

Licensing Act 2003

Representation made in respect of a ~~Grant / Variation~~ / Review of a Premises Licence or ~~Club Premises Certificate~~

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING THE ATTACHED FORM.

You have notified the Licensing Authority that you wish to make a representation concerning an application to Grant / Vary / Review a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate.

The law does not require a representation to be in a standard format however, Pendle Borough Council, as the Licensing Authority, is obliged to decide whether your application is valid within the requirements of the Act and Regulations.

Under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings Regulations) 2005, the Licensing Authority requests that you clarify the grounds upon which you are making representations. This form will assist you in ensuring that you have entered your representations properly and fully.

If you are completing this form by hand, please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary.

You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records. You may use your copy as an aide memoir at a hearing before the Licensing Committee.

The ground(s) for representation must be based on one of the licensing objectives.

Please list any additional information or details to support your application and attach any documentary or other information that you may wish to use. If you have not disclosed this information, you will not be able to introduce it at the hearing unless all the other parties consent.

Please note that by ticking the section below which appears on page 5 of this form -

I understand that the Licensing Authority is obliged to give notice of a hearing to all parties to the hearing and this must include a copy of this representation. (You must tick this box)	Yes ☐
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and signing and dating the form, you are agreeing that a copy of your representation can be passed to the applicant and other associated parties.

If you do not want this to happen, you should contact the Licensing Office on 01282 661987 immediately and discuss it with an Officer. However, it should be noted that some or all of your personal details can only be withheld in exceptional and isolated circumstances and this course of action will only be considered where the circumstances justify such action.

Pendle Borough Council
A Licensing Authority for the purposes of the Licensing Act 2003

Section 1

I Police Sergeant 541 Stephen DUNDON

(insert name of person making representation whether as an individual or on behalf of a group or authorised to make a representation as a responsible authority)

make representations in respect of a REVIEW * of a;
(delete as appropriate)

Premises Licence	☒
Club Premises Certificate	☐

Premises or Club Premises details:

Name, address and postcode of premises or club premises in respect of which you are making representations.	
Name of Premises	White Bear Inn
Address of Premises	Gisburn Road Barrowford Lancashire
Post code (if known)	BB9 6EP

I am;

Please tick as appropriate

a) a person	
b) a body representing persons	
c) a person involved in a business	
d) a body representing persons involved in a business	
e) a Responsible Authority	
f) An elected Borough Councillor	

Section 2

Please provide your details below -

Details of Responsible Authority

(mark as appropriate)

Title: <i>(please select)</i>	Mr / Mrs. / Ms. / Miss / other:
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Surname		First Name	
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I am 18 years of age or older	☐
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or

Name of the Organisation or Responsible Authority	Lancashire Constabulary
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Address Details:

Full contact address	Licensing Department Burnley Police Station Parker Lane Burnley Lancashire
Postcode	BB11 2BT

Contact name	PS 541 Stephen Dundon
Daytime contact telephone number	01282 472035
E-mail address	stephen.dundon@lancashire.police.uk

Section 3

Details of the licensing objectives which will be undermined by the application; grant / variation / review.

This representation relates to the following licensing objective(s):

(tick as appropriate)

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder	☒
Public Safety	☐
The Prevention of Public Nuisance	☐
The Protection of Children from Harm	☒

Section 4

Information and details of the Representation

Please note that if your representations relate to the Variation of an existing Licence or Certificate, the representations can only relate to the variation of the Licence or Certificate.

Please provide as much information as possible to support your representation. Please note that if you have not disclosed this information, you may not be able to introduce it at the hearing unless all the other parties consent.

These representations are in respect of an application for review of the premises licence at the WHITE BEAR INN, GISBURN ROAD, BARROWFORD, LANCASHIRE that has been brought by Pendle Borough Council Licensing Department.

Amy COPLEN was initially appointed as DPS in December 2025 and both her and Carl JOHNSON were appointed as Premises Licence Holders in April 2026.

Since this time there have been several domestic related incidents between the premises licence holders that have taken place at the WHITE BEAR INN. Whilst these incidents have not resulted in prosecutions, they have involved allegations of criminal offences committed at or connected with the premises, including assault, threats to kill and criminal damage.

On FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2026, at 22:17hrs the Police received a call, (Log LC-20260213-1450), from Amy COPLEN during which she alleged she had been assaulted by her "ex-partner" Carl JOHNSON. Ms COPLEN gave a statement to the Police in which she stated that she had been "with Carl for nearly 2 years in an on and off relationship." She stated "I would describe this relationship as toxic". Following this allegation JOHNSON was arrested and denied the offence, giving an account that he had been the one assaulted by Ms COPLEN. Due to evidential difficulties, no further action was taken by the Police in respect of this incident.

On MONDAY 6th JULY 2026, at 22:59hrs the Police received a call, (Log LC-20260706-1679), from a member of staff reporting that there was a domestic dispute ongoing between the landlord and landlady, Carl JOHNSON and Amy COPLEN. Police attended and established that Ms COPLEN had just returned from holiday and both parties had had an argument whilst heavily intoxicated. It was alleged that COPLEN had smashed a card

payment machine. She left to stay at an alternative address. No further action was taken by the police in respect of this incident due to lack of support from the parties involved.

