

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

Licensing/Gambling Hearing

To: Councillors Hook, Nicholls, and Watson

Date: Monday, 29 September 2025

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: West Offices, York

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on **Friday, 19 September 2025**. The attached additional documents are now available for the following agenda item:

6. The Determination of an Application by Little Jay Limited for a Premises Licence (Section 18(3) (a) in respect of Little J, Chapel House, North Street, York, YO1 6JD (CYC-082555)

- i. Additional documents submitted by North Yorkshire Police (Pages 3 - 128)

This agenda supplement was published on
Friday, 26 September 2025

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Licensing Hearing 29 September 2025**Little J, Chapel House****Additional documents submitted by North Yorkshire Police, Responsible Authority**

- Statement of Insp. Godfrey (pages 5-6)
- Statement of PS Booth (pages 7-12)
- Statement of PC Hollis (pages 13-20)
- Statement of PS Collins (pages 21-24)

Restricted documents by virtue of paragraphs 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

- Exhibits: PC Hollis (pages 25-66)
- Exhibits: PS Booth (pages 67-126)
- Video taken from Little J Facebook page (page 127)

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STATEMENT OF WITNESS

In the matter of an application for a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003

STATEMENT OF: Inspector 1463 Andrew Godfrey

Age of Witness (if over 18 enter) : Over 18

Occupation of Witness: Local Policing Support Team Inspector

Address: North Yorkshire Police, Fulford, York, YO10 4BY

This statement (consisting of 2 pages) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

1. I have responsibility for overseeing the police licensing team who are specialist trained officers, designated by the Chief Constable to respond to all matters under the Licensing Act 2003. The team work with statutory partners and key stakeholders to ensure the promotion of the four Licensing objectives, The Prevention of Crime and Disorder, The Prevention of Public Nuisance, Public Safety and the Protection of Children from harm, in respect of applications and compliance with the Licensing Act 2003.
2. On Monday the 8th September 2025 I came back to work after a period of annual leave, at this point I became aware of several emails in relation to a licensing application reference Little J's in York city centre.
3. On the 10th September the applicant Graham Dykes was due to meet licensing officers at Fulford Road Police station at 1230 hours to discuss the application he had made. I became aware of emails from My Dykes, the latter suggesting the Police had unreasonably refused to meet. The email I sent to Mr Dykes informed him that contrary to his email licensing officers would be available and waiting, I encouraged his attendance at the Police station to discuss the matter with licensing specialists.
4. I am aware that Mr Dykes did not attend the meeting on the 10th September 2025. I have had no one to one contact with Mr Dykes other than emails. I have not heard from him since the last email received 1009hrs on the 10th September 2025.

5. On the 22nd September 2025 Police Sergeant Jackie Booth alerted me to a video which was posted on Facebook. I watched the video which appeared to be in St Helens Square, York. I believe this was footage from a demonstration regarding the licensing application Mr Dykes held on the 18th September 2025. In the video clip a male I now know as Mr Dykes suggests that two authorised officers of the company attended the Police station and that I refused to allow them to speak with police. I am not aware of anyone attending the Police station that day to discuss the Little J's application and I certainly never spoke to anyone about the case other than the Police licensing team who were waiting Mr Dykes arrival at the Police station. My email to Mr Dykes makes it very clear that I encouraged the applicant to attend and discuss the licensing application on the 10th September 2025.
6. I further noted that the Facebook video suggests that they have chased this with Police on the 10th and 14th September 2025 but have not received any reply. I can confirm I have not heard anything or received correspondence from Mr Dykes or any other party from Little J's since sending the email dated 10th September encouraging Mr Dykes to attend the Police station. I have not had further involvement or contact.

