyone. I recall a voice message from one of the promoters in response to our request to find out what the day event had been like and to see how it was going, he told us that it was busy, what time to expect customers, and also briefed us as to the dress code of what he would like to admit to the venue that evening. This message was supplemented by other messages to assist us in preparation for the night. There was nothing in that contact or messages that gave rise for concern. We were told that it was looking busy at the main event to expect it to be busy at our premises.
35. On the day, and before the After Party started, I was not aware of any incidents having taken place at the main event.
36. I was on shift throughout the event. I began work at about 9 PM. I was the General Manager, the most senior person in the building.
37. The event was very quiet that day, it attracted only about 30 customers. Once Birmingham Rocks finished the bar was very quiet, which is not uncommon for Sundays as we generally are wrapped up by 11 PM with staff leaving by midnight. There were only two remaining customers in the venue when I arrived for work.
38. The bar staff were setting up for the special event that we were hosting. They are experienced with events. We removed some furniture from within the premises to create extra space for our customers, and made the change to disposable drinking vessels. We put up the metal detector arch we like to use, it's a deterrent and aids our security staff for events. We brought in additional bar staff, usually it's only two on a Sunday but we increased our bar staff to eight staff. After speaking with the promoter in the daytime, and hearing how busy it was, we put on two additional agency staff, one to work the cloakroom and the other as a cleaner/glass collector/stock person. These were additional decisions made on the day after speaking with the promoters.
39. The event was to start at 10:30 PM, the DJs arrived at approximately 10:15 PM and took control of the music from 10:30 PM onwards. That's when the first customers began to arrive for this special event.
40. I had a meeting with the two Security Compliance officers before 10 PM. I explained that the main event was well attended and if they wanted to be extra fussy with who was permitted entry, I didn't mind if they turned away a greater number of customers. As the daytime event preceded the After Party the dress code for those attending was more relaxed, and so we

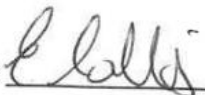
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had agreed with the promoter that we would, for example, accept shorts. Caps/Hats were also accepted and we would make provision for them in the cloakroom, but those wearing them would be required to turn them around to ensure that their faces remained visible to our cameras.

41. The two compliance officers had worked the two previous events. They were not concerned about this event, and there was nothing untoward revealed by any of their intelligence.
42. We put out crowd barriers on the streets, we do this to keep a single file system and prevent obstruction of the footpath, retaining a 2 m gap before the road. Also just for customers to be safe when exiting the venue. We keep a separate sterile area.
43. The two compliance officers had differing roles, one acted as a spotter to spot known troublemakers or intoxicated customers or persons who should not be permitted entry because of their demeanour. The second officer helped to deal with the queues and keep everyone in an orderly manner.
44. The next security officer was placed at the top of the queue, to frisk/patdown and conduct bag searches. Behind him was a metal detector arch, and each individual had to undergo a search and pass through the arch. As the evening got busier for entry, we deployed a second security guard to help manage customers through the arch to control them as they came through and to ensure that persons walk through one by one.
45. Another door supervisor was approximately 2 ½ m away at the box office where customers paid for entry, he was the last check of customers demeanour/attitude before permitting entry.
46. In all there were 2/3 security checks to vet customers.
47. Inside the venue, one security officer stood on the staircase providing him with an eagle eye view of the venue and another constantly patrolled. All door staff had earpieces and radios and war hi viz stop we also provided both the male and female toilet attendants with radios which is something we do not normally do, because he wanted to ensure that everyone had an air piece and was able to communicate.
48. The After Party on 4 June attracted a younger than normal customer. The customer's were much younger, more expensively dressed, and seemed to have a greater spend in the premises than our normal customers. On the night, they arrived en masse and the bar was busy. Normally, this doesn't happen in our premises where there is a steady flow of

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Eilis Collins

customers. The mix of customers in hindsight, may have been more male than female that evening. Customers began arriving at 10:30 PM and arrived within a small window of time.

49. The perpetrator identified from the CCTV footage entered the premises, and can be seen to be spoken to by the Compliance officers where their ID was checked. They underwent a search and were required to pass through the knife arch.
50. At 00 52 hours I was alerted to a fight in the bar area. I think a member of bar staff called the security via the radio. I was in the office with the CCTV screens in front of me. I sent out clear messages to security to attend the main bar area. All security personnel attended except for one guard who was required to remain on the front door to prevent entry and for the venue to be secure.
51. An off duty staff member also alerted me to the fight.
52. I immediately went to the DJ box and stopped the music and put the lights up. I asked the DJ to make an announcement for guests to calmly leave the venue. I went to my office to view the CCTV and asked the bar staff to use the police radio to advise them that we were making a major ejection and ending the night early. I believe that we failed to get a response from the police radio and so I asked a member of staff to call 999 to say that we had people leaving the venue. I had no confirmation at that time that a serious incident taken place. Once I was aware of the wounding, I made contact with the police on the radio, and received confirmation that they had a call logged earlier from the venue. This was within minutes of the fight.
53. At 1 AM the police arrived, within eight minutes of the fight. We were fully cooperative with the police. The majority of customers had left the premises by this time and the premises had reverted to a calm environment. I took the police to my office to watch the CCTV footage, whilst my duty manager took incident reports from members of staff.
54. At 01:37 hours, the police tape was put around the scene. A lot of my time was spent with the police in my office. The police asked staff to remain for statements and ultimately allowed them to leave at around 3 AM. I have prepared a chronology of the incident which I copy below:

00:52am I radioed security to attend the bar area as a fight had broken out.

00:52am I cut music volume completely.

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Ellis Collins

00:52am I instruct staff to request police & police cameras - we fail to get a police response on radio.

00:53am I instruct a manager to dial 999

00:54am To note at this time a member of agency staff (who does not use venue radio) has begun to glass collect and mop spilt drinks.

**we believed the injury sustained was a one time occurrence, contained in the mens toilet lobby area.*

It was quite some time after viewing CCTV, for the venue and the police to conclude that the injury was sustained in the bar area.

00:55am House white lights are turned fully up and DJ announcements are made for patrons to leave the venue. I instruct security to aid guests out safely. I instruct 2 guards to the pavement outside to keep patrons safe and the roads clear.

00:56am I receive confirmation there has been a stabbing.
I try the police again for assistance and am successful.
I am told a call has already been logged.

00:56am-onwards

I am receiving instruction from the police on the radio, one of which is not to clean anything as we now have a crime scene. I relay this message across the venue radios to all staff, security and toilet attendants, all of this team have a radio.

01:00am Police arrive at the venue.

01:37am Bar area, including men's toilets are taped off with police tape. The scene is made prohibited by police.

While I am viewing CCTV with police, a bar manager had gathered incident reports from all bar staff & security, 13 reports in total.

55. One police officer who viewed the CCTV said that it was quite likely that the bladed article was plastic because a lot of the items that West Midlands police confiscated these days are.

56. We are shocked that an incident of this nature has taken place in our premises. We pride ourselves on being a safe venue, and this has impacted us personally, damaged our

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Eilis Collins

reputation, and has led to customer loss. In future, events of this nature will not be considered by Velvet Music Room because of this incident.

Interim steps

57. The interim steps applied immediately as conditions on 8 June 2023. The impact of these has been immense. We find that many of our customers who attend the venue are in their 40s 50s and 60s and do not carry identification. There was the recent concert at the arena where Bruce Springsteen performed, attracting an audience of a certain age. They too do not need to carry ID to prove they are over 25 (challenge 25 schemes), but we could not allow them entry.
58. Many of our customers come from Ireland because we are an Irish bar. They are not accustomed to these regulations in pubs, and we have lost significant customers as a result.
59. Last Saturday, two guests from Ireland came to the venue, both in their 60s, and known to a family member. We had to deny them entry even though they know my brother.
60. In reality, we are a local pub in the city centre. We have demonstrated throughout our trade that our normal/standard operating style of business, where no externally promoted events take place, does not give rise to concerns of crime or disorder. This is a safe venue with a reputation for mature customers and families with children.
61. I consider that the interim steps do not address the root cause of the incident that was as a result of the non-standard externally promoted event held at Velvet Music Room. I would accept conditions for externally promoted events, because that is where the risks are, but not for our standard nights of the week where we are familiar with our customers. We are very much described as *"the local in the city"*.

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Witness Statement

(CJ Act 1967, s.9 MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(A) and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of Danielle Hadley

Age if under 18 _____ (if over 18 insert "over 18") Occupation _____

This statement (consisting of 4 Pages 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.

Dated the 23rd Day of June 2023

Signature 

I Danielle Hadley WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS: -

1. I am the director Sugar Leisure Ltd, owner of Velvet Music Room. This is a family business owned together with my parents and operated with my sister Eilis Collins.
2. The senior management team consists of me, Eilis and Steve Emerson, our full-time designated premises supervisor. Between us, we share the senior level of responsibility for the operation of the business. We are all very hands-on day-to-day, our job role is practical, which includes being physically in the kitchen, behind the bar, dealing with the back office, suppliers, contracts, etc. We do not delegate the responsibility outside of this senior management team.
3. I have read the statement prepared by Eilis and adopt and repeat her evidence regarding the normal standard day-to-day operation of Velvet Music Rooms Monday to Sundays each week. I am confident that our normal style of operating does not give rise to problems of crime or disorder and certainly would not give rise to the wounding incident that took place in our venue the 4th/5th of June 2023.
4. On that day, the premises hosted an After Party event. The event had been discussed some weeks previous, we were approached by the promoter Double Impact, to run the After Party as we had hosted two previous events this calendar year. Owing to the success of the first two events, which passed without incident, we agreed to host the After Party. We stayed in regular contact with the promoter to understand timings of the event, anticipated attendance, and the event featured in our regular management meetings.
5. This was not a last minute event, it was well thought out and planned.

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Danielle Hadley

6. The final say for the event rested with me and Ellis. Between the three of us we would not take a booking if any one of us was against it. The three of us were happy to take this event, having worked with the promoter Double Impact.
7. My role was to consult with Steve and review with him the numbers of security staff to be engaged, the staff rota, the safety measures to be put in place for the event such as barriers, metal detecting arch, hi viz clothing, etc. My role was one of event planning and ensuring that Steve had carried out a risk assessment and reviewing that risk assessment with him and Ellis.
8. Upon review, I do not believe that there were oversights or omissions by us that led to the crime that occurred in our premises.
9. The risk assessment was discussed on several occasions prior to the event. In our meetings it was discussed, I queried whether it been done, was it ready, and ensured that I had sight of it. My job was to make sure it was being done. Steve normally sends out a copy of his risk assessment to West Midlands police irrespective of whether we have run the event previously. Having prepared his risk assessment, Steve believed that he had shared it, but it transpires that this was not the case.
10. We identified was that this might be a well-attended event, and because of that we looked to increase security numbers, and considered crowd control and dispersal procedures. We did not anticipate any areas of high risk, only low to medium risk and the fact that attendees would have been to a day party before the After Party led us to consider the risk of customers being intoxicated before coming to our premises as being far greater. Staff were reminded to refuse entry and sale of alcohol to any persons appearing intoxicated.
11. We put a metal detecting arch in place by default, we do this for most of our externally promoted events. It was not put there because we genuinely thought weapons could be brought into the venue. We own a metal detecting arch anyway, and use it as a deterrent. We adopted the same approach with regard to the search policy, all persons were required to be searched. We have experience of running much higher risk events than we deemed this to be. In fact, our actions are learnt from a period when we were subject to a review of our premises licence in 2010, over a decade ago. Those lessons ring in our ears today, and we will always notify the police of any issues in our premises, following the advice and guidance which we had obtained from West Midlands police licensing all of those years ago. We have a reputation for being extremely safety conscious venue.

