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**TRAFFORD**  
**COUNCIL**

## **AGENDA PAPERS FOR LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Date: Monday, 18 March 2024**

**Time: 11.00 am**

**Place: Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0TH**

<b>A G E N D A</b>	<b>PART I</b>	<b>Pages</b>
1. <b>ATTENDANCES</b>		
To note attendances, including Officers and any apologies for absence.		
2. <b>RAILWAY INN REPORT</b>		1 – 42
To consider a report of the Head of Regulatory Services.		
3. <b>URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)</b>		
Any other item or items which by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.		

**SARA TODD**  
Chief Executive

### Membership of the Committee

Councillors J. Holden, D. Jarman and S. Thomas

### Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact:

Stephanie Ferraioli, Governance Officer  
Email: [stephanie.ferraioli@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.ferraioli@trafford.gov.uk)

## Licensing Sub-Committee - Monday, 18 March 2024

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This agenda was issued on **Friday, 8 March 2024** by the Legal and Democratic Services Section, Trafford Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford M32 0TH.

Any person wishing to photograph, film or audio-record a public meeting are requested to inform Democratic Services in order that necessary arrangements can be made for the meeting

Please contact the Democratic Services Officer 48 hours in advance of the meeting if you intend to do this or have any queries.

**TRAFFORD COUNCIL**

**Report to:** Licensing Sub-Committee  
**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
**Report for:** Decision  
**Report of:** Head of Regulatory Services

**Report Title**

**REVIEW OF PREMISES LICENCE FOLLOWING S.80 CLOSURE ORDER -  
RAILWAY INN, 153 MANCHESTER ROAD, ALTRINCHAM WA14 5NT**

**Summary**

This report details a review pursuant to s.167 of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the premises licence held by Mrs Rebecca Ellis for the Railway Inn, 153 Manchester Road, Altrincham following a Closure Order granted by Manchester Magistrates' Court on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 under section 80 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

**Recommendation(s)**

The Sub-committee must consider the Closure Order and any relevant representations and take such of the steps mentioned in section 167 subsection (6) of the Licensing Act 2003 (if any) as it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Those steps are—

- (a) modify the conditions of the premises licence,
- (b) to exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence,
- (c) remove the designated premises supervisor from the licence,
- (d) to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months, or
- (e) to revoke the licence;

and for this purpose the conditions of a premises licence are modified if any of them is altered or omitted or any new condition is added.

The Sub-Committee has the power in relation to steps (a) and (b) to provide that the modification and exclusion only has effect for a limited period not exceeding three

months.

The Sub-Committee also have the option to take no further action or issue an informal warning to the licence holder and/or recommend improvement within a particular period of time.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Joanne Boyle  
Extension: joanne.boyle@trafford.gov.uk

## 1. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 1.1 Under section 76 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, a police officer of at least the rank of inspector, or the local authority, may issue a closure notice if satisfied on reasonable grounds:
  - (a) that the use of particular premises has resulted, or (if the notice is not issued) is likely soon to result, in nuisance to members of the public, or
  - (b) that there has been, or (if the notice is not issued) is likely soon to be, disorder near those premises associated with the use of those premises, and the notice is necessary to prevent the nuisance or disorder from continuing, recurring or occurring.
- 1.2 A closure notice is a notice prohibiting access to the premises for a period specified in the notice. The maximum period is 48 hours.
- 1.3 Whenever a closure notice is issued an application can be made under Section 80 of the 2014 Act to a magistrates' court for a closure order to extend the closure. An application for a closure order must be made:
  - a) by a constable if the closure notice was issued by a police officer; or
  - b) by the authority that issued the closure notice if the notice was issued by a local authority.
- 1.4 The application must be heard by the magistrates' court not later than 48 hours after service of the closure notice. In this case, the matter was initially heard at Manchester Magistrates' Court on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and adjourned until 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024.
- 1.5 The court may make a closure order if it is satisfied:
  - a) That a person has engaged, or (if the order is not made) is likely to engage, in disorderly, offensive or criminal behaviour on the premises, or
  - b) That the use of the premises has resulted, or (if the order is not made) is likely to result in, serious nuisance to members of the public, or
  - c) That there has been, or (if the order is not made) is likely to be, disorder near those premises associated with the use of those premises, and that the order is

necessary to prevent the behaviour, nuisance or disorder from continuing, recurring or occurring

