

Formal Representation in Response to Licensing Officer's Report

To: Licensing Department

London Borough of Haringey Licensing Team

Date: 30 October 2025

Re: Application for a New Premises Licence – Lilywhites, 799 High Road, Tottenham, London N17

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally submit my representation in response to the Licensing Officer's report concerning the recent visit to my premises. I would like to respectfully challenge certain points within the report, as I believe they do not accurately reflect the circumstances at the time of the inspection.

I would also like to confirm the following amendments to my licence application:

- Removal of the supply of alcohol OFF the premises.
- Reduction of hours for the sale of alcohol on Friday and Saturday to 09:00 – 02:00 hours.

It is also important to note that no representation was received from Trading Standards. However, the Health and Safety Officer has visited the premises and noted that we were under refurbishment at the time of her visit.

I wish to make the following representations for your consideration:

1. Inconsistency in Reported Visit Time

The officer's reports contain conflicting visit times — one stating 01:30 hrs and the other 01:47 hrs. This inconsistency raises questions about the accuracy of the report, and I respectfully request clarification on the actual time of attendance.

2. Conduct During Initial Visit

During the first visit, individuals entered the premises pretending to be customers and requested to purchase alcohol. I clearly informed them that we do not hold an alcohol licence and refused the sale. This covert approach was misleading and, in my view, unprofessional. I would like this concern to be formally recorded.

3. Alcohol Storage and Use of TENS

It was observed that a box of beer was present near the bar area. This was residual stock from a previously authorised Temporary Event Notice (TEN). The assumption that the drinks were intended for sale was incorrect. No alcohol was sold, served, or consumed during the inspection.

We also acknowledge that there was a misunderstanding regarding the TEN period. We now fully understand that a TEN cannot be used on alternative dates and are committed to full compliance moving forward.

4. Alleged Music and Entertainment

The report refers to the playing of music and the use of speakers. I can confirm there are no speakers installed within the premises. The only electronic device is a television used for normal operation. Therefore, the claim that regulated entertainment was taking place is inaccurate.

5. Alleged Alcohol Consumption by Patrons

The report states that beer bottles were observed on tables. If such evidence existed, enforcement action should have been taken at that time. As no such action occurred, this suggests there was no verifiable evidence of alcohol consumption.

6. Private Event and Access Control

The event referred to was a private birthday celebration. Access was controlled and restricted to invited guests only. The blackout blinds mentioned in the report are permanent fixtures for privacy and aesthetic purposes, not an attempt to conceal activity.

7. General Observations

We respect the Council's role in ensuring compliance with the Licensing Act 2003. However, the officer's report contains assumptions and inconsistencies that we believe do not fairly represent our conduct. We have always cooperated fully with the Licensing Team and will continue to do so.

8. Supporting Statement – Commitment to Compliance

To demonstrate our good faith, we are implementing the following voluntary measures:

- Introduction of an internal compliance checklist to ensure all future events are authorised under a valid TEN.
- Staff refresher training on the Licensing Act 2003 and prevention of unlicensed activity.
- Maintenance of clear records of all licensing-related communication and event documentation.
- Proactive liaison with the Licensing Team before any future events.

9. Additional Statement – Commitment as New Business Owners

As new business owners, we are eager to work closely with the Council to ensure full compliance. The shisha area was inherited from the previous owner. We have already requested relevant documentation from our landlord, and if new planning permission is required, we are willing to apply immediately.

We fully understand the legal requirements regarding the sale and management of alcohol and are committed to ensuring that all activities are conducted lawfully and responsibly.

We would also like to highlight the difficult trading environment for small businesses due to the rising cost of living. With the Council's understanding and fair consideration of our application, we believe Lilywhites can continue to provide valuable employment opportunities, local economic contribution, and a positive community presence.

In light of the points raised above, I respectfully request that the Licensing Sub-Committee consider these clarifications when making their determination. We remain fully committed to transparency, cooperation, and the responsible promotion of all four licensing objectives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Andebrhan Tekeste
Applicant – Lilywhites