

**Police Representation**

**Sky Blue**

**16 Barbican Road**

**York**

**YO10 5AA**



City of York  
Council  
Licensing Services  
Hazel Court  
EcoDept  
James Street  
York  
YO10 3DS

20 August 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

**North Yorkshire Police response to a review of Premises Licence: Sky Blue, York YO10 5AA**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As Force Licensing Manager for North Yorkshire Police, I am delegated by the Chief Constable to respond to applications made under the Licensing Act 2003.

This representation relates to the premises known as Sky Blue, York YO10 5AA. North Yorkshire Police submit that the Premises Licence Holder, Mr Kheng Koay, has undermined the licensing objective of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, as evidenced below.

**Premises Details**

Mr Kheng Koay has been the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) since 29 April 2021 and Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) until 23 December 2025. The current DPS is Ms Yuk Chuan PANG.

The premises are authorised to conduct the following licensable activities:

- Recorded and Live Music: Monday to Sunday, 10:00 hrs to 03:30 hrs
- Performance of Dance/Music: Monday to Sunday, 10:00 hrs to 03:30 hrs
- Late Night Refreshment: Monday to Sunday, 23:00 hrs to 03:30 hrs
- Sale of Alcohol: Monday to Sunday, 10:00 hrs to 03:30 hrs

## **Police Concerns**

On two separate occasions during 2025, namely 17 July 2025 and 10 December 2025, North Yorkshire Police attended the premises as part of joint multi-agency operations involving officers from the Home Office Immigration Enforcement Team and City of York Council Licensing.

These visits were conducted following intelligence indicating that individuals may have been employed at the premises without the legal right to work in the United Kingdom. During both visits, Immigration Enforcement officers detained individuals on the grounds that they did not have lawful leave to remain and work in the UK.

North Yorkshire Police are therefore concerned that the management of the premises has failed to uphold the licensing objective of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and has failed to comply with conditions attached to the premises licence.

## **Visit of 17 July 2025**

On 17 July 2025, I attended the premises with officers from Immigration Compliance and Enforcement and Lesley Cooke, Licensing Manager for the City of York Council.

The premises were open to the public and operating at the time of the visit.

Upon entering the premises, I recognised a male seated within the restaurant as [REDACTED]. I am familiar with [REDACTED] through previous licensing proceedings relating to the premises under, The Regency, 16 Barbican Road, York, where he was both the Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor.

On 8 June 2020, I attended a premises licence review hearing concerning The Regency following joint enforcement visits in 2017 and 2019. Those visits resulted in individuals being detained by Immigration Enforcement for working without lawful authority in the UK. The Licensing Sub-Committee subsequently revoked the premises licence. Although an appeal was lodged, it was dismissed on 8 December 2020.

During the visit to Sky Blue on 17 July 2025, Immigration Officer [REDACTED], who had also been involved in the 2020 review proceedings, approached [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] became verbally aggressive, and it was apparent that members of staff present were intimidated by his behaviour.

Immigration officers informed me that they had detained a male, [REDACTED], whom they believed had no legal right to work in the UK.

I subsequently spoke with [REDACTED]), who advised that Mr KOAY was unavailable and that she was the manager in charge of the premises. I requested access to the premises' HR records, as the licence contains conditions specifically relating to employment and right-to-work checks.

A review of the HR management system revealed that no employment records or right-to-work documentation could be produced for [REDACTED]. This constituted non-compliance with the following premises licence conditions:

- The premises licence holder will operate a full HR management system where all relevant documents are stored for each individual member of staff.
- All copies of relevant documents for members of staff will be retained for a period of 24 months following the termination of employment and will be made available to Police, Immigration or Licensing Officers upon request.
- The premises licence holder will work with Peninsula (or another HR provider) to carry out Home Office right-to-work checks and verify identification documents to ensure all new members of staff can be lawfully employed.
- No new member of staff will be permitted to work at the premises unless they have provided satisfactory proof of identity and right to work in the United Kingdom.

As a result, I issued a Section 19 Closure Notice under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 and subsequently emailed Mr KOAY detailing the breaches identified, together with a copy of the notice.

### **Visit of 10 December 2025**

On 10 December 2025, I again attended the premises with Home Office Immigration Enforcement officers and Jemma Kettlestring, Licensing Enforcement Officer for the City of York Council.

The premises were open to the public and conducting licensable activities at the time of the visit.

During the operation, Immigration Enforcement officers detained an individual identified as [REDACTED] due to concerns regarding his legal entitlement to work in the United Kingdom.

Mr KOAY was not present at the premises. When members of staff were asked to contact him, they advised that he was on holiday.

Also present was [REDACTED], who was observed shouting at staff members in Chinese whilst Immigration officers conducted enquiries concerning individuals' immigration status and right to work.