Signed: Insp Godfrey

Date: 23/09/25

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

In the matter of an application for a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003

STATEMENT OF: PS 133 Jacqueline Booth

Age of Witness (if over 18 enter) : Over 18

Occupation of Witness: Force Licensing Manager North Yorkshire Police

Address: North Yorkshire Police, Fulford, York, YO10 4BY

This statement (consisting of 5 pages) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

1. I am the Force Licensing Manager for North Yorkshire Police and I am authorised to act on behalf of the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police in matters relating to the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2014 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
2. I have completed the Institute of Licensing Professional Licensing Practitioner's Qualification and the British Institute of Inn keeping Awarding Body's Award for Licensing Practitioner's (Alcohol).
3. I have responsibility for managing the police licensing team who are specialist trained officers, designated by the Chief Constable to respond to all matters under the Licensing Act 2003. This involves working with statutory partners and key stakeholders to ensure the promotion of the four Licensing objectives, The Prevention of Crime and Disorder, The Prevention of Public Nuisance, Public Safety and the Protection of Children from harm, in respect of applications and compliance with the Licensing Act 2003.
4. On 17th July 2025 I reviewed an email sent to the police licensing department which included a letter that had been sent to the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police Tim Forber from Little J requesting support for licensing a dedicated community centre. I was asked by Executive Support who gather information to assist the Chief Constable to respond to correspondence if I could assist in the matter. I advised that under the Licensing Act 2003 the police are defined as a responsible authority who are consulted on applications and need to remain impartial to be able to carry out this function. I advised that the police were not currently in receipt of an application for the premises

and if one was received it would be reviewed in its own merits and responded to accordingly.

5. On 22nd July 2025 I was contacted by a colleague PS Henderson who had received an email from Graham Dykes requesting the following “***we would very much appreciate your involvement with Fulford Rd Police Licensing Officers to help balance the Licensing Objectives accurately.***” I advised my colleague of the same reply I had provided above with a similar request to the Chief Constable. Exhibit JB/01
6. On 5th August 2025 North Yorkshire Police received an application for a new premises licence at Little Jay Limited. This was forwarded to the police by the licensing authority as per normal process as a responsible authority for consultation. The end of representation date was confirmed as 02/09/25. PC Hollis the licensing officer for York City was allocated the application.
7. On 11th August 2025 my colleague PS Stoffel contacted me regarding an email that he had been sent from Mr Dykes, who was the director of the company applying for the licensing application and the proposed designated premises supervisor for Little Jay Limited. The email referred to issues he felt he was having with PC Hollis who he alleged was not prepared to consider LGBTQI+ matters in relation to his licensing application. He also alleged that PC Hollis had forwarded on an email containing legal privilege. I viewed the emails from PC Hollis and spoke to our force solicitor who deemed that the content of an email forwarded by PC Hollis was not privileged and was relevant as it contained information the licensing authority needed to be sighted on, namely that Mr Dykes was cancelling a joint meeting with the police and licensing authority on 14th August 2025. Exhibit JB/02
8. I reached out to Mr Dykes legal representative Lupton Fawcett solicitors requesting a meeting to discuss the application. They advised they would seek instructions from Mr Dykes and come back with an update. Exhibit JB/03
9. On 12th August 2025 I received an email from Lupton Fawcett solicitors to say that they were not presently instructed by Mr Dykes and to liaise with him directly. Following this confirmation, I emailed Mr Dykes to request to meet at the premises on 14th August 2025 to discuss the application. Exhibit JB/04
10. On 13th August 2025 I received an email from Mr Dykes advising that he did not wish to meet on 14th August as he wished to meet the police separate from officers from the licensing authority, who were attending his premises on this date. Exhibit JB/05
11. On 14th August 2025 I emailed Mr Dykes setting out the position of the police and availability of myself to meet prior to a period of annual leave. Mr Dykes replies to advise he is not able to meet on the alternative suggested dates. Exhibit JB/06
12. On 18th August 2025 I received an email from Mr Dykes, headed “***Conflict between EDI and indicated police objection/decision-making re: LGBTQI+ premises licence***”. I replied to Mr Dykes advising that I had liaised with the force solicitor and responded to points he had previously raised. I again extended my offer to hold a Teams call or meet in person. Exhibit JB/07

