



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

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[REDACTED]

Mr Nigel Wakelin
DCMS
Tourism, Licensing and Economic Impact
2-4 Cockspur Street
LONDON
SW1Y 5DH

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Please Ask For:
Direct Line/Ext: Ext 296
Date: 27 August 2008

Dear Nigel

Re: Licensing Act 2003 : Consultation

Further to your letter dated 4 August 2008 and your request for views on the proposed amendments to the Licensing Act 2003, I make the following comments:

First Proposal – Minor Variations

I have some concerns regarding proposed 'minor' changes to the structure and layout of a premises. Any such change within a premises, has the potential to significantly affect a number of inbuilt fire safety measures. For example; the means of escape provision, siting of automatic fire detection, potentially maximum occupancy numbers may all be negatively affected by a 'minor' change to the structure and layout of the premises.

These factors may not be easily identified and adequately assessed by the applicant. Subsequently licensing authorities need to be fully aware of the potential for this to affect public safety and be minded to refer applications to the Fire and Rescue Service as appropriate.

The inclusion of a plan from the applicant indicating the minor change would significantly assist the licensing authority in this decision making process.

Additionally, the provision of live music may also affect the premise's ability to raise the adequate level of alarm to those present and this, therefore, also needs to be correctly highlighted, addressed and referred as appropriate.

In terms of referrals to responsible authorities, I question the negative effect that any such referral would have on the 10 working days (statutory duty to respond) and question that, if such a referral takes place, then the 10 working days should be re-addressed.

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Second Proposal – DPS and Community Premises

No comment.

I hope that this helps with your consultation process, however, if you require any further clarity or wish to discuss this further then please contact my Head of Fire Protection, Mark Huckerby, on the above number, who will be pleased to assist you.

Yours sincerely

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