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Danielle Hadley

12. Our DPS, Steve, was on a pre-booked holiday during this event. This holiday had commenced 48 hours beforehand. Nothing had changed in the event planning. We had a WhatsApp group between the three of us which we consistently used, and in my opinion Ellis is a much more experienced manager than Steve, so by Ellis stepping in as DPS that night we were putting in a more experienced person, not a less experienced person. Ellis has been in the business since 2005, whereas Steve joined us in 2010. I had every confidence with what was in place that evening.
13. The security Compliance Officers had been prearranged, and whilst it is not a condition of our premises licence, for externally promoted events we always engage a security Compliance Officer. On the night of this event, we engaged two compliance officers, both from Safetynet Security Group, in the knowledge that Steve would not be present.
14. I was not present at Velvet Music Room that night.
15. I have viewed the premises CCTV, and to have considered the premises reaction to the incident. I believe that I would not have taken any different course of action had I been present. Ellis dealt with the incident without delay, put up the lights, called the police, notified all of us as to what was happening, and had immediate contact with senior family members and management. Ellis had immediate support. Had I been in Ellis' shoes I would not have taken any different action.
16. I have considered the root cause of the incident. I consider this was due to the type of event hosted, the nature of customer it attracted, its music, and that it attracted an individual or individuals who are comfortable to carry concealed weapons and use them in the premises. The event hosted that night is a world away from the customers, and events we personally host on daily basis week in week out. They are opposing extremes.
17. If the licensing subcommittee and West Midlands police address the root causes which give rise the review, the police should be concerned about how the premises run those events outside of its normal way of operating, that is, those externally operated and promoted events. Conditions should be applied to those events so that they focus on the people and the event that carry the risk as opposed to a blanket approach which imposes restrictions against an entirely innocent and low risk demographic. The premises would support the police action to address that root cause.
18. I have always strived hard to develop and maintain good working relationships with the licensing officers at West Midlands police. Prior to his retirement, I had regular contact with PC Abdool Rohomon, the police licensing officer for Broad Street. He equally sought to engage with operators and understand their businesses. Since his retirement, there

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Danielle Hadley

- has not been the same engagement from West Midlands Police, I do not know Mark Swallow and he is not familiar with me or my premises and how it operates.
19. Abdool Rohomon now works as an independent risk and licensing consultant to the hospitality and event trade. Through my solicitor I have instructed Mr Rohomon to carry out an independent review of Velvet Music Room, to report on the premises standard operating days and whether these give rise to concerns of crime or disorder. I have also asked him to give his expert opinion on the root cause of the incident and the measures that should be implemented to address these. I invite the licensing subcommittee to consider Mr Rohomon's statement dated 20 June 2023.
20. I agree with the recommendations contained within Mr Rohomon's statement, and would support more stringent conditions than those which we previously proposed at expedited review ***in respect of externally promoted events***. For the avoidance of doubt, these additional conditions should not be applied to standard nights of operation which do not give rise to crime or disorder.
21. As for the Interim Steps, contrary to what Mark Swallow has said, these have had an immediate negative effect on the business. We have had to turn away high numbers of customers because they simply do not carry identification. People reach a certain age when they just stop carrying ID, it's not something that people are used to, and in fact it causes offence, we can see customers feel that we don't trust them, and they have written social media reviews to say so.
22. Whilst the requirement to search everyone is less problematic, people can either accept or refuse. But if someone has travelled to see a band without ID, their whole night out has been ruined. The requirement for IT all Thursdays to Sundays is completely unworkable. I believe it has been applied as a blanket approach. It may be workable in a premises is customer age profile is 25 and under, as those customers are accustomed to carrying ID, but that is not the customer profile for velvet music room and that really needs to be understood.
23. I don't have a problem with the other interim steps, the big issue is the ID scanner.
24. Whilst I work in these premises, I am also a mother with young children aged five and two years. I enjoy live music, and on Sunday evenings it has become a family treat to come together in the premises to eat and listen to the music. It's eclectic music on a Sunday, with percussion outfits, wash board bands, brass bands, all of which are family friendly where people can bring grandparents and children. That's how safe our normal days have been. I would not put my children at risk if I deemed these premises to be unsafe.

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Witness Statement

(CJ Act 1967, s.9 MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(A) and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of Steve Emmison
Age if under 18 _____ (if over 18 insert "over 18") Occupation Designated Premises Supervisor

This statement (consisting of 4 Pages 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.

Dated the 23 Day of June 2023

Signature 

I Steve Emmison WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS: -

1. I am the designated premises supervisor for Velvet Music Rooms, Broad Street, Birmingham.
2. I have held that position for 4 ½ years, and have worked at the premises since 2011.
3. My day-to-day role involves setting up the bar, speaking to customers, dealing with security, kitchen staff, as well as responsibility for general maintenance and outside contractors. I report to Danielle Hadley (Dani) and Eilis Collins.
4. In my role as DPS, I was responsible for the preparations for the After Party event held at Velvet Music Rooms on 4th/5 June 2023.
5. As a venue this was to be our third event this year with the promoters, Double impact. The first and second events were without issue, full capacity events of 500 persons with no crime or disorder and no ejections; generally a really friendly, happy crowd. I was informed that this event was similar to the two former events and as such the risks for the event were considered low to medium. All three events hosted by Double impact were After Parties, each event having the same DJs, and expected to have a similar clientele. However, the event on the 4th/5th June turned out to be more of a House and Garage music genre event, which attracts a different clientele. These events are very different to our normal trade in the premises, where our customers are much older clientele, in their 40s, 50s 60s and above. We cater for the more mature customer in Broad Street.
6. The event on 4th June was age range 18 to 30. The two previous events had an approximate age range of 25 to 40 years. That distinction was not made by the

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Steve Emmison

promoters, and looking back, it is apparent that the age range for this event was lower than the two previous events.

7. The event on 4 June was booked in by me and Eilis based on the first and second events. In planning for the event we booked our security and went through the same procedures as we did for the two previous events. As far as we were aware, the age range and clientele was the same as the two previous events.
8. I prepared the risk assessment for this event, and liaised with the promoters when doing so. On the day of the event, we liaised with the promoters and were told that the daytime event was going well. Even though I was on holiday, I continued to receive and respond to our group WhatsApp messages. The promoters informed us that the ticket sales had gone well, and that a good turnout was anticipated for the After Party.
9. In preparing the risk assessment, I noted that Double Impact had hosted a previous event at Sugar Suite with no issue. I also considered other venues where they had hosted events, these being Bambu, The Mill, and Rosies, where there were no issues on those occasions; I spoke to both the promoters and the other venues who had hosted them. I considered the DJs. The DJs listed had all played at our premises before, and there had been no issues on those previous occasions.
10. As part of the risk assessment, I recommended Implementation of the queueing system with barriers, searches of all customers and deployment of the metal detecting arch (knife arch).
11. The risk assessment was shared internally. It was not necessary to send it to West Midlands police, but it is normal for me to do so. Whilst originally I believed that I had sent the risk assessment to Chris Jones at West Midlands Police, upon checking I can confirm that I did not send the risk assessment to the police.
12. I knew that I would not be present for the event, and Eilis was acting DPS whilst I was on holiday. We put in additional measures which included a second security Compliance Officer from Safetynet Security Group, which was their managing director Martyn Green. His role would be to help manage security and the crowd. I also appointed my assistant manager Nathan to be Front of House Manager that night. He manages security at the entrance. I have reviewed the CCTV from the night, and I'm of the opinion that they undertook their roles properly, I could see that Nathan was at the front door 90% of the time, undertaking the duties expected of him.
13. Additional measures that night included using disposable glasses to remove the risk associated with normal glass. We employed two glass collectors. We have male and

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Steve Emmison

female toilet attendants and we agreed that they would have radios as well and is the security and management, for the larger events we do this in case there are issues.

14. The search policy that was part of the risk assessment was followed throughout the evening. I have reviewed the CCTV to check this. All persons entering were required to pass through the search, which included emptying their pockets and passing through the metal detecting arch and having a pat down search.
15. This event risk assessment was no different from the original risk assessment sent to West Midlands police for the first Double Impact event held in January 2023. There had been no changes in risk profiles. West Midlands police had been satisfied with the first risk assessment, they made no comment regarding it.
16. I am satisfied that there were appropriate measures put in place during my absence and that the event was properly considered and planned for.
17. This event held on the 4th/5th of June is significantly different from our normal pattern of trade in the premises in that the event was externally promoted and run by those external promoters, its clientele was much younger than our usual crowd, and less culturally diverse. All previous events have been very mixed.
18. Velvet Music Rooms is known for its live music and sport. In my time working at the premises I have never encountered an incident such as this. We are a well-managed premises.
19. In hindsight, I would have wanted more contact with the promoters to obtain feedback from the day event. It was only later that we discovered there had been incidents during the day. Had we been aware of this, we may have contemplated cancelling the event.
20. Our normal trade at Velvet Music Rooms does not give rise to this type of incident. This has arisen because of the externally promoted event that was hosted. As a DPS I support West Midlands police and the Licensing Committee in addressing these externally promoted events, but not the normal daily routine events that take place at the premises.

Interim steps

21. We have been required to turn away many mature customers in their 40s+ since the imposition of the Interim Steps. For example, Birmingham has just hosted the Ashes, and in its final this week, we turned away over 200 people between Thursday and Sunday because they had no ID, these are people aged between 40 and 65 years.
22. We have social media Facebook comments suggesting that we lost 10 customers because we asked for ID when they were aged 55 and over.

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Steve Emmison

23. We have had a lot of unhappy people would otherwise normally come in for an evening drink and we cannot permit them entry.
24. No one has complained about searches, it's more the complaints about the need for ID. I do not think that the Interim Steps are warranted for our normal daily routine trade, but should perhaps be targeted at externally promoted events.
25. I regularly liaise with West Midlands police, and recently Sgt Dale Harwood spoke to me on 17 June expressing his surprise by the conditions, as he understood our premises not to be problem premises. In fact, we have police officers who come to our premises with their wives and families who attend to watch sport, etc with no problems.
26. I am aware that there are other premises in Broad Street that had similar conditions imposed upon their premises licence following a stabbing incident. These premises are Obar. Obar had a reputation for having trouble every day of the week and they were regularly calling for assistance. In contrast, Velvet Music Room in its normal operation never gave rise to incidents, and it is only the externally promoted event that has caused this issue. I would invite West Midlands police and the Licensing sub-committee to tackle the root cause only.

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Witness Statement

(CJ Act 1967, s.9 MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(A) and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of Martyn Green
Age if under 18 _____ (if over 18 insert "over 18") Occupation Managing Director

This statement (consisting of 3 Pages 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.