13. On 19th August 2025 I emailed Mr Dykes with proposed conditions and asking about why he deemed that his application was an exception to the current statement of licensing policy. Exhibit JB/08
14. On 20th August 2025 I received an email with additional information from Mr Dykes which he deemed was relevant to consider in relation to his application. He advised that for medical reasons that he was not able to attend a meeting on Teams but advised he was happy for any officer to attend the premises to discuss the application. Exhibit JB/09
15. On 21st August 2025 I emailed Mr Dykes acknowledging the additional documents and copied in the licensing authority so they were sighted on the material provided. I explained that due to me going on annual leave and the position of the licensing team being a specialist team it would not be feasible for an officer to attend the premises before the end of representations. Following an email from Mr Dykes on 19th August 2025 in which he stated, “ ***We have no personal issue with PC Hollis, indeed she is friendly and open.***” I advised PC Hollis would be available for him to liaise with in my absence and would continue to liaise with the force solicitor regarding the application. Exhibit JB/10
16. On 2nd September 2025 I returned to work following a period of annual leave. As this was the last day of representations in relation to the application for Little Jay Limited I reviewed all of the correspondence that had been received from Mr Dykes as the applicant. Taking into account information provided by the applicant, York’s statement of licensing policy, the statutory guidance, recent correspondence with PC Hollis and our force solicitor I submitted a representation to the licensing authority setting out the position of the police.
17. I received an email from Mr Dykes asking if there was news on acceptance of police conditions. I advised Mr Dykes that I had submitted a police representation and the matter was for the licensing committee to determine. In my professional capacity as the force licensing manager for the last seven years I have never encountered anyone agreeing to conditions under protest. In my experience they are either amenable to conditions or do not wish to accept conditions which I have always highlighted is their right to do, and in which case the matter is then progressed to a hearing. This provides all parties an opportunity before the licensing sub committee to then outline why they deem conditions are relevant and promote the licensing objectives or are not necessary to promote the licensing objectives.
18. On 5th September 2025 Mr Dykes sent an email to the Assistant Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police, the area commander for York Supt Haywood- Noble, the local MP and various other third parties. I was not copied into the email as the person dealing with the representation from North Yorkshire Police. In the email he refers “*I have therefore met in person with Deputy Chief Constable Clarke and Senior York Commander Superintendent Haywood-Noble. They have committed to arranging a meeting with us and Officers overseeing licensing, and a Representations review*”. The area commander confirmed that the meeting Mr Dykes referred to was in fact an engagement event whereby officers were present outside York Minster on 3rd

September 2025 and Mr Dykes approached the Assistant Chief Constable and Supt Hayood-Noble to discuss the application. Exhibit JB/11

19. On 8th September 2025 I spoke with Helen Sefton licensing officer at the local authority around availability of a meeting to discuss with Mr Dykes responsible authority representations and advised the police would be amenable to a joint meeting on 10th September 2025. I emailed Mr Dykes advising that the police would welcome a meeting and in line with statutory guidance all parties should work in partnership to promote the licensing objectives. Exhibit JB/12
20. On 10th September 2025 I received an email from Mr Dykes advising that he had spoken to the council and officers from the licensing authority would not be attending the meeting. He advised that he would attend the police station in company with Ashley Smith at 1230 and requested that the meeting not be recorded. I replied to Mr Dykes asking who Ashley Smith was as he was not someone who had been mentioned in any previous correspondence and the police were not aware of his involvement. I re-iterated that for transparency for all parties to ensure that there was no miscommunication the meeting would not take place unless it was recorded. Exhibit JB/13
21. Mr Dykes replied to my email and copied in Supt Haywood-Noble stating that I had “unreasonably” refused to meet. Exhibit JB/14
22. Supt Haywood-Noble replied to Mr Dykes encouraging him to attend the meeting.
23. This was followed up by a further email from Inspector Godfrey advising that licensing officers would be available to meet with him and he was encouraged to attend. Exhibit JB/15
24. Mr Dykes did not attend the police station to meet with myself and to date I have not received any further communication from him in relation to this matter.
25. On 16th September 2025 Lesley Cooke licensing manager from York Council advised that she was in receipt of information that there may be potential protests linked to the licensing application.
26. As with any potential protests intelligence/information this is escalated to our operations planning department to assess if a policing presence is required. To assist in verifying the information regarding a protest, I reviewed the Facebook social media posts for “Little j”.
27. The Facebook post for 13th September 2025 states:-
***“Show your support, join us at:
5.30pm 18/9/25 St Helen’s Square – Full Council meeting, St Helens Square
9am 29/09/25 West Offices – Council Licensing Hearing