I again spoke with [REDACTED]), who provided access to the HR record system. Once more, no employment records, right-to-work documentation, or associated HR records could be produced for the detained individual, [REDACTED].

As a consequence, I issued a Section 19 Closure Notice under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 for breaches of the following licence conditions:

- Documented staff training shall be provided concerning:

1. The retail sale of alcohol;
  2. The age verification policy;
  3. Conditions attached to the premises licence;
  4. Permitted licensable activities;
  5. The licensing objectives; and
  6. Permitted opening hours.
- Training records shall be retained for a minimum period of one year and made available immediately upon request by any Responsible Authority. Refresher training shall be provided annually.
  - The premises licence holder will operate a full HR management system where all relevant documents are stored for each individual member of staff.
  - All copies of relevant documents for members of staff will be retained for a period of 24 months following termination of employment and made available to Police, Immigration or Licensing Officers upon request.
  - The premises licence holder will work with Peninsula (or another HR provider) to carry out Home Office right-to-work checks and verify identification documents to ensure that all new members of staff can be lawfully employed.
  - No new member of staff will be permitted to work at the premises unless they have provided satisfactory proof of identity and right to work in the United Kingdom.

I subsequently emailed Mr KOAY detailing the breaches identified, together with a copy of the notice.

Regarding [REDACTED] I was made aware that immigration officers brought him to York Police Station Fulford Road York where he was searched. A quantity of cash valuing £2700 was removed upon a search of him which had been concealed in his sock. This money was the subject of a forfeiture order at York Magistrates Court on 10 February 2026.

On 23 December 2025 North Yorkshire Police received an application to vary the DPS to Ms Yuk Chuan PANG.

On 30 December 2025 I reattended Sky Blue with my colleague PC Sam Bolland to check compliance with the Section 19 closure notice issued on 10 December 2025. At the time of my visit the premises was open to the public and [REDACTED] was once again present. I asked to speak to the DPS PANG but was informed that she was at a different location. [REDACTED] telephoned her and advised it would be around 45 minutes before she would be able to attend. Due to other commitments, I did not remain at the premises.

On 29 January 2026 PC Sam Bolland police licensing officer and Jemma Kettlestring licensing enforcement officer from City of York Council attended Sky Blue to check compliance with the Section 19 notice issued on 10 December. Neither Mr KOAY or Ms PANG were present.

## Conclusion

North Yorkshire Police therefore contend that the Premises Licence Holder has undermined the licensing objective of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and invite the Licensing Sub-Committee to give serious consideration to the appropriateness of the premises licence remaining in force and would respectfully request it is revoked.

This application is supported by evidence of repeated non-compliance with premises licence conditions, identified on multiple enforcement visits, together with the employment of individuals who were subsequently detained by Immigration Enforcement due to concerns regarding their right to work in the United Kingdom. Despite conditions specifically requiring robust HR processes, right-to-work checks and the retention of employment records, the premises repeatedly failed to produce the required documentation.

North Yorkshire Police also have significant concerns regarding the apparent involvement and influence of [REDACTED] at the premises. During both enforcement visits, [REDACTED] was present and appeared to be exercising authority within the business. Officers observed staff responding to his directions and, on both occasions, he was described by staff as being the person in charge or "the boss". These observations raise concerns as to who is exercising effective day-to-day control of the premises.

The Police note that [REDACTED] was previously the Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor of The Regency, York, where a premises licence review was conducted following similar immigration-related enforcement activity. That licence was subsequently revoked by the Licensing Sub-Committee, and the revocation was upheld on appeal.

In light of the circumstances identified during the enforcement visits, North Yorkshire Police are concerned that Mr Kheng KOAY, as Premises Licence Holder, and Ms PANG, as Designated Premises Supervisor, may not be exercising effective management and control of the premises. Instead, there is evidence suggesting that [REDACTED] may have a significant degree of operational involvement in the business despite holding neither of those statutory positions. The repeated breaches identified, coupled with the apparent failure of the licence holder and DPS to maintain effective oversight of the premises, further strengthen the Police position that the licensing objective of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder is being undermined.

Appendix 1 – Section 19 Notice issued 17/07/25

Appendix 2 – Email to PLH 17/07/25

Appendix 3 – Statement of Lesley Cooke

Appendix 4 – Section 19 Notice issued 10/12/25

Appendix 5 – Email to PLH 10/12/25

Appendix 6 – Statement of Jemma Kettlestring

Appendix 7 – Forfeiture order from York Magistrates Court

Yours Sincerely,

J Booth

PS133 Booth  
Force Licensing Manager  
Alcohol Licensing Department  
Fulford Road Police Station  
York  
YO10 4BY

Email: - [Jacqueline.booth@northyorkshire.police.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.booth@northyorkshire.police.uk)