



GOSSCHALKS
SOLICITORS

Licensing Authority
York City Council

Please ask for: Clare Johnson
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Email: mcj@gosschalks.co.uk
Our ref: MCJ / JB / 115803.00075
#GS2136947
Your ref:
Date: 24 August 2018

BY EMAIL

Dear Sirs

Re: Grays Court, York
Hearing 6th September 2018

The owner of Grays Court, Helen Heraty, has contacted us in connection with an application which she has submitted to the licensing authority to vary the premises licence for Grays Court, Chapter House Street, York.

We understand that objections have been received to this application and that the matter has been listed for hearing on the 6th September. Mrs Heraty is anxious for our Clare Johnson to represent her at this hearing as Mrs Johnson has represented her in connection with this matter since 2011. Unfortunately, Mrs Johnson (and her colleague Richard Taylor) are both committed to hearings in Scotland on that day and would not therefore be able to attend on the 6th September. We have attempted to make contact with you by telephone but so far have been unable to discuss the matter with you. We understand that Mrs Heraty has contacted Angela Bielby with regard to the possibility for an adjournment and that it has been suggested that if we were to write setting out the request for an adjournment our letter could be placed before the proposed panel prior to the 6th September with a view to the panel deciding whether an adjournment is to be permitted. In the event that the committee would be prepared to agree to an adjournment, we can confirm that our Mrs Johnson would be available to attend an adjourned hearing on the 10th, 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 26th, 27th and 28th September.

We are, of course, aware of the committee's power to adjourn an application if the adjournment is in the public interest. We would respectfully submit that an adjournment in this matter would be in the public interest for the following reasons;-

- Grays Court is a landmark building in York and, as such, an asset to not only the tourist industry but the residents of York, many of whom enjoy its facilities and utilise the opportunity to use its facilities for wedding, functions etc. Indeed the hotel was voted Hotel of the Year in York and surrounding areas in 2018. The viability of this hotel is therefore a matter of public interest.

- The configuration of the premises is not straight forward, nor is its actual or intended use. A knowledge of previous licensing history relating to these premises including previous representation/liaison with statutory bodies etc is, we would submit, essential to providing Mrs Heraty with the best possible representation before the committee. Having acted for Mrs Heraty in this matter in 2011 we would submit that this firm is best placed to advise her fully.

We hope that the committee will permit Mrs Heraty to have the representation that she feels that she needs to best present her case with a view to ensuring that the hotel can continue to serve the public of York and surrounding areas. Otherwise Mrs Heraty faces the possibility of appearing before the committee unrepresented in what is a complex matter.

We look forward to hearing from you once you have had the opportunity to consider our request. Clearly we are asking for our request to be considered prior to the 6th September as otherwise Mrs Heraty will find herself in a very difficult position on that date.

Yours faithfully



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