All Welcome*”**

The post contains information that “Police want 2 bouncers (50ph) for any dry, non- alcohol activity Inc MIDWEEK. Exhibit JB/16

28. This is factually incorrect and misleading. It is concerning that a proposed licence holder and designated premises supervisor and the person who would be in charge of the venue is posting inflammatory and incorrect information about responsible authorities. It brings into question his suitability to both hold a premises licence and his ability to work in partnership with responsible authorities should a premise licence be granted to him.
29. On 18th September 2025 a demo took place in St Helen's Square whereby members of the public gathered as part of an organised rally regarding the Little J licensing application. During this demonstration videos were taken and have been posted on the Little J Facebook page.
30. One video which is named "Press Release" is Mr Dykes reading out a statement relating to the current licensing application. During this statement Mr Dykes states that several hate threats have been received online and he has sought to discuss these with North Yorkshire Police. He states a meeting was arranged by the area commander Supt Haywood-Noble to discuss this with representatives of Little J. Exhibit JB/17 (video clip).
31. A meeting was scheduled for Mr Dykes to attend the police station to discuss the licensing application and the police representation for 10th September 2025. Neither Mr Dykes nor any representatives from Little J attended the police station for the scheduled meeting.
32. In this statement he states that two authorised officers of the company attended Fulford Police station and Inspector Godfrey refused to let the officers of the company meet with police officers. This is factually incorrect and concerning that Mr Dykes has deliberately put false information into the public domain. He has misrepresented North Yorkshire Police's position regarding a meeting specific to the licensing application for Little Jay Limited. Mr Dykes was encouraged to attend a meeting but failed to do so.

Signed: PS133 Booth

Date: 22/09/25

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STATEMENT OF WITNESS

In the matter of an application for a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003

STATEMENT OF: PC 1671 Kim HOLLIS

Age of Witness (if over 18 enter) : Over 18

Occupation of Witness: Licensing Officer North Yorkshire Police

Address: North Yorkshire Police, Fulford, York, YO10 4BY

This statement (consisting of 8 pages) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

1. I am Police Licensing Officer for North Yorkshire Police, and I am authorised to act on behalf of the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police in matters relating to the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2014 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. I joined North Yorkshire Police in 2005 and began my role within the licensing department in April 2018. My area of responsibility is York.
2. I am aware of the current statement of Licensing policy and Cumulative impact assessment area (CIA) for York which came into effect in March 2025.
3. On 14th July 2025 I received an email from Meghan Waldron, Solicitor at Lupton Fawcett solicitors asking to have a quick discussion with me regarding a potential licence application for a premises on North Street, York, which sits within the CIA.
4. 16th July I had a phone conversation with Meghan Waldron. I was advised of an applicant wanting to licence Little J's LGBTQI+ bar until late and no specific details

were provided around operating hours or conditions proposed but a general chat about the position of North Yorkshire Police regarding applications for the CIA area for a late night bar with no food. We briefly discussed that a late night alcohol licence, with no provision of food and without a robust operating schedule would likely be met with objections but that police would take into consideration York's statement of licensing policy and the statutory 182 guidance and that any application would be considered on its own merits. I advised I was happy to discuss further if there were specific details or a draft application before or during the consultation process and made the offer to meet with the applicant or representative to discuss in detail if required.

