

Before the Haringey Licensing Committee

In the matter of an application for a new premises licence for The Duke's Head,  
Highgate High Street, London , pursuant to Licensing Act 2003

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**Witness statement of Mr Theodore Joel Hudson**

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1. My name is Theodore Joel Hudson, but people call me Theo.
2. I am the sole director of that's a big 10-4 Good Buddy Limited that operates the business and has applied for the premises licence.
3. I will be the Designated premises supervisor.
4. Before continuing with my statement may I apologise to the committee for the situation we find ourselves in. I have been naïve and that has led to the unfortunate position we find ourselves in.
5. I will divide my statement into 3 parts:
  - a. The background of the premises
  - b. My background and other persons involved
  - c. The application

**The Background of the premises**

6. I have looked into the background because of the circumstances that have led to the need for this application.
7. My involvement with the premises started in the summer of 2020 when my brother, Ben and myself looked to rent the premises and open a 'Honky Tonk' country and western themed bar.
8. I met Dave, the landlord, while working in another pub in Highgate, we became friends and bonded over our love of pubs and bars in the north London area. I wanted to run the dukes head because I have always worked for managed houses owned by breweries and wanted an opportunity to run a freehold with a late license.

9. I took the lease from Dave Murphy who has been involved with the premises since the 1980's. He can deal with the history prior to our involvement.
10. We moved into the premises in the summer of 2020. We invested approximately £100k in refurbishment, including kitchen facilities and new cctv system.
11. The works took approximately a year. We looked to open the bar when all premises were opening after the end of coronavirus restrictions in 2021. The opening was delayed as the reopening date was delayed by the Government, but we finally opened on 12th July 2021.
12. There was a licence at the premises, a copy is included in our bundle. The document was consistent with Dave's comments as he believed the licence was held by his father and he had been dps and thought that was still the case.
13. Dave informed us that he had an ongoing legal dispute with the previous tenant, Dukes Head Highgate Limited. I understood this was going to court and Dave asked us to leave the licence in his hands until it was resolved.
14. We operated in accordance with the hours from opening on 12<sup>th</sup> July.
15. We had live music on a few occasions and played recorded music.
16. There were no complaints to us in respect of the customers noise or the noise of the recorded music or live music.
17. The landlord lives directly above with his father. Dave has been in regular contact with us – almost on a daily basis and he has always indicated that he has no problems with our operation. Neither he nor his father have been disturbed.
18. On 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022, we were informed there was no premises licence and we could not sell alcohol. We were informed that the licence we believed was in place had been transferred and the company holding it had been wound up. When we were informed of this we closed.
19. The premises remained closed for around 13 days whilst we investigated replacing the licence and giving notice of temporary events.
20. We then operated from 4pm to 1am on Thursdays to Sundays under the temporary event notices.
21. Our final temporary event notice is the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> May and we will not be able to reopen until the licence is granted.

22. It probably goes without saying the financial stress this has put on us. It has been very difficult.
23. This application was originally sought on the basis of the licence that was in place. Due to misunderstanding on my part the application only seeks the authority to sell alcohol.

### **My Background and other persons involved**

24. I have worked in bars around London for 15 years. I have never held a premises licence though I have held a personal licence for many years. This is my first licensed business venture.
25. My brother Ben has been a great support and has helped in renovating and getting the place up and running. He has also been supportive in keeping going at this difficult time.
26. The manager is Sinead Mulligan and she has run bars / pubs all over north London since her early 20s. She is now aged 33.

### **The application**

27. The application is for a premises licence for the sale of alcohol every day from 12 noon to 1am day following. I have agreed conditions with the licensing authority.
28. In respect of hours of opening my understanding from the form was that relates to the hours we sell alcohol and so it states 1am. When we operated under the old licence and also under the TENs we operated with the last sale of alcohol at 1am and we allowed customers to leave gradually, and all customers would have left by 01:30. This has not caused any crime and disorder or nuisance issues. Customers are encouraged to leave quickly and quietly by myself as I am generally there, by Sinead and by staff. We also have a notice at the exit reminding customers to respect the neighbours and leave the area quickly and quietly.
29. The premises has a good proportion of customers who are local. This assists in the customers leaving quickly and quietly because they are familiar with the area and people who live in the area.
30. We know who regulars are and so we have a notice in the door window indicating that our last admission is midnight. We generally stick with

that but if one of the local regulars arrives after midnight we would allow them in. Because of the closing time of the premises, we are used by staff of other premises nearby to come and have a relaxing drink after work.