Dated the 23rd Day of June 2023

Signature Green

I Martyn Green will say as follows:

1. I am the Managing director of SNSG Ltd (formally known as SafetyNet Security Group Ltd), and act as a Compliance Officer.
2. I have over 22 years' experience operating within the Night-Time Economy, and I hold a level 4 Diploma in Spectator Safety Management.
3. On Sunday 4th June 2023 I worked at Velvet Music Rooms, Broad Street, Birmingham as the designated premises supervisor Steve Emerson was out of the country, on holiday. I was present together with Ellis Collins, the General Manager, as well as the normal head of security.
4. This was an externally promoted event. This event had been risk assessed by the designated premises supervisor, Steve Emmison, using a risk assessment template provided by Abdool Rohomon, a former member of West Midlands police licensing department.
5. The event was an After Party. The premises had hosted two previous events with no issue, so it was categorised as low risk. Also, it was a Sunday night, which is generally a night of lower risk during the week.
6. On the night, a different crowd was present to those who normally attend Velvet Music Rooms. There were no gang nominals to the best of my knowledge, and all customers passed through a metal detecting arch, and were searched upon entry. IDs were also checked. I worked on compliance and asked for all customers to produce their ID. A handful attended without ID, and after questioning they were deemed to be low risk, for

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
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Corrine Sanders (on 23, 2023 10:30 AM)
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Corrine Sanders (on 23, 2023 10:30 AM)

Continuation of Statement/Interview of Martyn Green

- example, they were with somebody who had ID or they were female, etc. Whilst it was not the normal Velvet crowd, there was no sign of animosity between the customers.
7. At approximately 1 AM I was alerted to a fight taking place in the left-hand side of the bar. I walked over and saw a male wearing a blue T-shirt crouching over and punching downwards. I pulled him away and held onto him. I could see a male on the floor being kicked. I let go of the male with the blue T-shirt and picked the male up from the floor. Other colleagues and customers separated the group from the male. I pulled him away and realised that he had a laceration to his back, a large laceration that needed immediate attention. I took him to the male toilets. Whilst in there, two males entered the toilet and began to fight with the injured male, there were no knives, just a fight. Those men were pushed/pulled out of the toilet and my colleagues were asked to seal the door.
 8. I noticed a puncture wound over the males left abdomen and a large laceration, about 3 to 4 inches wide, in the injured man's back. He remained conscious throughout.
 9. The police were called by the premises, and upon attendance a police officer examined the male and discovered a further puncture wound on his upper left thigh.
 10. A risk assessment was provided for this event. It was an After Party event, with the main event running between 3 PM and 10 PM earlier that day. I now understand that multiple fights occurred at the main event however, we received no warning of any incidents at the main event. Had we been aware of problems at the main event, we would have pulled this event.
 11. The security staff that night used a knife arch and carried out searches of all customers entering the venue. In my opinion, nothing more could have been done that night.
 12. As for the age of the attendees to the After Party, they were in their mid-20s. I believe everyone was local. There was a mix of males and females. The event had a more cultural difference than normal nights at the premises, it attracted a predominantly black and Jamaican crowd, and was less multicultural than normal nights at Velvet and had a different vibe. The DJ had a bit of a following, a niche demographic, but no known gang nominal was present. The perpetrator and the injured party were both of West Indian/Jamaican origin.
 13. I am aware that the police are recommending permanent use of an ID scanner following this incident. I would consider ID scanners for externally promoted events, but not the normal trading days of the premises. The event on Sunday night/Monday morning is distinguishable from normal events at the premises.

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 Connie Sanders (Jun 23, 2023 10:37 GMT+1)
 
 Connie Sanders (Jun 23, 2023 10:37 GMT+1)

Birmingham Licensing Committee

Witness Statement

1. I, Abdool Rohomon BEM am providing this statement as a witness in the summary licensing review, instigated by West Midlands Police against Velvet Music Rooms.
2. I am Abdool Rohomon BEM. I retired from West Midlands Police in Sept 2021 having completed 30 years' service with the force as a Police Officer.
3. I completed all my service in Birmingham City Centre. For the last 20 years of my service I was a licensing and planning officer for West Midlands Police in Birmingham.
4. I was seen as one of the force specialists in licensing and event planning matters. I advised other licensing units within the force, legal services, and senior officers, on licensing cases, problematic premises, and licensing processes. I also trained officers within the force, in licensing matters.
5. I have been involved in many licensing cases, from normal review proceedings, expedited reviews and closure orders. I dealt with many of the most high profile reviews and licensing proceedings undertaken by West Midlands Police.
6. I also sat on national licensing groups and was the vice chair of the National Police Chiefs (NPCC) sub licensing group. I sat on this group for approximately 10 years with the last two as vice chair.
7. I have received many accolades during my service, from commendations from local commanders, Assistant Chief Constables, district judge commendation. In 2019 I was honoured by Her Majesty the Queen in the New Year's Honour's list, receiving a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services for Police and Licensing. As a Police Constable this is a rare accolade to get at that rank.
8. I have qualifications in inspecting licensed premises, IOSH risk assessment and management, foundation in crowd science and level 5 crowd safety.
9. Since my retirement I have set up my own company, as a consultant, with expert knowledge in licensing, event planning, risk management and event management. I

advise and work for organisations needing licensing assistance, crowd movement, risk assessments and event manuals. The organisations I work for are both big and small.

10. My standards have remained the same as they were when I worked for West Midlands Police, which is a quality my clients appreciate.
11. I have been asked to examine and investigate the normal day to day usage of Velvet Rooms, Broad Street, and whether there is any clear distinction between the day to day operation and those events organised by third parties, where they effectively hire the premises.
12. I have also been asked to comment on the conditions imposed at the request of West Midlands Police and whether there are any other conditions that would be more proportionate/reasonable to address the issue.
13. The reason I have been asked to look at this is in response to the interim steps imposed by Birmingham Licence sub-committee C on the 7th June 2023.
14. The conditions imposed upon the recommendations from West Midlands Police require additional control measures to be deployed from Thursday to Sunday from 2100 hours or any evenings where a promoted event takes place from 2100.
15. I wish to make it clear that I know the premises well and was their licensing officer during my tenure in West Midlands Police. My professional relationship was and is based on being firm but fair, and I was not afraid to act against them if needed. The current management team are the same today as they were in 2012.
16. This is shown by the fact that in Feb 2012, following an incident at the premises I was the lead officer in review proceedings against the premises. After thorough investigation and looking at the issues that had led to the incident, it resulted in one condition being imposed on the licence.
17. After that incident in 2012, I felt the premises learnt a great deal, and together we developed the policies and procedures that I am told they still operate today.
18. It is important to understand the relevance of the Section 182 guidance says in determining review proceedings. Paragraph 11.20 is of particular significance and was the approach taken in 2012.
19. In that instance we determined through the investigation that the back door was breached, with no alarm facility which had then led to the disorder. Staff and security were unaware the door had been breached until it was too late.
20. For clarity '**Section 11.20: in deciding which of these powers to invoke, it is expected that licensing authorities should so far as possible seek to establish the cause or causes of the concerns that the representations identify. The remedial**

action should generally be directed at these causes and should always be no more than an appropriate and proportionate response to address the concerns that instigated the review’.

21. I met with the management team from Velvet Rooms on the 19th June 2023, at the location. I am aware of the background and reason why the summary review process was instigated.
22. My statement does not concern the serious incident. There is concern from the premises and their solicitor that the conditions imposed during the interim steps meeting do not acknowledge the normal operation of the premises and that the event which led to the incident was a third-party event not organised by the premises.
23. As I left WMP in 2021 I am not aware of the how Velvet Rooms now operates and how that compares to how it operated when I was their licensing officer.
24. Before I examined the CCTV, I asked how the premises now operated and what they did on a weekly basis.
25. I was informed that after the pandemic, like many licensed premises they saw a boom for 2 to 3 months both as a nightclub and a bar.
26. I should say that Velvet Rooms is made up of two floors in the same building, and they are licensed separately. Upstairs is Sugar Suite which I know as the nightclub section of the premises and downstairs is Velvet Rooms which is I know as the bar section.
27. After the boom, the nightclub side (Sugar Suite) of the business has diminished, it is rarely used as a nightclub and now more as overspill for when they have sporting events on, or classes.
28. There is no student night at the premises, this stopped pre-covid. This was not due to any incident or intervention but more that they were not financially successful.
29. I was informed that they now operate as follows -

Monday – open 2pm, close between 11-12pm. They show sport, whether this as any major sporting event of any form of sport on the TV. They serve food and have a seated clientele, that as a holding figure number a handful at any one time. (Holding means the maximum they would have in at any one time, and not the in and out through the day)

Tuesday – open 2pm, close between 11-12pm. They have live music on from 6pm. This is a blues/jazz band, which has been going for a year. The audience demographic is very much the older generation, that are seated and eat. On a normal day they have between 30-50 people. I was informed that when the

band finished there is a normal 50% egress from the premises, and then a small trickle before they close.

Wednesday – open 2pm, close between 11-12pm. General bar operation, which is food lead. Holding clientele would number no more than 40 at any one time. Music is from a pre-programmed “Spotify” play list.

Thursday – open 2pm closes between 11-12pm. General bar operation through the day but have Salsa classes (dancing and teaching) from 7pm-9pm. This has been running for 2 years. Attracts between 50-60 people, aged 20-50. If there is a major sporting event on, the Salsa event is put on in Sugar Suite.

Friday – open at 12 midday, close between 1am-2am. General bar operation during the day, with Live music band on from 7pm-10pm. The music genre is described as middle of the road rock, tribute bands. They use the same booking agent as for Tuesdays. After the band a DJ plays (50% of the month and then it's a pre-programmed paly list), with the music being played that compliments what the bands have played. So, there is no change in music genre, which would draw in a different audience. The age demographic was 40+, with eating as a large element of the night. 50% leave after the band had finished. Two door staff are employed from 9pm

Saturday – open at 12 midday and close by 3am. General bar activity through the day, with a heavy take up of food, with sport being shown. Do attract Hen parties but they have changed and a more activity based (painting, cocktail masterclasses, dance classes etc). Up to 7pm have a holding audience numbering between 80-100. From 11pm party music is played and then from 1am, music changes to RnB, Dancehall style. Only resident DJ's play. This is the one day they get a slightly younger crowd aged between 25-55. They have between 5-7 door staff on, staggered from 7.30pm.

Sunday – open at 11am and close by 12 midnight. Food and sport through the day, with a live band from 6.30pm. The band are booked through the same agent as the other nights and is Rock/Indi in music genre. It has been going for about 12 months. It holds between 60-70 people with an age range of 40-70 years. After the band finishes a play list is put on that compliment what the band where playing. 90% of the crowd are seated and the rest dance.

30. This synopsis was provided by the venue management, they also informed me that they have a contractual agreement with an adjacent hotel to provided Diner for their guests, and that food is served until 10pm all week.
31. They are also the Head Quarters for the Birmingham Jazz festival and have been for the last 3 years. All the bands associated with the festival play and eat at the venue.

