

Application for summary licence review



Thurrock Council
Civic Offices, New Road, Grays Essex RM17 6SL

Licensing Authority premises licence number (optional): 05/00744/LAPRE

Application for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 (premises associated with serious crime or disorder)

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form. If you are completing the 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.**

I Jackie COOPER [on behalf of] the chief officer of police for the Essex Police area apply for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003.

1. Premises details:

Postal address of premises, or if none or not known, ordnance survey map reference or description:

THE CIVIC HALL
BLACKSHOTS COMPLEX
BLACKSHOTS LANE

Post town: GRAYS

Post code (if known): RM16 2JU

2. Premises licence details:

Name of premises licence holder (if known): IMPULSE LEISURE LTD

Number of premises licence holder (if known):

3. Certificate under section 53A(1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 [Please read guidance note 1]:

I confirm that a certificate has been given by a senior member of the police force for the police area above that in his opinion the above premises are associated with serious crime or disorder or both, and the certificate accompanies this application.

(Please tick the box to confirm)

4. Details of association of the above premises with serious crime, serious disorder or both:
[Please read guidance note 2]

Essex Police has significant concerns regarding how the Civic Hall, Blackshot's Lane is operated as regards the hosting of boxing promotions.

A serious outbreak of disorder took place on Saturday 7th March 2020 where multiple persons began to fight, door supervisors were injured and staff had to take refuge. On police arrival it was found that two separate door supervisor companies were engaged, one by the premises and one by the promoter. Subsequently some of these door supervisors did not fully cooperate with the police.

In essence, the venue staff and management lost control of the premises.

Considerable police resources from as far as Southend had to be deployed to restore order and police officers were compelled to remain onsite until after 01:00 hours to prevent a recurrence after order had been restored.

Similar incidents took place during/following boxing events at the location in August 2016 and September 2017.

In the immediate aftermath, delays were experienced in the police being able to review CCTV footage for the immediate detection of crime. On past occasions, the identity of those responsible for the disorder has proven difficult to determine due to the CCTV quality and coverage and the lack of identity checks to enter the premises.

Essex Police had no prior knowledge of the boxing event and in particular no details of those fighting – information that would have allowed police intelligence to be shared about likely supporter groups and discussion initiated.

The existing licence has few conditions and it is perceived by Essex Police to be inadequate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, especially the prevention of crime and disorder.

Essex Police hereby makes an application for the review of the premises licence by way of a 'summary' review. The application is considered necessary because the outcome of a standard review can be appealed and the appeal process can take as long as a year – during the appeal stage any decision of the licensing sub-committee is put on hold. A summary review provides that interim steps may be imposed and these may remain in place until an appeal is disposed off.

Essex Police considers interim steps are needed to safeguard the public and prevent disorder at similar events in the future.

Essex Police does not believe (as its application relates primarily to boxing events, and how SIA door supervisors are deployed) that a suspension of the licence is necessary ahead of a full hearing. Essex Police is conscious that the Civic Hall is operated by a company having charitable status and that many community focussed events are held where the sale of alcohol is an essential element of the events.

Whilst Essex Police does not consider a suspension of the licence is appropriate to promote the licensing objectives and mitigate the existing risk, Essex Police believes that the below interim steps, to address the current risk of further disorder, are required.

That:

- The licensable hours for boxing and wrestling are amended as below; and
- Existing conditions modified, or added to, as set out below until a full hearing to consider the matter.

1. Modify the licensable hours for Boxing and Wrestling as below; and

Monday	07:00 - 23:00
Tuesday	07:00 - 23:00
Wednesday	07:00 - 23:00
Thursday	07:00 - 23:00
Friday	07:00 - 00:00
Saturday	07:00 - 00:00
Sunday	07:00 - 00:00

Currently 07:00 - 00:00 Sunday – Thursday & 07:00 - 01:00 Friday & Saturday.

2. Attach additional conditions to the premises licence as below (which Essex Police shall also seek at the full hearing).