5. On the 4th August a Temporary Event Notice was received by North Yorkshire Police licensing inbox for one day event at Little J, North Street. This was allocated to myself as licensing officer for the city centre. The application was made by Graham Dykes and advised the event was set to take place on 21st August from 1600-0200hrs the following day.
6. On 5th August an application was received by the licensing inbox for new grant premise licence at Little Jay Limited. York licensing authority forward application to North Yorkshire Police licensing team as per normal process as a responsible authority for consultation. End of representation date confirmed as 02/09/25. This was allocated to my caseload for me to review.
7. On 7th August I contact Graham Dykes via telephone call to discuss the TEN submitted on 4th August (police have 72 hours to respond to this matter). As the TEN was during the Ebor festival and going to be held on the popular 'ladies day' until 02:00hrs I asked about provisions in place to mitigate risk. I recommended that the premises supply 2 SIA registered door staff for the based on recent disorder in the city following on from the races and due to the premises sitting within Cumulative Impact Area. The

discussions took place over a couple of calls and Mr Dykes agreed to have the 2 SIA door staff for the event. I requested this was confirmed in email to prevent any need for a police objection which was provided by Mr Dykes.

During the discussions regarding the TEN I mentioned that I was aware there was a licence application in for the premises and that I would like to meet and discuss the application and view the premises. I suggested that the meeting take place with my colleague from the Licensing authority, Helen Sefton and explained that this was the usual approach and how we could look to discuss any potential concerns with the premises sitting within the CIA. Mr Dykes asked me a lot of questions and I explained that we could go through it in person and that as yet I had not had an opportunity to look at the application. Mr Dykes agreed a meeting arranged for 14th August 2025 to discuss the licensing application with myself and Helen Sefton. I sent out a meeting request via email the same day to confirm this meeting to both Mr Dykes and Helen Sefton.

8. On 10th August I received a very lengthy email from Mr Dykes copying in Meghan Waldron (solicitor) which explained he no longer wished to meet myself and Helen Sefton as planned and that meetings should not be held jointly and to communicate with Meghan Waldron regarding the application. He detailed that he believed the sticking points from North Yorkshire Police were the timings of the venue. He also attached a letter in support of the venue. I responded to Mr Dykes and Meghan Waldron copying in Helen Sefton Senior licensing officer CYC stating I was sorry to hear this and clarifying that any supporting documentations for the application should not be forwarded to North Yorkshire Police but instead the Licensing authority. I asked Meghan to arrange a date for a visit and advised Helen that the meeting was now cancelled for her reference. I did not forward any supporting documents on and kept my

email brief. Please see attached exhibit **KH/1** Initial email exchange with Graham Dykes. I received one reply from Mr Dykes stating I had shared a confidential email and privileged information to the licensing authority 'on the excuse of sending them the attachment' without attaching a document. To clarify I did not send the attachment, nor did I mean to do so. My email simply stated that Mr Dykes should forward these the licensing authority and that I had copied them in for his reference. There were no confidential markings on the email and no privileged information.

9. Following this email exchange, I was advised by my management that Mr Dykes had written to the other Sergeant in our team, Sgt Stoffel, and Superintendent Haywood-Noble as well as an external individual, advising that he was 'having issues' with me making claims that 'She is entrenched in her view on dismissing LGBTQI+ Crime and Safety statistics and reports' and that I was entrenched in my view to object to this application. I can clarify that at this point, as advised to Mr Dykes, I had yet to even read the full application, and I had not advised that I would be making an objection to the application at any point. Mr Dykes was advised by Sgt Stoffel how to make a formal complaint should he wish to. I am also made aware that Mr Dykes attended the Police station at Fulford Road in order to ask to speak with my supervision about my 'conduct'. I have exhibited the email exchange as **KH/2**.