32. I also noticed when inspecting the premises that they were selling art, which was being displayed on several walls.
33. My initial assessment before I watched the CCTV was that the usage of the premises had changed significantly from my previous interaction as their licensing officer.
34. I had asked the premises to keep and store the CCTV for the month before the event on the 5th June 23. The reason was so I could look at the CCTV before the incident, and not after it. This was to negate any argument that the premises had changed operational styles after the event.
35. I then looked at CCTV for days, dates and times as detailed below (for ease of reading I have put them into a grid format)

Day	Date	Time	Observations	Notes
Sun/Mon	28/5/23	12 midnight – 12.15	30 people in, mixed groups (ages in clear). Max 10 more arrive in time frame	Bank holiday weekend
Sun/Mon	8 th May 23	12 midnight – 12.15	40+ people, mixed demographic, mixed ethnicities. 25-40 years age range	Bank holiday weekend
Tuesday	2/5/23	9pm	60-70 people inside, clearly older generation, look and hair and demeanour	Informed this was a good turn out
Tuesday	9/5/23	9pm	Carbon copy of 2/5/23	
Wednesday	3/5/23	9pm	Small number inside (handful)	
Wednesday	10/5/23	9pm	Same as 3/5/23	
Thursday	4/5/23	9pm	Couple of people inside. Wide age range – 40-70	

Thursday	11/5/23	9pm	40/50 people inside	Salsa class was downstairs with an event from Bham uni upstairs in Sugar Suite.
Thursday	18/5/23	9pm	20 downstairs and 40 upstairs. Young and middle age couples, with even male/female split	Salsa class was upstairs.
Thursday	25/5/23	9pm	Carbon copy of the week before	
Friday	5/5/23	9pm	10 people if that inside	
Friday	12/5/23	9pm	60+ inside, seated. Age range 30-70. Same style as Tuesdays	New live music night started to try and create a Friday event
Friday	19/5/23	9pm	Less than half than the week before, same age demographic	
Friday	26/5/23	9pm	Same as 12/5/23 in terms of numbers and demographic.	
Saturday	6/5/23	9pm	Approx 30 inside. Mainly males (Stag party), aged 30/40	
		10pm	Approx. 15 inside	Informed this is normal
Saturday	13/5	9pm	Approx 30-40 inside, mixed ethnicity and	

			ages from 25-40	
		10pm	Reduced again, about half inside.	
		11.30pm	60/70 inside. Mixed ethnicity with ages ranging from 30-50 years	
Saturday	20/5/23	9pm	Same as previous Saturdays at this time	
		10pm	Reduced to about half the numbers at 9pm	
		11.30pm	50/60 inside. Mixed ethnicity with ages ranging from 30-50 years	
Saturday	27/5/23	9pm	Same as previous week	
		10pm	Reduced by half at least	
		11.30	80+ inside. Mixed ethnicity with ages ranging from 30-50 years	Bank holiday weekend
Sunday	7/5/23	9pm	50/60 inside, noticeable older crowd (40-70 years)	Band just finished
		10pm	25 inside, same older demographic as 9pm	
Sunday	14/5/23	9pm	20+, older demographic as previous Sunday	
		10pm	5 inside	

Sunday	21/5/23	9pm	10 inside, very noticeable that same demographic as previous Sundays.	
		10pm	Same as 9pm	
Sunday	28/5/23	9pm	50/60 people inside, older demographic as detailed in previous Sundays	
		10pm	Slightly busier than at 9pm, and slightly younger demographic	Bank holiday weekend. (first CCTV entry was for same day/date and shows reduction by midnight).

36. What was noticeable and what I commented to the management team, was that on certain days, it was almost impossible to distinguish what week it was as they all the time and days week after week had the same demographic and audience type in. The only way to distinguish was the time stamp of the CCTV fame.

37. I examined CCTV from the bar (side angle) front door, pool table and dance floor.

38. I am aware that the incident leading to the review happened through the trading period of the 4th June into the 5th June 23. This would have been the Sunday trade period. I asked and viewed CCTV on the following times.

Sunday	4/6/23	9pm	6 people inside, same demographic as previous Sunday at this time	
		10pm	Nobody inside	
		11.30pm	At least 250 inside, mostly from same ethnicity group with a good mixture of	<u>EVENT DAY</u>

			male/female ratio.	
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39. For clarity I then asked to see the previous four weeks for the Sunday at the same time as 11.30pm. This was done to see if what I had seen at 11.30pm on the 4/6/23 was normal or not.

40. I observed the following -

Sunday	28/5/23	11.30pm	15 people inside mixed ethnicity with even split (male/female)	
Sunday	21/5/23	11.30pm	4 people inside	
Sunday	14/5/23	11.30pm	4 people inside, looked older	
Sunday	7/5/23	11.30pm	25 inside, some appeared young (25+) of mixed ethnicity	

41. The CCTV viewing was very significant in my professional opinion. Taking the weekly run down (Monday to Sunday), there was a clear pattern repeated weekly in the 4-week period I viewed footage for. There were small differences in numbers, but this was minimal. This shows a clear pattern of operation. I also note that I viewed the CCTV from dates before the incident on the 4th/5th of June, to see what the premises was normally like.

42. One of the most significant differences was the CCTV footage for 11.30pm on the 4th June, compared to the same time for the 4 weeks previous. In my professional experience there is no comparison between the footage and the demographic of the audience type shown on the 4th, to the footage seen for the previous 4 weeks.

43. I did ask if West Midlands Police had asked to see the footage, considering the conditions requested implied that the style of operation for Thursday to Sunday from 2100 hours was the same as that of the 4th June.

44. I was informed they hadn't, which was surprising considering the assertion made by the conditions.

45. I am aware that the Police will be invited to view the footage, as the difference in operation is so significant and clearly distinctive.

46. I have requested the footage and still images be downloaded to show the committee and that the playlists for the relevant routine operation days be played, against the music played for the private event on the 4th June.
47. This I believe will assist in showing the significant difference in what is normal operation to that of the third-party event.
48. I will now comment on the conditions imposed at the interim steps meeting at the request of the Police.
49. I am minded by the relevant sections in the Sec182 guidance, both in terms of, determining applications (Section 9) and conditions imposed (Section 10).
50. For clarity they are –
- a.** Section 9.12 “.....it remains incumbent on all responsible authorities to ensure that their representations can withstand the scrutiny to which they would be subject at a hearing”
 - b.** Section 10.2 “..... The courts have made clear that it is particularly important that conditions which are imprecise or difficult for a licence holder to observe should be avoided.”
 - c.** Section 10.10 “....The 2003 Act requires that the licensing conditions should be tailored to the size, type, location and characteristics and activities taking place at the premise concerned. Conditions should be determined on case by case basis and standardised conditions should not be used to implement a general policy in a given area such as CCTV, polycarbonate drinking vessels or identity scanners where they would not be appropriate to the specific premises.....”
51. Velvet Rooms operates under licence number 3282, and there are several conditions on the operating schedule already. I do note that some of the conditions imposed at the request of West Midlands Police are already conditions on the current premises licence.
52. From what I am told by speaking to the management team and solicitor and from looking at the decision notice, there is no evidence to say that the day-to-day operation of the premises has caused any concern.
53. The premises are not under any action plans or have been. Indeed, up to 2 years ago I was their licensing officer so can state that up to that time they had not been on any action plan since the incident in 2012.
54. No one at the premises is denying what happened on the 5th June 23 and the serious consequences it has caused, and that conditions specifically relating to that type of scenario are both relevant and proportionate.

55. In my professional opinion what shouldn't take place is for conditions to be imposed that generically impact the way the premises operates without substantial evidence to support the implementation of such conditions.
56. My professional opinion is determined with the Sec 182 guidance in mind, which backs up my assertions. I have detailed those as above.
57. There are conditions that can be imposed that would specifically deal with the issue at hand, and I propose the following -
- a. Where the venue, is wholly or partly hired by a third party for an event for which the premises licence holder is not involved (marketing, promotion, ticket sales), the premises licence holder will conduct a full written risk assessment.**
 - b. The requirement for a risk assessment is per event, regardless of whether the third party has used the venue in the past.**
 - c. That risk assessment will contain as a minimum:**
 - i. management structure for event and who has authority to act**
 - ii. Security deployment, numbers and dot plan**
 - iii. Additional security measures (barriers, dogs etc) based on the risk of the event.**
 - iv. Last entry**
 - v. Ingress and egress plans**
 - vi. Past history**
 - vii. Is the event part of a series of events, in different days and/or locations.**
 - viii. If so contact and learning from those locations to be detailed.**
 - d. Notwithstanding any additional control measures identified in the risk assessment the premises will :**
 - i. Require ALL customers to provide identification sufficient for the use in an ID Scanner. All ID is to be scanned, and to be under CCTV coverage to prove all customers have provided ID.**
 - ii. IDScanner will be operational for all the ingress hours identified in the risk assessment.**
 - iii. All customers/artists/DJ's and entourage to enter the premises through a knife arch, and then the use of knife wands. Search area to be under the coverage of CCTV.**
 - iv. Any refusal to either IDScanner or search will be treated as refusal, and parties will be refused entry into the premises.**
 - v. All refusals will be recorded in the incident book, with descriptions of persons involved.**
 - vi. A minimum of 50% of door staff will have bodycams. Footage will be kept for a minimum of 31 days, and provided to responsible authorities in accordance the data protection legislation.**

- e. The risk assessment to be sent to West Midlands Police Licensing (address as per licensing policy), a minimum of 28 days before the event.*
- f. The risk assessment will become the operational procedure for the event, and is to be treated as a condition of licence. A copy will be available for inspection at any time of the event by any responsible authority.*
- g. West Midlands Police retain the power of veto of any such third party event, such power to be exercised by an officer of at least the rank of inspector and reasons sent to the premises licence holder (by email).*
- h. Prior to the start of the event, all staff will be given a briefing (to be recorded), indicating the nature of the event, risks and control measures and confirmation that all staff have been trained in the relevant procedures.*
- i. Premises to have an incident book where all incidents irrelevant if the emergency services are called are recorded. All incidents to be signed off by either the premise licence holder or DPS, and any actions recorded against the incident.*
- j. Premises to train all operational staff in crime scene management, training to be recorded against individual staff members.*

58. In my professional opinion the above proposed conditions are more appropriate and proportionate and relevant to deal with the issues that arose from the event on the 4th/5th of June 23.

59. The interim steps conditions requested by West Midlands Police, in my professional opinion do not address the finer details of the event that led to the review application. The impact of those conditions is disproportionate on the normal day to day activities of the premises.

60. The premises welcomes the opportunity to strengthen their position, in imposing tighter controls for when and if the venue is ever hired by a third party.

61. These proposed conditions are more focused and stricter where they need to be, without disproportionately affecting their day-to-day business.

62. My concerns with the interim step conditions are as follows:

- a. Rather than seeking to address the issue of the third party promoter they impose a blanket approach. The event on the 5th June was not one that had*

been on since the Thursday, so with proportionality in mind why are they needed for that duration?

