

RESTRICTED (when complete)

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

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Statement of: Michael Bacon

Age : Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Licensing Officer

This statement (consisting of 2 pages(s) each signed by me) 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.

Signature: M Bacon

Date: 29/09/2017

I am employed by Suffolk Constabulary as a Licensing Officer and am making this statement in relation to the Cumulative Impact Policy proposal for Bury St Edmunds.

I make this statement based upon my experience as a Licensing Officer since May 2016 and as a Police Officer stationed at Bury St Edmunds prior to this date.

Suffolk Constabulary has a responsibility under the Licensing Act 2003 to address issues relating to licensed premises, particularly with regard to the Licensing objective of the "Prevention of Crime and Disorder."

Bury St Edmunds has a thriving night time economy and is a very popular destination to enjoy socialising in the many pubs, clubs and restaurants within the town centre and surrounding area. This is vitally important to the local economy and provides a wide choice of venues for both local residents and tourists alike to enjoy.

However, Suffolk Constabulary recognises the fact that the cumulative effect of too many licensed premises in one area may have a detrimental impact upon levels of crime and disorder directly linked to the night time economy. This may also include anti-social behaviour which impacts upon the quality of life of local residents. Additionally, an increase in the number of licensed premises will also lead to higher numbers of people on the street at closing time as they disperse from venues and either seek transport home or congregate at Late Night Refreshment/Takeaway premises. Inevitably, when large numbers of intoxicated people come together in a concentrated area, this can and does lead to assaults damage to property and disturbance for local residents.

Signature:

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I have reviewed the Crime and Incident data provided by Suffolk Constabulary and will say that this does also reflect my own professional opinion gained from experience of working in the town as both Police Officer and Licensing Officer. St Andrews Street experiences 53% of all incidents during the late evening, and 52% of these incidents were reported as a crime. This compelling evidence supports the proposal to expand the Cumulative Impact zone to encompass the St Andrews Street area. I can also say that this area of the town centre does place a significant demand on police resources during the times of peak night time economy activity (11pm to 4am).

In summary, Suffolk Constabulary supports the proposal to extend the Cumulative Impact Area.

M Bacon

Licensing Officer

Signature:

Witnessed by:

2014/01

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