- 1) Essex Police shall be provided with 28 days' notice where an event is to be held which is organised by an external promoter or is promoted/advertised to the public by an external promoter and where that event includes boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts or similar. This notice shall include full details of the nature of the event and the promoter, expected attendee numbers and the details of each fighter listed on the bill. The notice shall be e-mailed to the central police licensing team (the address of which appears on the Essex Police website).
- 2) The notice set out above shall be accompanied by an event management plan that details the minimum numbers of door supervisors (male and female), minimum numbers of stewards and a risk assessment based on advertised 'fighters'.
- 3) When professional boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts or similar takes place at the venue; a Clubscan/IDSCAN or similar system shall be operated at the premises. All patrons entering the premises must provide verifiable ID and have their details recorded on the system.
- 4) Signs must be displayed at all entrances and exits advising customers that CCTV is operating at the premises and shall be a minimum size of 200 x 148 mm and clearly legible at all times when the premises conduct licensable activities.

- 5) An incident log shall be kept at the premises and made immediately available to police or licensing authority staff upon reasonable request. The log must be completed as soon as is possible and within any case within 4 hours of the occurrence and shall record the following:
- a. all crimes reported to the venue
 - b. all ejections of patrons
 - c. any complaints received concerning crime and disorder
 - d. any incidents of disorder
 - e. all seizures of drugs or offensive weapons
 - f. any faults in a CCTV system, searching equipment or scanning equipment mandated as a condition of the licence

The incident log shall either be electronic or maintained in a bound document with individually numbered pages and be retained for at least 12 months from the date of the last entry.

- 6) Where SIA licensed door supervisors are used at the premises a record shall be maintained (on the premises) which is legible and details:
- i. The day and date when door supervisors were deployed;
 - ii. The name and SIA registration number of each door supervisor on duty at the premises; and
 - iii. The start and finish time of each door supervisor's worked duty period.

This record shall be retained on the premises for 31 days and be immediately provided to police or licensing authority staff upon reasonable request.

- 7) All SIA licensed door supervisors engaged at the premises for the purpose of supervising or controlling queues must wear high visibility jackets or vests. When boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts or similar takes place at the venue all SIA door supervisors on duty will wear high visibility jackets or vests.
- 8) When boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts or similar takes place at the venue all patrons entering or re-entering the premises shall be searched by a SIA licensed door supervisor for concealed weapons.
- 9) At all times, admission to the premises shall remain under the exclusive control of the premises' management and staff and any SIA licensed door supervisors deployed shall be hired (directly or indirectly) by the premises licence holder, designated premises manager or some other responsible person directly involved in the management of the premises.

This requirement exists even where:

- i. The premises is hired/used by independent promoters; or
- ii. An arrangement exists with an independent promoter who arranges an event that includes admission to the premises.

- 10) When boxing, wrestling, mixed martial arts or similar takes place at the venue:
- i. Drinks must only be served in polycarbonate/plastic and/or toughened glass containers; and

- ii. No alcohol sales shall take place after the last fight takes place.

At the FULL HEARING, Essex Police will ask that in addition to the interim steps requested at 2- 10 above, that a further condition be added to the licence (as below).

11) The premises shall have installed and maintain a closed-circuit television surveillance (CCTV) system that at all times complies with the below requirements:

- i. CCTV will be provided in the form of a recordable system, capable of providing pictures of evidential quality in all lighting conditions particularly facial recognition;
- ii. CCTV cameras shall cover all public areas of the Civic Hall including all entrances and exits (and in particular that area where patrons present ID for IDSCAN or similar) and all areas where the sale of alcohol takes place;
- iii. Equipment must be maintained in good working order, be correctly time and date stamped, recordings must be kept in good working order and kept for a minimum period of 31 days;
- iv. At all times, whilst the premises is open for licensable activities, there are members of staff able to immediately provide viewable copies of recordings to the police or licensing authority staff upon reasonable request;
- v. The recording equipment and data storage devices shall be kept in a secure environment and fitted with security functions (such as passwords) to prevent recordings being tampered with.

Essex Police has not asked for this to be imposed as an interim step because it has been assured no boxing is to be held in the next 4 weeks. To adhere to this condition will entail costs and implementation will take some weeks. Its immediate imposition would lead to the cancelling of planned charity events this weekend.