- b. There is no evidence to indicate the day to day operation has caused any issues recently or ever since 2012, that may warrant such use of the conditions.*
- c. The day to day operation is shown to be significantly different in style and operation to that of the event of the 5th June.*
- d. The premises has contractual agreement with an adjacent hotel to provide food for the hotel guests until 10pm. If these conditions remain it would require all customers coming from the hotel to go through the ID Scanner for their dinner. It would also mean the unproblematic Live Music events would require the same degree of scrutiny.*

63. I believe that the facts in this witness statement are true.

Signed – A.Rohomon BEM
(electronically)

Dated 20th June 2023

Witness Statement off Mike Olley, Chief Executive Officer
WestSide Business Improvement District

In respect of the review of the licence of Velvet Music Rooms, Broad Street, Birmingham

- 1 My name is Mike Olley, I am the Chief Executive officer of the WestSide Business Improvement District.
- 2 The WestSide Business Improvement District was established by Parliament in 2005, at that time it was known as the Broad Street Business Improvement District.
- 3 I was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Broad Street Business Improvement District in 2005 and have held that post continuously.
- 4 The role of the WestSide Business Improvement District is to act as a representative body of all its business concerns within the geographic district who are its members.
- 5 Membership of the WestSide Business Improvement District is compulsory for most businesses within the geographical area, subject to largely a business rate floor of £10,000.
- 6 We have approximately 400 members, they are given the opportunity to accept the position of our Business Improvement District or not by means of a democratic vote, this is overseen by the City Council and the relevant Secretary of State.
- 7 Accordingly the business make up of the WestSide Business Improvement District is very eclectic. It contains numerous business interests. On scale it could be illustrated as an area principally populated by banking and financial services. To the informed visitor it would be characterised as a diverse entertainment and hospitality area.
- 8 In terms of “entertainment or hospitality sector members”, we have entities such as the CBSO, Hyatt Regency, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, pubs, bars, kebab takeaways.
- 9 WestSide BID seeks to add additionality to the area, we do this largely by seeking to make the area, brighter, cleaner and safer.
- 10 In order to achieve this, in part, we provide teams of Pastoral, Hi Visibility and Environmental Wardens.
- 11 Pastoral Wardens provide a range of services to our homeless and street communities. Primarily focussed on providing signposting to specialist services, daily distribution of bottled water, personal representation and support when engaging with state and NGO bodies. Primarily we offer a none critical corporate friendship provision.

- 12 Hi Visibility Wardens teams provide reassurance and assistance to visitors and our members.
- 13 Environmental Wardens undertake additional light cleaning tasks. Keeping the Black Sabbath Bench clean and fresh, small cleaning jobs to assist our members premises. Helping to remove chewing gum, graffiti and stickers wherever it/they may be deposited.
- 14 Our work as described above and so much more integrates us with members. It is true to say we develop strong corporate bonds and friendships with them.
- 15 Velvet Music Rooms was established in 2005, at about the same time I took up my post as Chief Executive Officer.
- 16 Since their establishment they have had an exemplary record. They are in my opinion a very responsible and model bar operator.
- 17 In order to support our licensed premises the WestSide Business Improvement District have duopoly of district wide communication systems, a radio link and a Whats App group for all licensed premises managers and door supervisors. The Whats App allows them to share experiences. The radio system is linked directly to the Police control room.
- 18 Velvet are a strong and very responsible contributor to both systems. Messages they post are always of the highest quality and can be counted and depended upon.
- 19 Velvet has a female led management team, with a strong LGBT+ flavour.
- 20 Velvet is a very discreet LGBT+ friendly bar. Many of the LGBT+ community simply do not want to wear a big badge expressing their sexuality. They don't want to mix in the Gay Village or overt LGBT+ establishments. This community therefore come along to Velvet and enjoy their own company in a convivial friendly unbadged environment.
- 21 Velvet also has a very strong "arts", led agenda. They offer a home to the Birmingham Arts Zone. This is a group of Birmingham artists who display and sell their artistic endeavours from within Velvet.
- 22 The 39th Birmingham International Jazz Festival has its Head Quarters located within Velvet this year, as often they do.
- 23 Velvet regularly have live bands, for a mature audience, fifty five plus, three nights a week.
- 24 The then Lord Mayor of Birmingham (Cllr Cornish), recently awarded a Walk of Star to legendary Birmingham Rocker Steve Gibbons at a major packed house event at Velvet. This was covered by global, national, regional and local media, in what was an exceptional celebration for our City.
- 25 These artistic and LGBT+ foundations make Velvet a unique bar, however they also offer very different nights hiring to external promoters. Some of these can be described as

- Bashment, Garage styled evenings. They are very different from the normal events described above. They need a tight and solid regime to moderate behaviour and to ensure such evenings are enjoyed by all. To date all of these evenings have been exceptionally well managed and have passed off with minimal disturbance. These events for years, have offered little or no challenge to the Police or the WestSide family.
- 26 These events demonstrate how the venue management run a good house. A house which in no way could be described as a danger to the public.
- 27 It is my belief that Mark Swallow, licensing officer, lacks any in depth knowledge of Broad Street in general and Velvet in particular. He is not someone who the street management team, that is myself and our street warden team, has ever personally met or had any contact with. I have never not known a licensing officer with responsibility for Broad Street, in over eighteen years, of working in the entertainment area. I can only conclude that this gap in knowledge of the venue has led to the licensing officers requests for restrictions to be imposed throughout evening trade Thursdays to Saturdays when an objective assessment of its normal trade would conclude that these conditions are unnecessary and disproportionate.
- 28 I can only conclude that Mark as the licensing officer has rightly been alarmed at the stabbing at Velvet and acted in haste. I note that the paperwork used to seek conditions on Velvets licence are a cut and paste from a similar incident recently at another Broad Street venue. The text is an exact copy of proposed conditions for them, even including a redundant bullet point at the very end of the communication.
- 29 Indeed I believe his approach which lacks diligence has promoted him betraying the trust of senior police officers in supporting his application. I have regular contact with senior police officers who state that Velvet is an exceptionally well run business. I believe, if presented with the evidence, they would acknowledge immediately that Mark Swallow has got it comprehensively wrong on this occasion, utilising what in effect is a sledge hammer to break a very small nut.
- 30 Mark Swallow is seeking a condition that would have now required the Lord Mayor of Birmingham to have been searched and ID recorded at the Walk of Stars event. The Walk of Stars event was a Sunday evening event promoted by myself, it operated past 21.00, yet being a very low risk event with an average age of sixty plus, with no door staff present.
- 31 The reality is that Velvet are very happy to introduce and actively use ID scanners at appropriately determined "risk events", those that are provided by external promoters. However, many of their weekly events held at 21.00 or past that time are events as

described, “mature people out for an easy night out, nursing a pint whilst watching a local band”.

- 32 In general, Sundays are those types of nights, elderly patrons and easy going evening. To insist of searching and scanning such patrons would create confusion and turning away many decent people who simply don’t carry appropriate ID as a matter of course.
- 33 The majority of Velvets events are low risk and don’t need search and scan of patrons.
- 34 If patrons of low risk events were searched and scanned many would be prevented from entry and that would drive patrons away.
- 35 The cost of search and scanning patrons would add many hundreds of pounds to overheads, perhaps as much as fifty thousand a year. The bar simply can’t afford that extra expenditure against what would be lower income on food and beverage.
- 36 The proposed conditions in all likelihood would financially destroy the bar.
- 37 However, for high risk events, Velvet would be happy to search and scan all patrons, as requested, along with all the current conditions required by the police.
- 38 It is my view that Velvet have operated for almost two decades with a mixture of high and medium, but more often than not, low risk events. They have an exemplary record of management, in all respects.
- 39 Indeed on the evening of the incident the situation was contained within minutes and the police called. This is how I would have expected Velvet to have managed the situation.
- 40 I have sponsored numerous event at Velvet and remain comprehensively confident that the bar provides the very best in management to support a safe and easy going event. Indeed they management high risk events in the same manner.
- 41 Without hesitation I would and most certainly will use Velvet for events, going forward.
- 42 I confirm that the contents of this statement are true.

Proposed conditions on behalf of the Premises Licence Holder

- a. Where the venue, is wholly or partly hired by a third party for an event for which the premises licence holder is not involved (marketing, promotion, ticket sales), the premises licence holder will conduct a full written risk assessment.
- b. The requirement for a risk assessment is per event, regardless of whether the third party has used the venue in the past.
- c. That risk assessment will contain as a minimum:
 - i. management structure for event and who has authority to act
 - ii. Security deployment, numbers and dot plan
 - iii. Additional security measures (barriers, dogs etc) based on the risk of the event.
 - iv. Last entry
 - v. Ingress and egress plans
 - vi. Past history
 - vii. Is the event part of a series of events, in different days and/or locations.
 - viii. If so contact and learning from those locations to be detailed.
- d. Notwithstanding any additional control measures identified in the risk assessment the premises will :
 - i. Require ALL customers to provide identification sufficient for the use in an ID Scanner. All ID is to be scanned, and to be under CCTV coverage to prove all customers have provided ID.
 - ii. IDScanner will be operational for all the ingress hours identified in the risk assessment.
 - iii. All customers/artists/DJ's and entourage to enter the premises through a knife arch, and then the use of knife wands. Search area to be under the coverage of CCTV.
 - iv. Any refusal to either IDScanner or search will be treated as refusal, and parties will be refused entry into the premises.
 - v. All refusals will be recorded in the incident book, with descriptions of persons involved.

- vi. A minimum of 50% of door staff will have bodycams. Footage will be kept for a minimum of 31 days, and provided to responsible authorities in accordance the data protection legislation.
- e. The risk assessment to be sent to West Midlands Police Licensing (address as per licensing policy), a minimum of 28 days before the event.
- f. The risk assessment will become the operational procedure for the event, and is to be treated as a condition of licence. A copy will be available for inspection at any time of the event by any responsible authority.
- g. West Midlands Police retain the power of veto of any such third party event, such power to be exercised by an officer of at least the rank of inspector and reasons sent to the premises licence holder (by email).
- h. Prior to the start of the event, all staff will be given a briefing (to be recorded), indicating the nature of the event, risks and control measures and confirmation that all staff have been trained in the relevant procedures.
- i. Premises to have an incident book where all incidents irrelevant if the emergency services are called are recorded. All incidents to be signed off by either the premise licence holder or DPS, and any actions recorded against the incident.
- j. Premises to train all operational staff in crime scene management, training to be recorded against individual staff members.



**BIRMINGHAM
ROCKS!**
AT
VELVET
MUSIC ROOMS

LIVE MUSIC EVERY SUNDAY!

ROCK N' ROLL - SKA - SOUL - CAJUN - ROCK
Making All The Stops Along The Way!

APRIL

2ND TIPITINA

9TH THOMAS ATLAS

16TH BACK ON THE ROAD

23RD WHITE TYGER

30TH BLUE 2 THE BONE

MAY

7TH HARD GRAFT

14TH CLEAN SHIRT

21ST KEVAN AND

THE BLACK COUNTRY SONS

26TH THE JOURNEYMEN

FROM 6:30PM **FREE** **ADMISSION**

ENQUIRIES - 0121 454 70 20 - JIM@BIGBEARMUSIC.COM

VELVET

MUSIC ROOMS

LIVE MUSIC EVERY TUESDAY, FRIDAY & SUNDAY

TUESDAYS...

7PM - FREE ENTRY

TUESDAYS IS BLUESDAYS AT

HENRY'S
BLUESHOUSE



JUNE 6TH - THE SHUFFLEPACK

JUNE 13TH - THE RIGMAROLLERS

JUNE 20TH - JAMIE THYER & THE WORRIED MEN

JUNE 27TH - THE SHAKEDOWN BROTHERS

FRIDAYS...

7PM - FREE ENTRY

BANDIT FRIDAYS

JUNE 2ND - UNSUNG HEROES

JUNE 9TH - THE HEELS

JUNE 16TH - VASELINE

JUNE 23RD - BIG JIM & THE ALABAMA BOOGIE BOYS

JUNE 30TH - EASTWOOD



BIRMINGHAM
ROCKS!

SUNDAYS...