10. Due to the email expressing concerns over myself the decision was made that Sgt Booth, my direct supervisor, would respond to the application and she advised me she would contact the solicitor, Meghan Waldron. I was made aware that Lupton Fawcett solicitors had advised Sgt Booth that they were no longer representing Mr Dykes and Sgt Booth began to communicate with Mr Dykes regarding the application.

11. On 22nd August I received an email from Graham Dykes as Sgt Booth was on leave and Mr Dykes had agreed to speak with me about the proposed conditions in Sgt

Booth's absence. There had been several attempts by Sgt Booth to arrange to meet with Mr Dykes and offered for him to meet with me and Sgt Booth via teams before she went onto leave but this had not been possible. In the email he made reference to meeting and also that the Challenge 25 condition proposed was not suitable. At this stage in the application, I needed him to consider the conditions proposed and was not in a position to meet with him so I replied to Mr Dykes and asked for the suggested wording of the Challenge 25 condition for me to look at and consider and asked that he considered the conditions sent by Sgt Booth on the 19th August. Mr Dykes responded to me with a lengthy email and some proposal for re-wording conditions. I exhibit this email as **KH/3**

12. On 26th August I replied to Mr Dykes with some proposed re-wording of conditions in order to try and work with him on the points he raised. I exhibit **KH/4**. A reply was received from Mr Dykes accepting the wording of the Challenge 25 condition but not to the accepting the condition relating to door staff. He detailed at length the venue having an iron bar gate fitted and that this would mitigate the risk and requirement for 2 door staff. He proposed further re-wording of the door staff condition and asked for me to consider this. I looked through all the information provided but I was unable to agree to the re-wording and further to comment on the fire safety as this would not be appropriate and I felt the conditions proposed were not suitable. I replied on 28th August to this effect and later that day Mr Dykes sent a further email to myself, Superintendent Ed Haywood-Noble, Chief Inspector Jon Aldred, Sgt Tom Stoffel and Jake Furby (member of the public) asking if I had made an oversight in my proposal over the wording of the condition and asking all to advise if this is the position of North Yorkshire Police.

13. On 28th August I responded to Mr Dykes to advise that there was no oversight and that these conditions proposed were the conditions proposed by North Yorkshire Police and confirmed the proposed conditions. I exhibit this as **KH/5**

14. On 29th October Mr Dykes sent an email to Superintendent Ed Haywood-Nobel, Chief Inspector Jon Aldred, Sgt Stoffel and Jake Furby (Member of the public) asking for them to consider the re-wording and expressing the opinion that York Licensing Officers were being unreasonable and entrenched in objection towards the application from day one. I replied to confirm that I was authorised to deal with this licence application on behalf of North Yorkshire Police. A further email was also sent by Mr Dykes to Sgt Stoffel to ask who my supervisor is and asking for clarity on this. Sgt Stoffel replied and explained that ordinarily Sgt Booth is my supervisor and that in her absence he would cover the whole team. He also encouraged Mr Dykes to work with me on this application.

Mr Dykes sent a response to this email to Sgt Stoffel, Superintendent Ed Haywood-Nobel, Chief Inspector Jon Aldred, Inspector Andy Godfrey and Jake Furby (member of the public) requesting a decision on his rewording of conditions in relation to the licence application and making a further complaint about me describing me as 'unreasonable and entrenched officer' but I was not included in this email chain at the time. He was encouraged to continue communicating with myself as I was the person dealing with the application at this time. **KH/6** and **KH/7**

15. On 31st August I received an email from Mr Dykes titled 'Suspension of existing LGBTQI+ support groups' where he advised myself, Sgt Booth and Sgt Stoffel that he would agree 'under protest' to the conditions proposed by North Yorkshire Police. As I

was aware now that Mr Dykes had made a further complaint about my conduct and was stating that he would agree only under protest, citing that this would suspend existing LGBTQI+ activities I did not feel it would be appropriate to make this agreement.

