

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 three 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. On 29 September 2025 I attended City of York Council Offices for a licensing hearing in respect of a licence application for Little J Chapel House North Street York to be heard before the licensing sub-committee.
2. It was the decision of the licensing sub-committee to adjourn the hearing at the request of the applicant. The reason for the adjournment was to enable the applicant to produce a noise impact assessment in respect of the application. Minutes from the hearing detail the following: - *“The Sub-Committee heard that a request for an adjournment had been received from the Applicant on the basis that the Applicant wanted a noise impact assessment to be undertaken and were unable to attend the hearing on this date. Resolved: The Sub-Committee resolved to adjourn the Licensing Hearing for Determination of Application for Premises Licence [Section 18(3)(a) Licensing Act 2003] in respect of Little J, Chapel House, North Street, York, YO1 6JD to 27 October 2025 at 10:00 hours.”*
3. On 7th October 2025 North Yorkshire Police received a Temporary Event Notice relating to Little J Chapel House North Street York for licensable activities 1600hrs 31/10/25 to 0200hrs 01/11/25.
4. North Yorkshire Police objected to this Temporary Event Notice. The applicant for the temporary event notice was Mr Dykes who is the proposed designated premises supervisor in respect of the premise licence application. Exhibit JB/17.

5. In response to the temporary event notice objection a hearing was initially arranged by City of York Council to determine the matter on 20 October 2025.
6. On 16 October 2025 democracy services at City of York Council advised that the applicant had withdrawn the temporary event notice and no hearing was required.
7. A social media post on Facebook was posted by the applicant in respect of this matter. Exhibit JB/18.
8. On 31 October 2025 police officers as part of routine engagement patrols in the city centre attended Little J Chapel House North Street. They were unable to gain access due to a metal gate fitted with a digi code that required access code to unlock. They confirmed persons were inside. There are concerns about a locked gate and if this is in breach of fire regulations and North Yorkshire Police have referred this matter to North Yorkshire Fire Service. Exhibit JB/19.
9. North Yorkshire Police have not been provided a noise impact report relating to the premises, which was the reason the previous hearing was adjourned and there has been no correspondence in relation to the licensing application since the hearing was adjourned.
10. I refer back to the original police objection and the section 182 guidance para 8.43 the onus is on the applicant to provide information of "*any measures they will take to mitigate the impact and why they consider the application should be an exception to the policy*". The applicant has made no attempt to engage with the police as a responsible authority since the previous adjournment.
11. The applicant has provided additional material in support of their application. In response to their additional material at Page 15 under comparative success stories, the applicant refers to London LGBTQ+ Community Centre. Enquiries reveal that this is not a licensed premises so not sure how this is a comparative venue in line with the application for Little J's. Correspondence and in fact the event held by Little J on 31 October 2025 show the venue can operate as a successful LGBTQI+ establishment without a premises licence. Exhibit JB/20.
12. As part of the applicant's additional material, they have highlighted several social media posts in response to a petition they have advertised in May 2025. Some of the comments could potentially constitute criminal offences. North Yorkshire Police have contacted the applicant and provided advice on reporting such matters. Exhibit JB/21.
13. There has been no correspondence from the applicant regarding this licensing application since the adjournment on 29 September 2025. The applicant has continued to widely publicise the hearing on social media asking for support. Exhibit JB/22.
14. The position of North Yorkshire Police is that Mr Dykes is not a fit and proper person to be the designated premises supervisor (DPS). North Yorkshire Police have to be

satisfied that an individual who performs the role of the DPS, and who will ultimately have day-to-day management of the premises and be the point of contact for responsible authorities, is able to effectively promote the licensing objectives.

15. As part of the application process the applicant has provided factually incorrect information about North Yorkshire Police, namely that Inspector Godfrey refused to let officers of the company meet with police officers and placed this in the public domain. If the applicant is prepared to place this factually incorrect and misleading information into the public domain there are concerns about upholding the prevention of crime and disorder licensing objective.
16. The applicant has failed to engage with responsible authorities providing a noise impact assessment, the reason the previous hearing was adjourned. The applicant has failed to provide the police as a responsible authority and party to the hearing any reasons as to why this has not been shared.
17. The police position regarding this application is that the applicant has made no attempt to engage with responsible authorities or work in partnership since the adjournment to address concerns highlighted in the responsible authority representations and therefore the police have no confidence that the DPS would work in partnership to address concerns if a premise licence was granted.

Signed: PS133 Booth

Date: 10/11/25