6:30PM - FREE ENTRY

JUNE 4TH - THE WASHBOARD RESONATORS

JUNE 11TH - NEIL COLEY BIG BAND

JUNE 18TH - CHICK WREN'S ROLLIN' RIVER BAND

JUNE 25TH - MELVIN HANCOX BAND

**BANDIT
FRIDAYS**

PRESENTS ★

VASELINE

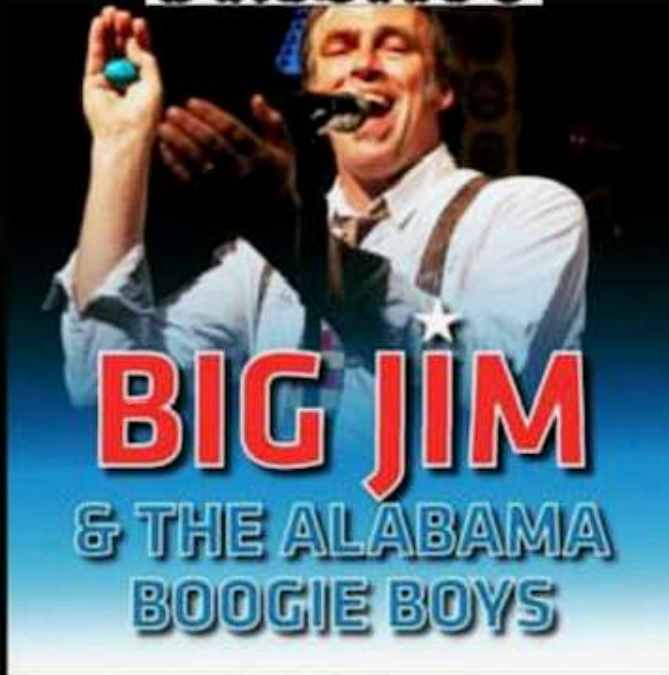


**FRIDAY 16TH
JUNE**

**VELVET
MUSIC ROOMS**

GENUINE IRISH INDEPENDENT

**BANDIT
FRIDAYS**



BIG JIM
& THE ALABAMA
BOOGIE BOYS

Fri 23rd
June

VELVET
MUSIC ROOMS

GENUINE IRISH INDEPENDENT



VELVET

MUSIC ROOMS

BAR SNACKS 3 FOR £15* OR £6 EACH

BONELESS CHICKEN WINGS

Choose from either Frank's® Hot Sauce or sticky barbecue served with a blue cheese dip, spring onions, fresh chillis and sesame seeds.

TACO FRIES

Golden fries covered in nacho cheese sauce with home-made chilli con carne, topped with melted cheddar cheese.

Vegetarian quorn option available

BEER BATTERED COD GOUGEONS

Served with tartar sauce

FILLED YORKIES

Two Yorkshire puddings, filled with our slow cooked beef brisket or pulled pork & gravy

CHINESE CHILLI BEEF

Chinese chilli beef served with sweet chilli sauce

CALAMARI STRIPS

Squid strips lightly dusted in breadcrumbs

GRILLED FLAT BREAD & HUMMUS

Chilled with hot sauce

CHICKEN SATAY SKEWERS

Marinated chicken served with a peanut dipping sauce

HALLOUMI FRIES

Served with sweet chilli sauce

BANGIN' FRIES

Golden fries, grilled cheddar cheese, jalapeños & chopped bacon

BREADED GARLIC MUSHROOMS

Served with creamy garlic mayo dip

STARTERS & SNACKS



BREADED GARLIC MUSHROOMS

Served with creamy garlic mayo dip

CLASSIC NACHO BOWL

Corn tortilla chips with melted cheese, sour cream, spicy salsa, guacamole & jalapeño peppers

CHILLI BEEF NACHOS

Corn tortilla chips with melted cheese, homemade chilli con carne, sour cream and jalapeño peppers

THAI PRAWNS

Lightly fried prawns wrapped in filo pastry, served with sweet chilli sauce & dressed salad garnish

HALLOUMI FRIES

Served with sweet chilli dipping pot

CHICKEN WINGS 10 Wings 8.95 | 20 Wings 14.95

In house seasoned British chicken wings. Choose from: Sticky BBQ wings or Buffalo Wings, seasoned in Frank's® Hot Sauce served with blue cheese dip, fresh chillies & sesame seeds

BONELESS CHICKEN WINGS 10 Wings 9.95 | 20 Wings 15.95

Choose from either Frank's® Hot Sauce or sticky barbecue, served with a blue cheese dip, spring onions, fresh chillies & sesame seeds

VEGETARIAN & VEGAN

BAR SNACKS £6 EACH OR 3 FOR £15

TACO FRIES

Golden fries covered in nacho cheese sauce with home-made chilli con carne, topped with melted cheddar cheese.

GRILLED FLAT BREAD & HUMMUS

Served with hot sauce

HALLOUMI FRIES

Served with sweet chilli sauce

BANGIN' FRIES

Golden fries, grilled cheddar cheese, jalapeños & chopped bacon

BREADED GARLIC MUSHROOMS

Served with creamy garlic mayo dip

GRILLED CHEESE TRIPLE DECKER

Stacked, toasted triple decker, cut into quarters

Served with salted crisps, side salad & pink coleslaw

Add Chips for 1.50

SIZZLING QUORN FAJITAS

With peppers & red onions cooked in Mexican spices. Accompanied by cheese, salsa, guacamole, sour cream, jalapeños & flour tortillas

VEGAN SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE

Rich vegan soya mince Bolognese served with fresh parmesan

THE BIG NY CHEESEBURGER VEGAN STYLE

Served on a warmed vegan bun with vegan mature cheddar, sliced tomato, red onion & lettuce. Topped with a garet pickle & onion rings. Accompanied by a bucket of chips with a vegan spicy Sriracha mayo

VEGETABLE LASAGNE

Served with chips. Add 2 slices of garlic bread for 1.25

THE HEARTY VEGGIE BREKKIE

A fried or scrambled egg with toast, beans, mushrooms, two Quorn sausages, halloumi sticks & a hash brown. Served with chips. Available all day

VEGETARIAN PIE

Served with tomatoes, red onion, peppers & nuts

VEGAN & CHOCOLATE COCONUT TART

A date & mixed nut case with a chocolate & coconut filling. Finished with a coconut swirl served with vegan vanilla ice cream

SALADS & SANDWICHES

All sandwiches served with salted crisps, side salad & pink coleslaw

TRIPLE DECKER TUNA MELT

Stacked, toasted triple decker, cut into quarters, with grilled cheese & cucumbers

TRIPLE DECKER COD GOUGEON

Stacked, toasted triple decker, cut into quarters, topped with tartar sauce & mixed leaves

CLUB SANDWICH

Stacked, toasted triple decker sandwich, cut into quarters with grilled chicken, bacon, grilled cheese, lettuce, tomato & mayonnaise

CAJUN OR JERK STUFFED PIZZA

Pizza bread stuffed with spiced chicken, lettuce, tomatoes, onion & mayonnaise served with pink slaw

GRILLED CHEESE TRIPLE DECKER

Stacked, toasted triple decker, cut into quarters

MEXICAN CHICKEN WRAP

Pan fried spiced chicken breast with peppers, onions, jalapeños & cheese served in a toasted tortilla wrap

TOASTED BBQ WRAP

Chicken breast with melted cheese & smoky BBQ sauce

CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD

Chargrilled chicken breast on a bed of crunchy lettuce, tossed in a Cardin's Caesar dressing, with parmesan cheese & croutons

GRILLED GOAT'S CHEESE & BALSAMIC SALAD

Served with tomatoes, red onion, peppers & nuts

SIDES

BEER BATTERED ONION RINGS

2.65

CHIPS

2.95

FRIES

2.95

CAJUN SPICED CHIPS

2.95

SWEET POTATO FRIES

3.65

CURRY SAUCE

1.50

PINK SLAW

1.50

TOASTED GARLIC BREAD

3.00

TOASTED GARLIC BREAD WITH CHEESE

3.50

CHILDRENS SET MENU 5.65

Served from Sunday until Friday from 12-8pm & Saturday from 12-5pm. Price includes Main, Ice Cream & Drink. Suitable for children under 10 years old.

MAINS

SAUSAGES

2 Cumberland sausages with your choice of fries or mash, baked beans, mushy peas or salad

CHICKEN NUGGETS

With your choice of fries or mash, baked beans, mushy peas or salad

FISH GOUGEONS

Cod fish gougeons with your choice of fries or mash, baked beans, mushy peas or salad

SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE

Spaghetti pasta tossed in an Italian Bolognese sauce & served with a slice of garlic bread

CHILD SIZE BURGER

Choose from: Beef, Chicken or Veggie

Served with chips & beans

PUDDING

Please ask for available selection

DRINKS

Fruit Shoot Orange / Summer Fruits/ Apple & Blackcurrant

OUR FAVOURITES



STEAK & GUINNESS PIE
In-house made Steak, Guinness & red wine pie filling, topped with a puff pastry lid. Served with chips or creamy mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetables

11.50



THAI GREEN CHICKEN CURRY

Homemade creamy sauce with chargrilled chicken breast, long grain rice & naan bread

9.95



SIZZLING FAJITAS CHICKEN

11.25 | BEEF 12.45

With peppers and red onions, cooked in Mexican spices. Served with melting cheese, salsa, guacamole, sour cream & jalapeños & flour tortilla wraps

10.50

HOMEMADE RED WINE LASAGNE

Served with chips & salad. Add Garlic Bread for 1.25

12.50

FISH & CHIPS

Hand battered & deep fried cod, served with chips, mushy peas, a slice of lemon, curry sauce & our in-house made fresh tartar sauce

10.55

CHICKEN & MUSHROOM PIE

In-house made chicken & mushroom pie topped with a puff pastry lid. Served with a choice of chips or creamy mash & seasonal vegetables

10.55

STEAK & GRILL

Chargrilled Prime Steak aged for tenderness & flavour are all served with your choice of fries, creamy mash or baked jacket potato, onion rings & peas



8oz RUMP STEAK

Tender piece of beef steak, cooked on a char-grill to your liking

8oz SIRLOIN STEAK

Most flavoursome piece of beef steak, cooked on a char-grill to your liking

MIXED GRILL

A full 6oz rump steak, 5oz gammon steak, char-grilled chicken breast, Cumberland sausage, fried free range egg & beer battered onion rings

13.75

15.95

17.25

THURSDAY GRILL CLUB

FREE drink with all meals from The Grill section

*Cider / Strongbow / 15ml Wine/ Malt & Incht / Draught Soft Drink 120s

10oz GAMMON STEAK

Served with fried free-range egg, grilled fresh pineapple & peas

THE SOAK

Bacon, two sausages, mushrooms, hash browns, roasted tomato, baked beans, scrambled or fried egg, two rounds of toast.

Served with chips

HUNTER'S CHICKEN

Chargrilled chicken breast with crispy bacon, melted cheese & hickory smoked BBQ sauce, all served on mixed leaves with our in-house made pink slaw

11.95

10.35

10.95

ADD THESE!