Further, there had been no comments from Mr Dykes regarding the concerns over the proposed operating times for the venue. I advised him by reply that I would discuss this application with Sgt Booth on her return from leave and we would respond to him after this as it was not appropriate for me to respond to him at this time. I exhibit this as **KH/8**

16. I fully updated Sgt Booth on her return from leave which was on 2nd September and the last day for representations for the licence application for Little J.

Sgt Booth submitted a representation to the Licensing authority this same day setting out the position of North Yorkshire Police.

17. On 10th of September, I was advised by Sgt Booth that I was required to attend Fulford road Police station in order to meet with Mr Dykes at 12.30 with her to discuss the Police representation to Little J licence application. I attended Fulford and waited for the appointment to which Mr Dykes did not arrive nor any other representative for Little J. No meeting was held.

18. I have been the York licensing officer for the last 7 years and during this time I have provided the Police response to applications within the cumulative impact area. I have always highlighted to applicants that should a representation be submitted by North Yorkshire Police, it is for the Licensing Committee to decide on the granting of the licence. In respect of this application, I have attempted to work with the applicant throughout this consultation period with the same professionalism, fairness and integrity as always. The applicant has, on numerous occasions, sought to email various senior officers within North Yorkshire Police each time he has not agreed with my decision making and has repeatedly questioned my ability to make decisions within my own

specialism for which I have the recognised qualification. In my experience if the applicant is not amenable to conditions proposed it is their right to refuse agreement to these and the legal process under licensing would be followed, and a Police representation submitted in order to give the applicant fair process for the licensing committee to make the determination. I have not before in my professional capacity, encountered an applicant who has tried to work outside of the normal process or approach senior officers who are not qualified in the licensing act 2003 in order to seek a different determination.

I believe that the facts stated in this statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed: PC 1671 HOLLIS

Date: 22/09/25

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

In the matter of an application for a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003

STATEMENT OF: Sergeant 938 Nigel COLLINS

Age of Witness (if over 18 enter) : Over 18

Occupation of Witness: Local Policing Support Hate Crime Sergeant

Address: North Yorkshire Police HQ, Alverton Court, Northallerton, DL6 1BF

This statement (consisting of 3 pages) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

I am the above-named person, and I am a currently employed by North Yorkshire Police and hold the position of Hate Crime Sergeant for the force.

My role and that of my team includes being responsible for reviewing all the reports of hate crime received by North Yorkshire Police, ensuring that it is correctly recorded and investigated and that suitable support is offered and provided to the victims of hate crime.

I am also responsible for representing North Yorkshire Police at various meetings with partners and stakeholders, I am responsible for delivering the training around hate crime to all new employees of North Yorkshire Police as well as delivering hate crime awareness training externally also.

Finally, my team also are regularly engaging with all our communities across North Yorkshire as we look to attend community events and meetings to continue the good relationships that have been built already and to ensure we have both the trust and confidence of our communities so that they will report matters to the police when it occurs.

My aim as the Hate Crime Sergeant is that all those living, working and visiting North Yorkshire feel safe and free from both discrimination and hatred regardless of their race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender status and that when offences do occur against them that they are able to report the matter to the police for it to be appropriately investigated.

In relation to reports of hate crime within North Yorkshire Police I can confirm that whilst reports of hate crime have increased across the UK and indeed North Yorkshire, this is mainly

only in part in relation to racial hate crime and the increases are not necessarily being reflected in the figures for either hate crimes against a persons sexual orientation or their transgender identity where the figures stay very similar to previous years.

