

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
☐

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 an application to transfer the premises licence 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
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 made in respect of an application to transfer the premises licence at the WHITE BEAR INN from CARL JOHNSON and Amy COPLEN jointly to Carl JOHNSON as sole Premises Licence Holder.

The police submit in accordance with s42(6) of the Licensing Act 2003, that there are such exceptional circumstances surrounding this application that granting the application would undermine the prevention of crime and disorder licensing objective.

Carl JOHNSON and Amy COPLEN were appointed as Premises Licence Holders in April 2026.

The circumstances around this variation are that during the week commencing 6th JULY 2026 domestic issues between COPLEN and JOHNSON were reported at the WHITE BEAR INN, GISBURN ROAD, BARROWFORD, LANCASHIRE.

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.

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.

Lancashire Constabulary does not rely upon these incidents as evidence that either party committed a criminal offence. It is nevertheless relevant insofar as it forms part of a pattern of domestic disputes between the joint premises licence holders requiring police attendance at the licensed premises.

Following the incident on 8th JULY 2026, 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 a DPS, the premises were not authorised to carry on the retail sale of alcohol until a new DPS had been specified on the premises licence.

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 Sgt DUNDON attended the WHITE BEAR INN, in company with Wajed IQBAL of PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL Licensing Department. The premises were 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 there 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. He stated he would have to open regardless. In light of this, at 17:50hrs SGT DUNDON served a Closure Notice under s19 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, 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, Regional Manager for STONEGATE PUB PARTNERS. The data detailed drinks dispensed at the premises between 8th JULY 2026 and 12th JULY 2026. The records indicated that alcohol had been dispensed throughout each day during that period and were consistent with the premises having traded throughout those dates.

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 observed a large group of youths associated with the premises, several of whom appeared intoxicated.

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. These two males were in fact brothers.

JOHNSON will maintain that the disorder was not connected to the premises as the individuals were arrested across the road from the premises. However, the staff spoken to by the Police stated that the group had been ejected after fighting between themselves and had been "a bit of a nightmare". Mr JOHNSON will also maintain that there is no evidence that the fifteen year old had been in the premises. While the police cannot say whether the fifteen-year-old had entered the premises, the absence of a functioning CCTV system meant that a potentially important source of evidence was unavailable. This is a matter of concern given the premises licence requirement to maintain an operational CCTV system.

The body worn video has been reviewed, and Mr JOHNSON does not appear on the footage despite police remaining at the premises for a significant period and engaging with several members of staff.

Mr JOHNSON maintains he was present at the time and was doing jobs related to the close of the day, perhaps in the cellar and was not aware of the police attendance. The police therefore have concerns regarding the level of management oversight being exercised at the premises during an incident involving disorder.

It is also of note that on 13th FEBRUARY 2026 the Police were called to the premises following a call from Ms COPLEN who alleged that she had been assaulted by Mr JOHNSON following an argument after their relationship had ended. Mr JOHNSON was arrested and during interview he gave an account alleging that Ms COPLEN had in fact assaulted him. In light of the conflicting accounts and lack of any independent evidence to corroborate either version of events, a decision was made that no further action would be taken in respect of the allegations.

Whilst no criminal proceedings resulted from this incident, it remains relevant insofar as it demonstrates a further occasion on which a domestic dispute between the two joint premises licence holders required police attendance at the licensed premises.

In addition, on 26th May 2026, at 19:14hrs the Police received a call (Log LC-20260526-1410). The call was a male reporting that he had been grabbed and threatened by Mr JOHNSON at the WHITE BEAR INN and had fled the premises after Mr JOHNSON had said he was "GOING TO KICK THE FUCK OUT OF HIM AND KILL HIM". Officers attended and spoke to both parties. It transpired that the caller had made some lurid comments about JOHNSON'S partner and that was what prompted the response from Mr JOHNSON, who admitted his language might have been a bit colourful. A public order offence was recorded but no further action was taken against Mr JOHNSON because the informant did not wish to give a statement.

On 1st SEPTEMBER 2026 there was a hearing of the Pendle Licensing Committee where Ms COPLEN had applied to be the DPS at the WHITE BEAR INN. This application was the subject of an objection by Lancashire Constabulary, and the outcome of the hearing was that the Committee refused to allow COPLEN to be the DPS at the premises. Mr JOHNSON attended the hearing to represent COPLEN as she was unable to attend due to a personal matter. At the conclusion of the hearing, Mr JOHNSON asked what the implications were for the premises and was advised by Wajed IQBAL that it could not open until there was another DPS identified. Mr JOHNSON therefore knew, following the hearing, that the premises could not lawfully operate in the absence of a DPS.

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 that he had been awaiting written advice from the licensing authority as to how the matter could be resolved.

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.

Lancashire Constabulary acknowledges that Parliament intended applications to transfer a premises licence to be granted routinely and that refusal should occur only in exceptional circumstances.

However, of particular concern is the evidence suggesting that Mr JOHNSON continued to operate the premises and authorise licensable activity despite being expressly advised by both police and licensing officers that such activity would be unlawful in the absence of a designated premises supervisor. If proven, this conduct would demonstrate a deliberate disregard for the statutory licensing regime. The police submit that this is highly relevant when assessing whether the applicant can be relied upon to promote the prevention of crime and disorder objective as sole premises licence holder.

It is submitted that the combination of:

- repeated incidents requiring police intervention at the premises;
- concerns regarding management oversight;
- the absence of functioning CCTV during relevant incidents;
- allegations of operating otherwise than in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 despite explicit advice; and
- the ongoing investigation into potential Licensing Act offences,

amount to exceptional circumstances.

These circumstances go beyond ordinary management concerns and directly engage the prevention of crime and disorder objective.

Lancashire Constabulary therefore submits that granting the transfer application would undermine the prevention of crime and disorder licensing objective and submit that this application presents the exceptional circumstances contemplated by section 42(6) of the Licensing Act 2003.

Lancashire Constabulary therefore respectfully invites the Licensing Authority to refuse the application.

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	3/9/2026 – Representations for Premises Licence Review	

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
☒

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	09/09/2026
Capacity	Police Sergeant - Licensing

Once fully completed please return via the following methods:

POST	Licensing Section, Town Hall, Market Street, Nelson, Lancashire BB9 7LG
EMAIL	licensing@pendle.gov.uk

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)