

**Eglin, David**

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To: licensing  
Subject: RE: Dalton Rooms premises licence review

from: Benjamin Ruth [REDACTED]  
Sent: 21 October 2015 10:11  
To: licensing <licensing@lancaster.gov.uk>  
Subject: Dalton Rooms premises licence review

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been informed by Grant Stringer, lease holder for the Dalton Rooms, that a small number of complaints about noise outside of the venue has led to a premises review.

As an ardent promoter of the music scene of Lancaster to the rest of the UK I would like to add my voice to those of us involved in the night time economy of this marvelous city of our growing concern over the pressure that's coming to bear on existing late night venues in the city centre of which the Dalton Rooms is an obvious example.

I know of no specific disturbances at Dalton Rooms having performed there a number of times as well as assisting in booking acts there throughout 2015 culminating in a highly successful weekend during the 2015 music festival.

I've never known the outside volume at the Dalton Rooms be anything more than you would expect from people talking over drinks in an outside seating area. A scene you would see repeated in any European or North American town or city centre fortunate enough to have a vibrant night time economy.

There's a wider issue at work here and one that goes to the heart and soul of just what Lancaster's cultural identity is.

I speak from some experience when I state that Lancaster has a live music culture that is astonishing for such a small city and represents a truly unique contribution to the UK music scene as a whole. It is a culture with a tremendous amount of hard graft behind it and it should be cherished, nurtured and stood up for.

One of the continuing frustrations for live music venues around the UK is the disproportionate weight often given to a few, sometimes only one, residential complainant who has moved adjacent to an already existing late night venue.

Another venue closing activity is local council granting of new residential planning permission adjacent to existing venues where before no residential zone existed thus opening that venue to a premises licence review due to the complaints of one new resident.

Again, this is a national problem and constructively moving forward, as director of Lancaster Music Festival, I can state the festival's position on this creeping threat to existing thriving live music venues in Lancaster as thus:

1. Residents moving next to an existing late night venue operating within its existing premises licence need to sign a noise complaint waiver as a condition of their residence. Complaints should only be addressed where complainant has cause to believe premises are not operating within their pre-existing premises licence.

2. Planning permission of residential units next to existing late night venues should be considered in favour of the pre-existing venue not the new resident/s and this again should be codified by a resident contract.

Overall, the Lancaster Music Festival supports the phenomenal live music scene in this small city and believes our city council should also make a firm statement of support for this most culturally important part of Lancaster. And this statement of support should be backed up by action to protect our vulnerable night time economy which is the vehicle that enables our nationally recognised music scene to thrive and survive.

Speaking as an individual I object most strongly to any changes in the Dalton Room's premises licence that would impact that venue's ability to contribute to Lancaster's music scene.

Yours Truly,  
Ben

Benjamin Ruth  
Director CMB Artist Services  
Director Lancaster Music CIC  
19 Bath Street  
Lancaster LA1 3PZ

  
UK V1 Licensed Sponsor  
(Grade A)

**Eglin, David**

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**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** RE: Dalton Rooms - Review

**From:** Wesley Downham [mailto:████████████████████]  
**Sent:** 21 October 2015 14:52  
**To:** licensing <licensing@lancaster.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Dalton Rooms - Review  
**Importance:** High

Good Afternoon

I just wanted to briefly email yourselves with regards to the review placed by the EHO on Dalton Rooms. You may or may not know that we provide security to Dalton Rooms, and have done since opening. I therefore thought it necessary to show our support towards owner Grant Stringer and the venue. As a company who looks after many late night establishments all over the North West of England, I can honestly say that as an operator Mr Stringer is one of our most professional and compliant customers we deal with. Having provided Door Supervision staff to Mr Stringer at several of his Licenced Premises for over 10 years, I have never not known him not to cooperate fully with any complaints or issues arising from the general public, customers, suppliers or local authorities previously. Since the issue regarding Noise was highlighted, I know Mr Stringer has gone way beyond what we have ever seen from a late night operator before, in order to 'if any' reduce noise or nuisance in Dalton Square.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any more information.

Best Regards

Wesley Downham  
Business Director

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FGH Security  
Alston House  
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Lancaster  
LA1 4XQ

Dear Ms Peck,

CityLab, 4-6 Dalton Square,  
Lancaster LA1 1PP

I am writing to you with regard to the Licence Review for Dalton Rooms in Lancaster, Dalton Square

Step Dalton Square  
Email info@lancasterbid.org

A noise complaint has been issued by Environmental Health (EH) Office against Dalton Rooms and the owner, Mr Grant Stringer, is willing to correct the problem. The Environmental Health officer supervising this case has not been clear on what measures would be necessary to address the specific problem that had been reported, so Mr Stringer has put into action measures that he felt were appropriate for reducing noise from the front of the venue, therefore potentially relocating the noise nuisance to the back of the building. At no point has the EH officer advised Mr Stringer that a noise complaint has been reported relating to the rear of the premises. To date, Mr Stringer has gone to great lengths (and expense) to reduce the impact of the venue into Dalton Square. It is entirely possible that this action may be posing additional problems for residents on Mary Street but Mr Stringer has stated that he is happy to work out a solution to all of the potential complaints regarding noise coming generated by this venue.

Lancaster Business Improvement District (BID) does not feel that Mr Grant has been given a fair opportunity to implicate alternative, tried-and-tested, noise-reduction solutions that will allow Mr Grant to continue to trade within his existing licence restrictions. The EH is proposing a reduction in hours of trade but Lancaster BID is concerned that this action will have the potential to close the business with associated job losses. The BID is also mindful that this will set a precedent for other late-licence businesses in Lancaster city who trade late into the night and are trying to accommodate the proportion of their customers that need to be outdoors to smoke.

Mr Stringer has identified the following options for smokers and clientele entering/leaving the site:

- Front doors: keeping gate-fold doors closed, reducing the times when smokers can use the space, installing sound-proof mats (all of which have been implicated and have significantly reduced the sound leaving the venue)
- Back doors: sound-proof and crowd control barriers along a public alley. There is an option to change the entrance to a different door for customers accessing or leaving the Glow Rooms venue
- Roof Terrace: purpose built sound-proof smoking area that will reduce the need for anyone to be hanging around outside the club (front or back). This will require planning permission and will take weeks to implement. The planning application can be adjusted to take into consideration recommendations from the EH Office.

Lancaster BID would urge the Licensing Office to allow Mr Stringer to implicate temporary sound-proof solutions until a planning application for a suitable sound-proof roof terrace has been submitted and either rejected or accepted. A dialogue needs to be maintained between all interested parties to allow Mr Stringer to find a solution that suits his neighbours' specific needs. Lancaster BID feels that Mr Stringer should be allowed to continue to trade within his current licenced hours as a reduction in trading hours for Dalton Rooms will provide a competitive edge to other late-night venues trading in Lancaster city centre on later licences.

Yours sincerely



Liz Hickingbotham

Lancaster BID Manager