On WEDNESDAY 8th JULY 2026 at 06:33hrs the Police received a call, (Log LC-20260708-0254), from Carl JOHNSON stating that Ms COPLEN had turned up at the premises and was throwing things at him. Police attended but Ms COPLEN had left prior to their arrival, but it was alleged she had thrown items and damaged a toolbox and threatened to kill the informant before leaving. No further action was taken by the police in respect of this incident due to the informant wishing to withdraw their support for any prosecution.

Following this incident, the police were notified by PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL Licensing Department, that Amy COPLEN had notified them that she wished to remove herself as Designated Premises Supervisor, (DPS), at the premises. This meant that in the absence of there being a DPS installed at the premises, they were not allowed to carry out licensable activity, such as the sale of alcohol, until such time a new DPS was instated.

Over the next two days there was communication with Ms COPLEN and she made an application to return as DPS but that had not been processed.

At 16:25hrs PS 541 DUNDON attended the WHITE BEAR INN, in company with Wajed IQBAL of PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL Licensing Department. The premises was open and there were numerous people sat consuming alcoholic drinks both inside and in the beer garden at the front of the premises.

The Officers spoke to Carl JOHNSON and advised him that in the absence of their being a DPS in place at the premises he was not permitted to carry out licensable activity.

JOHNSON was very emotional and stated that he had had to "BEG, BORROW and STEAL" money in order to buy stock for the weekend and he had to pay the money back on Monday 13th JULY 2026. He stated that he had no option but to open to sell the stock.

He was advised that should he open and carry out licensable activity then offences under the Licensing Act 2003 would be committed and he would likely be prosecuted. Despite being advised that the sale of alcohol in the absence of a DPS would constitute an offence under the Licensing Act 2003 and could result in prosecution, Mr JOHNSON indicated that he intended to continue trading.

In light of this, at 17:50hrs a Closure Notice under s19 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, was served on Mr JOHNSON. This notice stated that he must close with immediate effect until a DPS was installed and the CCTV was functioning properly.

Mr JOHNSON refused to sign acknowledgement of the receipt of the Notice.

At 12:59hrs on MONDAY 13th JULY 2026 the Police received an excel spreadsheet from Leann TOOMBS, the Regional Manager for STONEGATE PUB PARTNERS that showed their internal data that showed what quantity of drinks had been dispensed at the premises between Wednesday 8th JULY 2026 and Sunday 12th JULY 2026 and it was clear from this data that the premises had been open all day across all these days.

At 00:43 on SUNDAY 12th JULY 2026 the police received a call, (Log LC-20260712-0074), asking for the Police at the WHITE BEAR. Police attended and reported that there were a lot of "Youths" in the pub, all of them very drunk and one had smashed a window. A FIFTEEN year old male was arrested for being drunk and disorderly at the scene. Another male aged 18 years old was arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage. This disorder all occurred during the England v Norway World Cup fixture and, in the opinion of the police gives rise to concerns as to whether the operators are able to promote the prevention of children from harm licensing objective.

Mr JOHNSON has maintained that there is no evidence that this child has been inside the premises. That is correct, but had the CCTV been working, as required by the premises licence conditions, it would have perhaps provided clarity around what actually happened.

Following this incident, Pendle Borough Council served a Closure Notice under s76 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 at the premises on TUESDAY 14th JULY 2026, having concerns that if the premises was to open for the England v Argentina fixture on the 15th JULY there would be further disorder.

The premises did remain closed following the serving of this notice, until the Court hearing at Burnley Magistrates Court on 24th July 2026 when an application for a Closure Order under s80 of the same legislation was heard. At the hearing a Closure Order was not granted by the Magistrates Court. In making their decision, the Magistrates stated they were not satisfied there would be further disorder or anti-social behaviour associated with the premises, primarily due to the fact that the World Cup had finished by the time of the hearing.

Whilst each of the above incidents must be considered on its individual facts, collectively they demonstrate a pattern of instability in the management of the premises which has resulted in repeated police attendance and has undermined the licensing objective of the prevention of crime and disorder.

The concern of Lancashire Constabulary is not the existence of a personal relationship between the parties. Rather, it is that disputes between the premises licence holders have repeatedly manifested themselves at the licensed premises, disrupted the management of the premises and generated incidents requiring police attendance.

At the time of writing they are joint premises licence holders at this premises, but their personal arguments and relationship issues have caused the police to have to attend the premises on three occasions this year, and they have only been in the premises for 8 months.

Their most recent incidents led to Ms COPLEN removing herself as DPS from the premises on one day and then later the same day seeking to reverse this decision.

At the time of writing these representations, both Ms COPLEN and Mr JOHNSON remain under investigation for alleged offences under the Licensing Act 2003 following the opening of the premises whilst there was no DPS.

