

Little j
Premises Licence application
Supporting information

General

Little j already operates an inclusive LGBTQI+ community centre established approximately a year ago. It does not sell alcohol nor put on late-night entertainment except with temporary event notices (TENs) but as a community centre, hosts entertainment events until 11pm. The venue hosts weekly folk group sessions, meetings, theatre, art, dance classes, social, expression, performance and cultural events without any issues.

Little j now wishes to extend its LGBTQI+ cultural entertainment past 11pm and introduce the provision of the sale of alcohol with a permanent late-night premises licence. This is critical for creating an inclusive Safe-Space environment where people can freely express themselves and feel safe during equal and corresponding nighttime hours that York supports in its mainstream venues. It is also necessary to ensure the sustainable existence of the LGBTQI+ community centre for the city of York long term.

Little j has successfully obtained TENs and has, for example, run a very successful weekend Pride event until 4am and a heavily attended mid-week trans-friendly LGBTQI+ open-mic expression cabaret until 2am, without any problems or complaints whatsoever. Little j also has several similar TENs for LGBTQI+ cultural and expression events in preparation.

York currently prides itself on retaining the titles of a human rights city, a city of sanctuary, a trans-friendly city and an anti-racist city, yet it does not have any nighttime Safe-Space LGBTQI+ venue, normal in other cities.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission on 17 April 2025 itself emphasised the role of trans, intersex and non-binary people to use their “power(s) of advocacy” to campaign for the creation of inclusive spaces. Arguably by means of very applications like the present one for creation of an equitable equivalent, 4am licensed, Safe-Space in our inclusive community centre to give late-night parity to the LGBTQI+ community.

Little j intends to provide a much needed and Safe-Space alternative to the mainstream late-night venues in York. Crucially needing to be licensed for alike timings late at night, ie until 4am, as an inclusive sanctuary environment.

This will provide a cultural, non-hostile, inclusive, safe nighttime space. York does not currently offer an appropriate, licenced venue/community zone for the LGBTQI+ community, and it is necessary now to provide an equally comparable late-night licensed Safe-Space and welcoming environment needed until 4am.

Please note that the premises, owner and business ‘Little Jay Limited’ has no affiliation or connection with the previous York business/pub ‘Little John’. The name Little j refers to the location of the venue, St John’s ‘little’ Chapel.

Support

The owner of Little j works collaboratively with a number of local groups, communities and charities. The venue already hosts groups and events including dance, art, exhibitions, theatre, workshops and performances.

There is much support for the 4am licensing of Little j, included as additional information with this application:

1. Petition of over 1440 verified signatures (change.org/littlejyork)
2. Letter from York LGBT Forum
3. Letter from QueerArts UK
4. Letter from Generate
5. Letter from York Pride
6. Letter from YorkSJ LGBT Society