

Dear Licensing Section,

CYC-008849, The Gallery Night Club, Clifford Street

I am writing to object to the application by the Gallery for a smoking area, to be tacked on to the intermediate stage of their fire escape.

I wish to object to this application on the grounds of Public Nuisance and Safety.

Firstly, there will be an increase in the noise from the Gallery whenever the fire escape door is opened for a smoker to go out. At the moment there is a very noticeable increase in the noise level from the premises, whenever any external doors are opened at the back. Fortunately this rarely happens, but there will be a massive increase in such occasions if this proposal is implemented. The February 2007 report to the licensing committee on the first year of operation of the Licensing Act said that there had been a substantial increase in the late-night noise levels being experienced by residents and this proposal will make it worse.

The louvres proposed around the smokers' area will not be able to reduce the noise to any great extent, since if they did the area would probably then count as "an enclosed space", defeating the purpose.

Secondly, I am concerned that there may well be items, such as cigarette ends or glasses, thrown down onto the space below the escape stairs. This area is often used for smoking by staff from other establishments in the area and also by the public when walking between Lower Friargate and Cumberland Street, not to mention Streamline Taxis. There is also the possibility that someone may fall from the stairs accessing the smoking area; I gather that someone recently fell off an internal balcony in the Gallery and they could well do so from these stairs, also.

Why don't the Gallery just give their smoking patrons a 'pass-out' and then they can go out the front door and smoke in the street? Please reject this proposal and help to prevent a further deterioration in the environment of the residents in this area.

Yours sincerely,