For the period of January 2024 to September 2024, sexual orientation hate crime made up 19% of all the hate crimes recorded within the City of York however from the period of January 2025 to September 2025 it only made up 18% of the total crimes recorded in York. Likewise, from January to September 2024, there were 13 reports of transphobic hate crime making up 4% of the total hate crimes in York but from January to September 2025, we have only recorded 9 reports of transphobic hate crime making up just 2% of the total reports we received.

To provide further detail in relation to the current picture around sexual orientation hate crime; within the City of York, June 2025 saw 10 reports being received, July 2025 saw 5 reports, August 2025, 7 reports and so far in September 2025 there has been 4 reports received.

I am very much of the opinion that just one hate crime where a person is targeted because of any of their protected characteristics is one hate crime too many and would like nothing more than to see that there were no victims of hate crime at all within the City of York, however the figures that we have been provided do not indicate a growing problem or one that has spiralled or seen any sudden spikes in relation to it.

That said, we only hold details of those incidents where victims, witnesses or family and friends are confident and brave enough to report what has occurred. Since I came into the post in 2024, my team and I have done a lot of work with the LGBTQI community to increase understanding and reporting of hate crimes to us including attending the Pride events in both York and Scarborough as well as more recently meetings held by the LGBTQI community.

It was at this meeting on 19th August 2025, hosted by the York LGBT Forum which was focussed on the provision of safe spaces for young people within the LGBTQI community in the City of York when I first met Graham who identified himself as the owner of Little j's.

Graham introduced himself and explained that he had an ongoing licence application being discussed/submitted regarding Little j's but had met with some obstructions from both the City of York Council and the NYP Licensing Team however he said that he was hopeful the matter could be resolved soon.

I explained that whilst I could not offer any information or insight on this, my role was to provide a point of contact to the LGBTQI community in York and that we want those members of the LGBT community to feel both welcome and more importantly safe in our city. We did not discuss Little j's or any application for the rest of the evening, instead focusing on the topic at hand and at the end of the night, it proved to be a very worthwhile engagement event for us. We were told that we would be more than welcome to attend future events that the Forum would be hosting as we indicated our desire to become more embedded within the community going forward.

I have remained in regular contact with Jake Furby who is a trustee of the York LGBT Forum since that meeting and he has shared some future events that are planned which we are looking to attend and represent NYP at. I have also offered to meet with Jake and other members of the Forum to have an open discussion around the safety of LGBTQI community

members in York and look at ways where I can help them keep safe and just as importantly make them feel safe in the city as I have come to understand that the perception is perhaps that they don't. The

figures we have, don't support such a perception so I felt it was important that I understand any barriers that may be in place preventing the reporting of such incidents so I can look to address them.

On Monday 22nd September 2025, I was made aware by Sgt Booth of the North Yorkshire Police Licensing Team that a video had been posted on the Little j's Facebook page where Graham spoke at a public demonstration on the 18th September 2025 and said that members of the community and those linked with Little j's and their licence application had received and been subjected to hate related abuse and threats online.

Referring back to the core part of my role where my team review all the hate crimes reported to North Yorkshire Police, I can confirm that we are not showing as having received any such reports as mentioned by Graham in his speech and would urge those that have received such threats to report the matter to the police as soon as possible through our non-emergency telephone number or via our website so we can investigate the matter appropriately and provide safeguarding and support to those that may require it.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my desire to work towards ensuring that York remains the fantastic, diverse, inclusive and welcoming city that I believe it to be. Part of that is to ensure that the LGBTQI community feel safe and so I have no objections at all about their being safe space venues for the community however I do also understand that the licensing of such venues are often subject to a number of different factors to be taken into consideration other than just a desire and want for such a premise.

Going forward, I hope to continue to work closely with the LGBTQI community, strengthen our relationship further and support them as much as is possible within the remit of my role.

Signed: Sgt 938 Nigel Collins

Date: 22/09/25

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