Signature of applicant: J.COOPER

Date: 11/03/2020

Capacity: LICENSING OFFICER

5. Contact details for matters concerning this application:

Address: ESSEX POLICE LICENSING DEPARTMENT
BLYTH'S MEADOW, BRAINTREE, CM7 3DJ

Telephone number(s): 01245 452035

Email: Licensing.Applications@essex.police.uk

Notes for guidance:

1. A certificate of the kind mentioned in the form must accompany the application in order for it to be valid under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003. The certificate must explicitly state the senior officer's opinion that the premises in question are associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both. Serious crime is defined by reference to section 81 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. In summary, it means:

- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences for which a person who has attained the age of eighteen and has no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of three years or more; or
 - conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences and involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose.
- Serious disorder is not defined in legislation, and so bears its ordinary English meaning.

2. Briefly describe the circumstances giving rise to the opinion that the above premises are associated with serious crime, serious disorder, or both.

Premises Name:


Name of Designated Premises Supervisor:

Premises address:

Summary Review – Superintendent's certification



Certificate under Section 53A (1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003

Certifying officers name:	CRAIG SAUNDERS		
Rank & PIN:	SUPT 77475	Signature:	
Stationed at:	MARLOW	Date:	09.03.20
		Time:	09:30

I hereby certify that in my opinion the premises described below are associated with ~~serious crime~~ (*see note below) / ~~serious disorder~~ / both serious crime and serious disorder (delete as applicable)

I am giving this certificate because I am of the opinion that other procedures under the Licensing Act 2003 are in appropriate because;

On Saturday 7th March 2020 during a promoted boxing event, a large disturbance broke out inside the venue and spilt outside. Around 40 – 100 people were reported by staff as taking part amongst a crowd of around 400 people. Essex Police believe some of the protagonists included members of organised crime gangs. Those involved in the disorder had been drinking at the venue before and during the boxing event and this would have contributed to the violence. Door supervisors were injured and staff had to take refuge in various parts of the building. Chairs were used as weapons and at least one female patron injured. In essence, the venue staff and management lost control of the premises.

In excess of 15 police units, from as far as Southend, had to be deployed to restore order and police officers were compelled to remain onsite until after 01.00 to prevent a recurrence after order had been restored amidst claims some of the protagonists had left to get weapons and were coming back.

Similar incidents took place during/following boxing events at the location in August 2016 and September 2017.

In the immediate aftermath, delays were experienced in the police being able to review CCTV footage for the immediate detection of crime. On past occasions, the identity of those responsible for the disorder has proven difficult to determine due to the CCTV quality and coverage and the lack of identity checks to enter the premises.

Essex Police has no prior knowledge of the boxing event and in particular no details of those fighting – information that would have allowed police intelligence to be shared about likely supporter groups and discussion initiated.

The existing licence has few conditions and it is perceived by Essex Police to be inadequate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, especially the prevention of crime and disorder.

An application for a summary review is deemed appropriate so that immediate steps can be taken to:

- Modify the conditions of the licence; and/or
- suspend the licence.

ahead of a full hearing where Essex Police would seek permanent modifications to the conditions and to vary the hours of licensable activity as it relates to boxing and wrestling.

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A **brief** description of why standard review processes are inappropriate e.g. degree of seriousness of the crime/disorder, past history of non-compliance etc. *may be helpful* but this is not a legal necessity for the issue of a certificate and will be outlined within any application for review, should one subsequently be applied for. Applications are usually sought when 'interim steps' are considered necessary before a review hearing takes place.

There is no requirement to list all occurrences or provide the detail of each occurrence; the sole requirement is that an honest opinion is held that the premise is associated with serious crime/disorder. A single incident may be the trigger for a certificate if it is serious enough. The issue of a certificate does not mean the police **MUST** apply for a review.

***NOTE:** Serious crime includes any criminal conduct that involves the use of violence; serious disorder is not defined and should be given its ordinary meaning.

Premises Name: THE CIVIC HALL (TA IMPULSE LEISURE LTD)

Name of Designated Premises Supervisor: JUAN RANGEL

Premises address: Blackshots Complex
Blackshots Lane
Grays
Essex
RM16 2JU

Premises Licence No. if known 05/00744/LAPRE THURROCK