On 24th JULY 2026 the Premises Licence Holders made an application to designate Ms COPLEN as the DPS at the premises. The process allowed them to operate whilst this application was being processed.

The Police objected to this application and on Tuesday 1st SEPTEMBER 2026 there was a hearing with the Pendle BC Licensing Committee, with Mr JOHNSON representing the PLH. Ms COPLEN was not present for personal reasons. The Licensing Committee determination was that Ms COPLEN was not a suitable DPS. The hearing ended at 12:20pm and at the end of the hearing Mr JOHNSON was advised verbally, by Wajed IQBAL, that as there was no DPS in place then they were not able to operate and carry out licensable activity in the premises.

Later in the afternoon of the 1st SEPTEMBER 2026 the police were made aware by Wajed IQBAL of Pendle BC Licensing that he had seen that the White Bear was open. The police have been sent dispense data from Joanne HIPKISS, the Licensing Manager for the Ei Group, the pub tenancy company with whom the PLH have their tenancy agreement with, and this shows that draft alcohol was dispensed each hour between 12:00 and 21:00hrs, with a total of over 90 pints of alcohol dispensed.

At approximately 13:45hrs on 2nd SEPTEMBER 2026 Police Sergeant Stephen DUNDON attended the White Bear Inn, in company with Wajed IQBAL. The premises were open, but there were no customers present. The staff member on duty explained that they were open and had only had a couple of customers in and that Mr JOHNSON had just gone to the tip. The officers spoke to Mr JOHNSON on the phone and advised him that as there was no DPS in place then the premises could not operate. MR JOHNSON stated he had been awaiting details of how to resolve this, in writing from the licensing authority. He did agree to close immediately and arranged to meet Wajed IQBAL to discuss what needed to be done around an application for a new DPS.

The Police also understand that the owners of the premises, Ei Group/Stonegate, have commenced proceedings to terminate the tenancy agreement they hold with Ms COPLEN and Mr JOHNSON.

On 3rd SEPTEMBER 2026 Ms COPLEN has submitted paperwork seeking to surrender her role as a PLH and also the contractual arrangement between her and the Ei Group/Stonegate, leaving Mr JOHNSON as the sole PLH and him needing to identify a suitable DPS.

At the time of writing these representations, none of this has been processed by the licensing authority, so there is uncertainty as to how this will could impact these representations ahead of the review hearing.

Lancashire Constabulary's position is that the evidence demonstrates a sustained period of management instability at the premises, repeated incidents requiring police attendance, concerns regarding compliance with the Licensing Act 2003 and a failure by the current premises licence holders to consistently promote the licensing objectives.

Whilst the personal relationship between the joint premises licence holders is not itself a licensing matter, the consequences of that relationship have repeatedly impacted upon the operation and management of the premises. The evidence demonstrates that personal disputes have resulted in police call-outs, disruption to the management structure of the premises and uncertainty regarding the lawful authorisation of licensable activities.

In addition, the owner of the premises is seeking to terminate the lease agreement between themselves and the current tenants.

Of particular concern is the evidence that licensable activities may have continued during periods when no DPS was in place and after clear advice had been provided regarding the consequences of doing so. Lancashire Constabulary considers that this raises serious concerns regarding management competence and regulatory compliance.

The Police consider this particularly concerning as it indicates either a lack of understanding of the licensing regime or a willingness to disregard regulatory requirements once they had been clearly explained. Either scenario raises concerns regarding the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Lancashire Constabulary acknowledges the importance of the White Bear Inn as a longstanding community asset and is not seeking revocation of the premises licence at this stage.

However, the Police submit that the Licensing Sub-Committee should give serious consideration to exercising its powers under section 52 of the Licensing Act 2003.

In particular, a period of suspension would provide an opportunity for the current tenancy arrangements and management structure to be resolved, for a suitable DPS to be identified, and for future operation of the premises to be placed on a stable and compliant footing.

Section 5

Have you made any representations in respect of these premises before? <i>(Delete as appropriate)</i>	Yes ☒	No ☐
If yes, date that you made representations	30/07/2026 in respect of a vary DPS application.	

I understand that the Licensing Authority is obliged to give notice of a hearing to all parties to the hearing and this must include a copy of this representation. (You must tick this box)	Yes ☒
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IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION OR REPRESENTATION.

Section 6

Signatures

Signature of person making representation or a solicitor or other duly authorised agent.
If signing on behalf of a body representing a person living or carrying on a business in the vicinity of the premises or on behalf of a responsible authority, please ensure that have the right to sign a representation on their behalf and state the capacity in which you are signing.

Signature	Stephen Dundon
Date	03/09/2026
Capacity	Police Sergeant - Licensing

Once fully completed please return via the following methods:

POST	Licensing Section, Town Hall, Market Street, Nelson, Lancashire BB9 7LG
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EMAIL	licensing@pendle.gov.uk
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Please ensure this form is received **before** the last date of representations
(This can be found on the Public Notice or contact Licensing on 01282-661987)