

# Witness Statement of Guy Hicks Independent licensing consultant in relation to The Hornsey Tavern.

24<sup>th</sup> April 2022

1. I am over the age of 18 and a person of good character.
2. I am a self-employed Licensing Consultant. I was previously employed for 30 years as a police officer, retiring in 2019 with exemplary service. My last position within the service was as the licensing Sergeant covering the London boroughs of Hackney and Tower Hamlets.
3. I make this statement in relation to the review hearing for the Hornsey Tavern 26 High Street, Hornsey, London N8 7PB. I have asked the owner of the public house, Mr James Kearns, to provide me with CCTV on as many dates as possible to match up with dates shown on a list of alleged noise complaints supplied by the licensing authority as a result of the review application by Mr James Craggs.
4. Mr Kearns CCTV records on a 31-day loop and as a result the images captured and spoken about in this statement are from the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 until 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Each section of footage is a few minutes long.
5. I have viewed the images in full noting the time, date, number of persons on the premises and whether there is evidence of regulated entertainment. I produce a grid of this as **Appendix 1**.
6. The images do not come with noise. The footage shows that the body language of those in the venue suggested noise was not at an excessive level. You can see people in conversation. None appear to be leaning in close to the other person in order to be heard. It appears that conversations are being held at a normal level suggesting background noise in the venue during the times shown is not, as previously stated, excessive. This is the case even when you can see on camera regulated entertainment taking place.
7. I have also viewed a short clip recorded by Mr Kearns on his mobile phone. The clip shows the inside of his venue with a small number of people watching football or sitting at the bar. The noise is at a low level and allows face to face conversation to take place. The footage then moves outside into the street and shows a premises roughly 3 doors down to the right of the Hornsey Tavern. Loud, excessive music can clearly be heard from the venue whilst Mr Kearns stands approximately 30m away. This footage is labelled 'recent footage of neighbouring venue', **Appendix 2**.

8. Mr Kearns has instigated some changes to the venue, one of these is a correctly barriered smoking area. An image of this is shown as **Appendix 3**. There is also a security check list **Appendix 4**, which will form part of the venue's dispersal and outside areas policy **Appendix 5**.

**I understand that my duty is to the committee/court and this statement has been prepared in compliance with that duty. All matters relevant to the task on which my expert evidence is given have been included within. I believe the facts I state to be true and honest and that the opinions I have expressed are correct to the best of my judgement.**