Peppercorn Sauce 1.65 | Gravy Jug 0.75

Spicy Sriracha Mayo 1.45

BURGERS

All of our burgers are served in a glazed brioche bun on a base of lettuce, sliced tomato & red onion, topped with a garet pickle with chips & spicy sriracha mayo on the side

DOUBLE YOUR BURGER FOR 1.95

Chargrilled Chicken, Crispy Chicken Breast or Aberdeen Beef

UPGRADE YOUR CHIPS

Sweet Potato Fries or Cajun Fries 1.00

THE CLASSIC

Choose from:

Chargrilled Aberdeen Angus Beef,

Chargrilled Chicken Breast or Crispy Chicken Breast

THE CAJUN

Chargrilled chicken breast coated in a fiery blend of chili, black pepper & herbs

JERK CHICKEN

Chargrilled chicken breast marinated in authentic Dunne's River spices

THE TOWERING INFERNO

Your option of chargrilled chicken breast or Aberdeen Angus beef burger, topped with cheese, our in-house made chilli con carne & onion rings

BEEF BRISKET

Aberdeen Angus beef burger topped with slow cooked hickory smoked beef brisket, topped with cheese, caramelised red onion chutney and onion rings

7.95

9.95

9.95

12.95

13.75



THE PULLED PORK

Chargrilled Aberdeen Angus beef burger, topped with cheese, slow cooked pulled pork, BBQ sauce & onion rings

THE FAT FACE

Chargrilled Aberdeen Angus beef burger topped with cheese, American style chicken breast, rashers w/ bacon, onion rings & BBQ sauce

ADD EXTRAS

Sliced Cheese 0.75 | Onion Rings 0.95 | Pink Slaw 1.50 | Bacon 0.75

Cheese & Bacon 1.20 | Hickory Smoked BBQ Sauce 0.65

10.65

13.95

PUDDINGS

ENJOY 2 PUDDINGS FOR 8.50

STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING

Sticky toffee flour sponge pudding with sticky toffee sauce, served with vanilla custard

CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE

Warm chocolate fudge cake served with double cream vanilla bean ice cream & chocolate sauce

WHITE CHOCOLATE & RASPBERRY BRÛLÉE CHEESECAKE

A rich white chocolate cheesecake with raspberries & brûlée topping. Served with cream or ice cream

STRAWBERRY ETON MESS SUNDAY

Real dairy ice cream & fresh strawberries, layered with crushed meringue & topped with fluffy cream & a sugar cone wafer

4.95

4.95

4.95

5.45

VEGAN & CHOCOLATE COCONUT TART

A date & mixed nut case with a chocolate & coconut filling. Finished with a coconut swirl served with vegan vanilla ice cream

THE BIG APPLE PIE

Sweet pastry case with Bramley apple filling topped with a sweet berry crust & sprinkled with sugar served with custard or cream

ELVIS MESS

Deep fried Creo cookies served with a warm peanut butter & double cream vanilla bean ice cream

CHOCOLATE CHURROS

Churros dusted with cinnamon sugar & a melted chocolate dipping pot

5.45

5.45

PRIVATE PARTIES - CORPORATE - CHRISTMAS

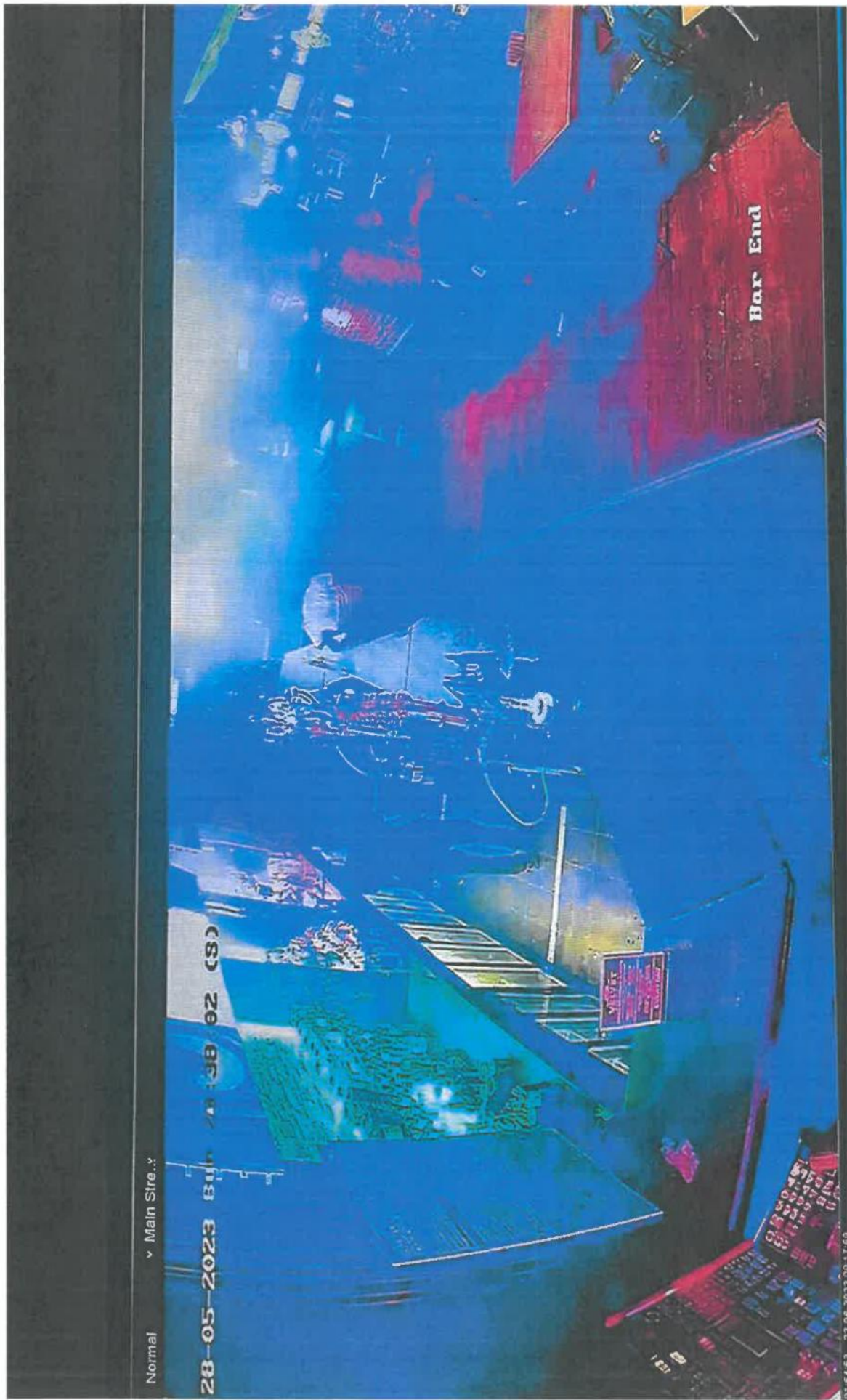
Reservations Please email bookings@velvetmusicrooms.co.uk

VELVET MUSIC ROOMS | 200 BROAD STREET | BIRMINGHAM | B15 1SU

For table bookings please phone 0121 248 0500 or email sales@velvetmusicrooms.co.uk

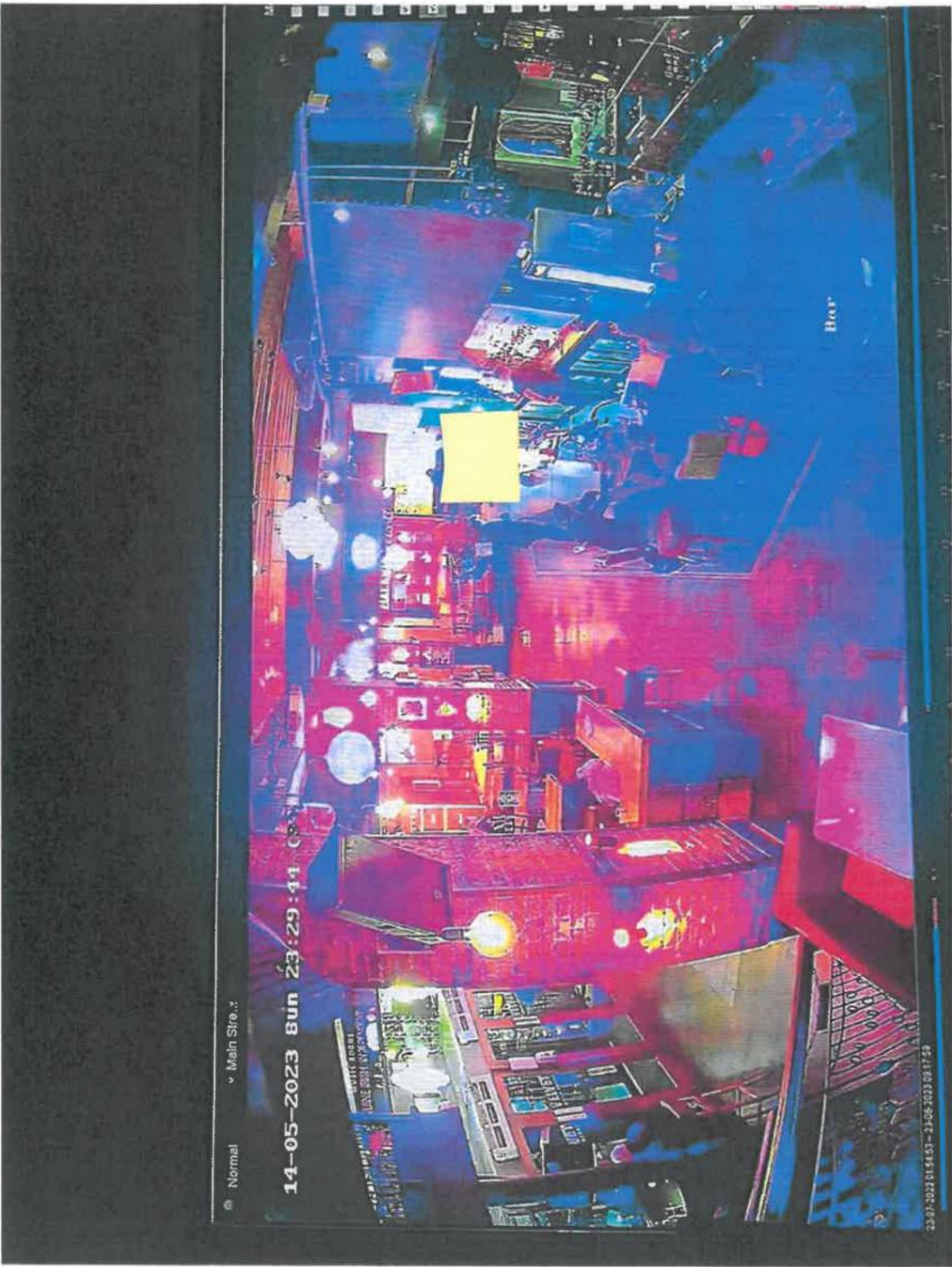
For further information about us visit our website www.velvetmusicrooms.co.uk

