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# MICKLEGATE HOUSE



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City of York Council

Licensing & Regulatory Services

9 St Leonards Place

York

YO1 7ET

Dear Sir

**Re: Variation of recorded music hours, Rumours Bar, 94 Micklegate, York**

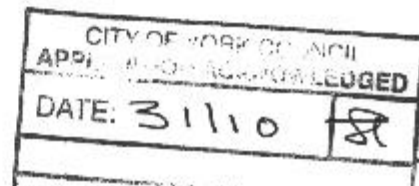
It has come to our attention that the licence holder of Rumours Bar, Christopher Leslie Hall, has applied for a variation of recorded music hours, allowing him to play recorded music in his rear patio area from 10:00 – 01:00 hrs, seven days a week.

As General Manager of Micklegate House, an independent youth hostel two doors away from Rumours, I hereby wish to register an objection to the proposal on the following grounds:

We are a residential establishment located in the close proximity to the bar in question. Some of our rooms overlook the Beer Garden of Rumours and already suffer noise nuisance from both recorded music and late night drinkers. Any increase in the permitted hours would only add to what is already a significant problem.

The patio is raised about 2.5m (8ft) above ground level, and is open on all sides. This already serves to compound the problem by making the sound carry further. The stillness of the nighttime makes the situation worse.

With the introduction of the smoking ban in licensed premises from July 2007, we would expect patronage of the outdoor patio area to increase. As our observations seem to indicate that the sound level is already increased in volume at busy times to compensate for the increased level of conversation, we would therefore expect a significant overall increase in volume and therefore nuisance.



A significant number of our guests are Primary and Secondary school students, visiting York for educational purposes. We attempt to place them in rooms at the rear of the building to reduce the potential disturbance from the noise of traffic and revellers in Micklegate. It is already difficult for them to get to sleep before 23:00 due to the existing levels of noise. If the proposed changes were implemented it is likely we would suffer loss of trade and reputation as a result.

Conversely, from time to time, our rooms are used for study purposes. To allow outdoor, unregulated music during the daytime (ie from 10.00 onwards) would disrupt the peace of both students and our guests.

Our outdoor recreation and 'chill out' area is named the "Oasis". It has no music and is decorated with hanging baskets and subdued lighting. Guests appreciate a place to relax in an atmosphere of peace and calm. This peace would be shattered if the proposals were accepted.

My proposal is, so as to simplify matters, that outdoor music is prohibited at all times. Rumours is a large bar with plenty of capacity within its walls. Guests are perfectly capable of making a choice between indoor pop and outdoor calm. In an area, which is already recognised as a hotspot of violence and crime, I feel that we need to encourage a calmer atmosphere amongst drinkers, rather than pump-up customers on adrenaline producing pop music.

Perhaps the introduction of noise free zones should become a mandatory feature of pub designs?

Thanking you in anticipation

Yours sincerely