31. The emails from many local people are very humbling and very pleasing. Many people love what we do and the passion we have for our business. That makes me immensely proud of our team.

32. I have had to let one member of staff go because there was no guarantee of work but if the licence is granted we will employ an additional 2 bar staff and also 2 staff in the kitchen.

The contents of this my statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed

Theodore Hudson

Dated 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022.



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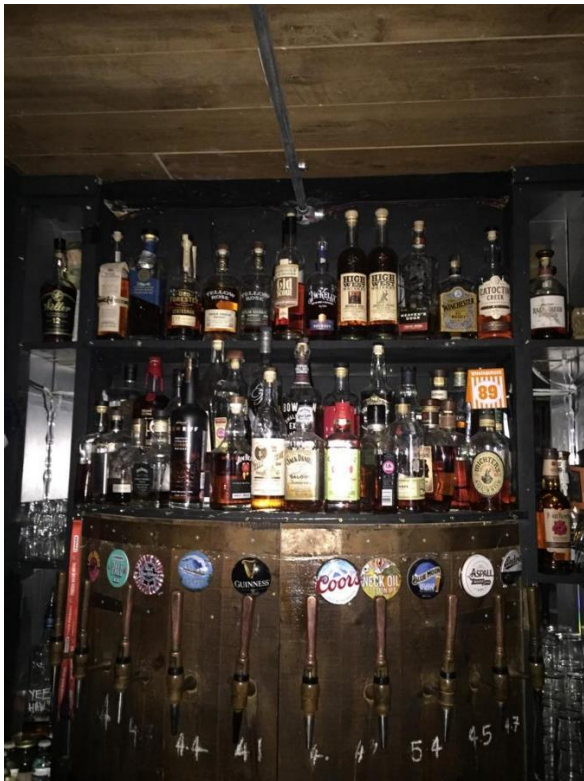
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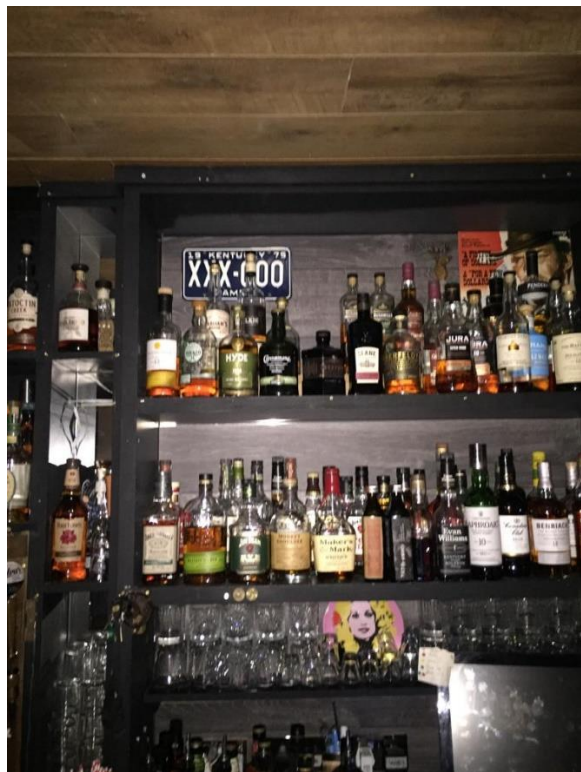
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**Dr HF Hagen  
The Highgate Dental Practice  
21 Highgate Street  
London  
N6 5JT**

7<sup>th</sup> May 2022

LICENSING HEARING 18<sup>th</sup> May  
Re. Application for a New Premises Licence-  
THE DUKES HEAD –  
16 HIGHGATE HIGH STREET  
LONDON  
N6

I am writing this letter to ask the planning committee that the license should be considered.

First of all I appreciate and respect the views of "some" members of the Highgate community regarding licensing but I cannot stand by and watch this special business be destroyed by awful statement and false accusations.