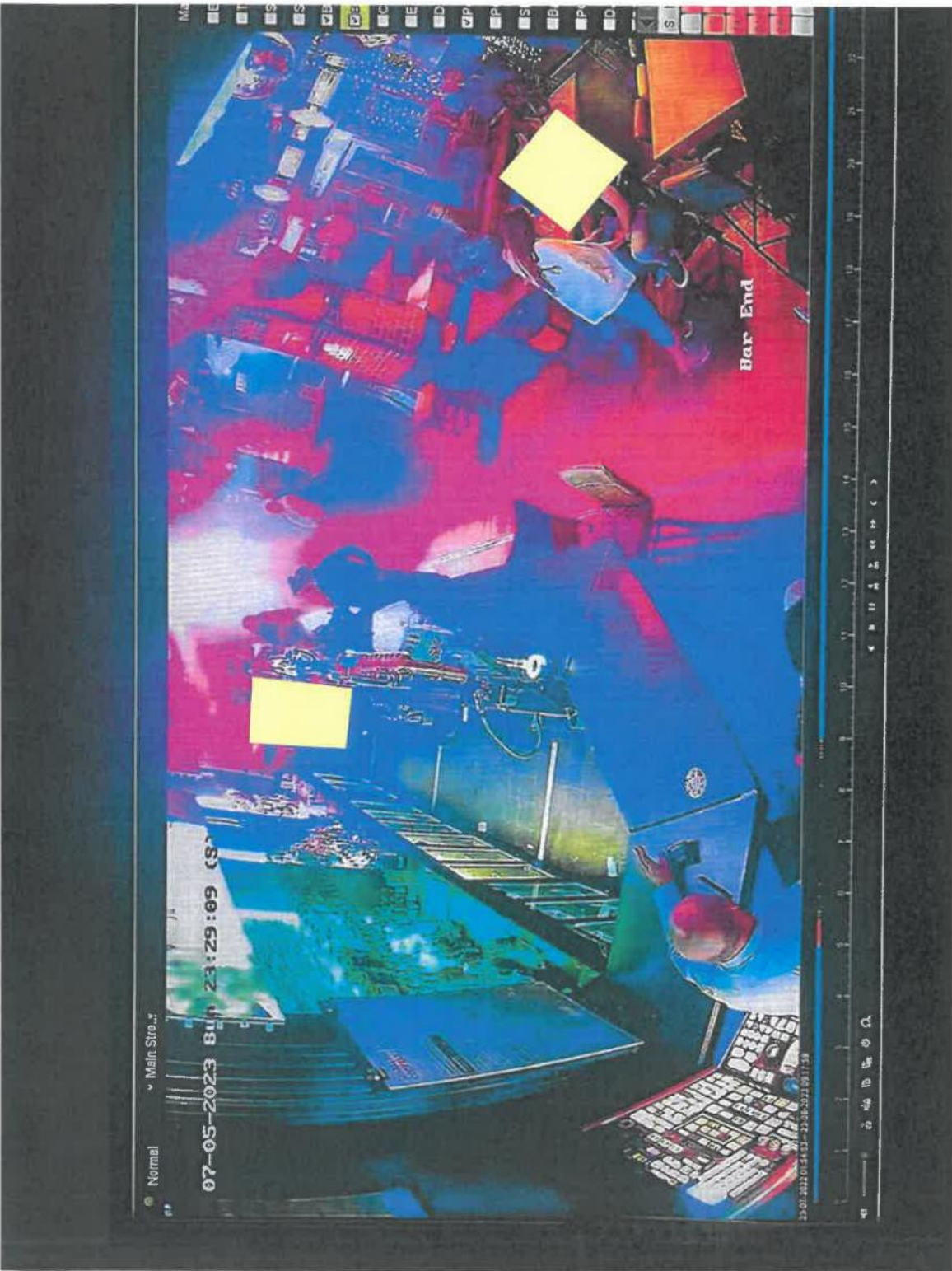
All photos are for illustrative purposes only. All weights of our meat are approximate uncooked. Please note that although we take extra care to remove bones from our meat and fish products, small bones may still remain. Our food is prepared in a kitchen where allergens are present and can include some or all of the following: Celery - including any found in stock cubes and soup. Cereals containing gluten - including spelt, wheat, rye, barley crustaceans - eg crabs, lobster, prawns and shrimp paste. Eggs - including food glazed with egg. Fish lupin - can be found in some types of bread, pastries, pasta milk molluscs - mussels, land snails, squid, also found in oyster sauce mustard. Nuts - for example almonds

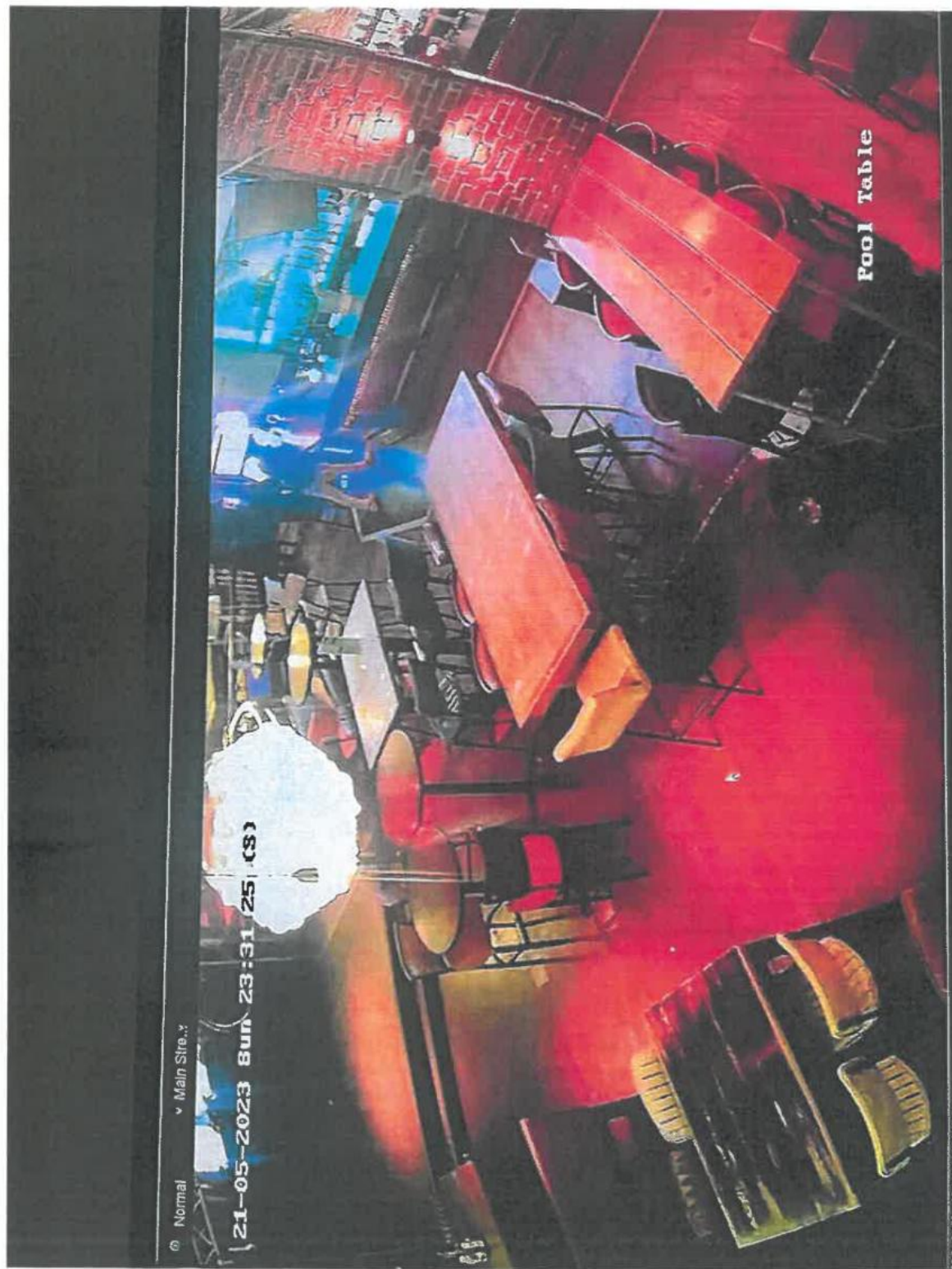


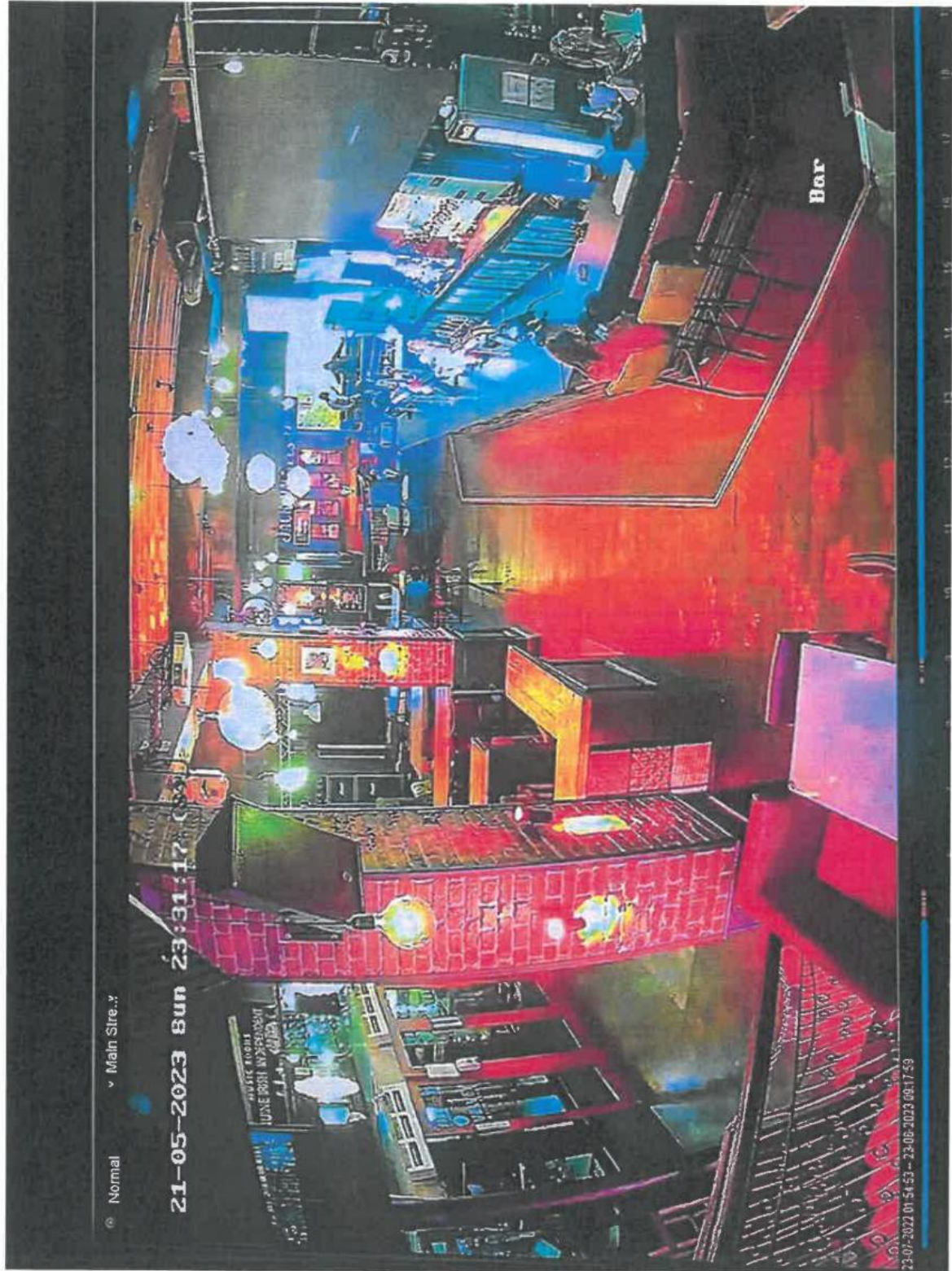












Normal v Main Stre..x

21-05-2023 Sun 23:31:17

23-07-2022 01:54:53 ~ 23-06-2023 00:17:59