My business The Highgate Dental Practice is diagonally across Highgate High Street from The Dukes Head. For years it was a grim pub and then became rather run down under with the last proprietor. It was dirty and neglected and from what I hear falling apart structurally. I was delighted when the new owners took over as it was clear that they poured their hearts, souls and a lot of money to turn it into a very special and unique venue. As you may know it is a themed bar as the owner is an avid collector of Americana. He decided to create a showcase for his wonderful collection, whilst at the same time creating a bright and interesting venue.

When I read what has been written about the venue, the proprietor and the punters I was shocked and embarrassed. I was horrified at the rhetoric in their objections to the licensing application. Terms like red neck bar, tattooed drug users, urinating in the alleyway and other terms were simply in my view nasty, classist, patronising and definitely not what our community strives to be. It is wrong that hardworking people are knocked down without a fair chance just because they do not fit the local criteria. I walk home past this venue every night after work and when it was open I can assure you I did not see any of the drug use by tattooed rednecks whilst urinating in public. I am ashamed at what has been said. I see polite and friendly punters who on a nice evening stand outside on the sidewalk like everywhere else in London. The busy High Street is clogged with traffic and a few punters outside will therefore not make any difference.

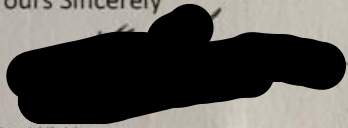
The new owners of The Dukes Head are very experienced I the industry. They deserve a fair chance but if this decision is going to based on the accusations that I have seen then that is not a fair chance. They are responsible and capable business owners and I feel that they will not upset the local community as it not in their interest to do so. Why destroy something that could improve to the diversity of our community? In these hard times small businesses need all the help that they can get. With diminishing footfall we all have work extended hours to pay the bills. If the licensing is not fair The Dukes Head may not survive and this tricky space may become another boarded up eyesore.

Why not give them a chance to prove that they are responsible people? You can always review the license in the future.

So I ask you to please consider giving this special venue a chance and I would also suggest to the licensing team to visit the venue for a drink and to experience the venue first-hand before you make a decision. I am happy to buy you all a drink.

Lastly I do not know the new proprietor of The Dukes Head and I have not been approached for support, so this this letter has been written purely to explain how I feel.

Yours Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Dr HF Hagen



**PREMISES DETAILS [CONT'D]**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1200 to 0100</b>
<b>New Years Eve</b>	<b>De-regulation</b>
<b>St Patrick's Day</b>	<b>1100 to 0130</b>

**The opening hours of the premises:**

<b>Monday to Sunday</b>	<b>1100 to 0130</b>
<b>New Years Eve</b>	<b>De-regulation</b>
<b>St Patrick's Day</b>	<b>1100 to 0200</b>

**Where the Licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and/or off supplies:**

Supply of alcohol for consumption both ON and OFF supplies

**Name, (registered) address of holder of Premises Licence:**

John Francis Murphy  
The Dukes Head  
16 Highgate High Street  
London  
N6 5JG



**Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable):**

**Name of designated premises supervisor where the Premises Licence authorises the supply of alcohol:**

John Francis Murphy

**State whether access to the premises by children is restricted or prohibited:**





# PREMISES LICENCE SUMMARY

Receipt: AG763142

Premises Licence Number: LN00001385

This Premises Licence has been issued by:  
The Licensing Authority, London Borough of Haringey,  
Civic Centre, High Road, Wood Green,  
London, N22 8LE

Signature: 

Date: 24<sup>TH</sup> November 2005

## Part 1 – PREMISES DETAILS

Postal Address of Premises or, if none, Ordnance Survey map reference or description:

**THE DUKES HEAD  
16 HIGHGATE HIGH STREET  
LONDON  
N6 5JG**

Telephone: 020 8340 6688

Where the Licence is time limited, the dates:

Not applicable

Licensable activities authorised by the Licence:

Regulated Entertainment: Live Music & Recorded Music  
Supply of Alcohol

The times the Licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities:

Live Music	
Friday & Saturday	2100 to 0100
Recorded Music	
Monday to Saturday	1100 to 0100
Sunday	1200 to 0100
Supply of Alcohol	
Monday to Saturday	1100 to 0100