- 1.6 A closure order is an order prohibiting access to the premises for a period specified in the order. That period may not exceed 3 months. A closure order may prohibit access:
- a) by all persons, or by all persons except those specified, or by all persons except those of a specified description;
  - b) at all times, or at all times except those specified;
  - c) in all circumstances, or in all circumstances except those specified.
- 1.7 A closure order:
- a) may be made in respect of the whole or any part of the premises;
  - b) may include provision about access to a part of the building or structure of which the premises form part.
- 1.8 Once the licensing authority has received notification from the court that a closure order has been made, it must reach a determination on a review of the premises licence no later than 28 days after the day on which it receives the notice.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Railway Inn is a free house operated by Rebecca Ellis, who is both the premises licence holder and Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS).
- 2.2 The premises has been licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 since 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005 and Rebecca Ellis became the premises licence holder and DPS on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.
- 2.3 A copy of the current premises licence is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 2.4 Intelligence gathered by Greater Manchester Police and Trafford Council suggested that the Railway Inn was being used as a brothel, with sex workers being trafficked to the brothel.
- 2.5 At about 17:15 on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 officers from Greater Manchester Police and Trafford Council attended at the premises with a search warrant obtained by the police. A sex worker was found on the premises who advised the police within a statement captured on body worn video that she had been trafficked to the premises.
- 2.6 Rebecca Ellis and Gerald Ellis were arrested in respect of offences connected with the trafficking of sex workers to work in a brothel and managing a brothel.
- 2.7 At approximately 17:30 on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 an authorised officer of Trafford Council issued a closure notice under section 76(1) of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 on the grounds that the use of the premises had resulted in

nuisance to members of the public and was likely to be the cause of disorder in the vicinity of the premises as a result of the premises being used as a brothel.

- 2.8 On the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 Manchester Magistrates' Court, on application from Trafford Council, granted a Closure Order under section 80(5) of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 on the grounds that it was satisfied:
- a. that a person had engaged, in criminal behaviour on the premises, namely that Rebecca Ellis and Gerald Ellis had used the premises as a brothel and engaged in all the criminal behaviour associated with that undertaking, and;
  - b. that the use of the premises had resulted, in serious nuisance to members of the public, especially those trafficked to the premises and those affected by the use of the premises for that criminal purpose, and:
  - c. that there had been, or (if the order is not made) was likely to be, disorder near those premises associated with the use of those premises as a brothel and the trafficking of sex workers to work within the premises.
- 2.9 A copy of the Closure Order and the Statement of Neil Courtney, Community Safety & CCTV Team Leader, are attached to this report at **Appendix B and C** respectively.

### **3 REPRESENTATIONS**

- 3.1 Regulation 38(2) of the Licensing Act 2003 requires that following notification of a Closure Order the Authority must advertise the review of the premises licence at the premises; at the Council's Offices and on its website for no less than seven consecutive days starting on the day after the day the authority received notice of the Closure Order.
- 3.2 The Authority is also required to notify the premises licence holder and Responsible Authorities of the review.
- 3.3 The notification requirements were complied with and the last date for representations in respect of the review was 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – See **Appendix D**.
- 3.4 On the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 PC John Lloyd, Police Licensing Officer, submitted a representation on behalf of Greater Manchester Police in support of the review. A copy of the representation is attached at **Appendix E**.

### **4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 A S.80 Closure Order has been issued by Manchester Magistrates' Court in respect of the Railway Inn, Altrincham which has triggered a review of the premises licence.
- 4.2 The order was granted because the Court was satisfied that the premises had been used for serious criminal behaviour which had resulted in serious nuisance by the use of those premises for that criminal purpose.
- 4.3 The current premises licence was suspended on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 under section 55A of the Licensing Act 2003 for non-payment of the annual fee. The Act states that the licensing authority must suspend a premises licence if the holder of the licence has

failed to pay the authority an annual fee that has become due under section 55(2) of the Act.

- 4.4 Rebecca Ellis is also the premises licence holder for a premises known as Bar Eight in Castlefield, Manchester. However, a notice posted by the Landlord's bailiff in January 2024 states that the lease on the premises has been forfeited; the premises have been secured; and no unauthorised access is permitted.
- 4.5 A representation in respect of the Closure Order and review was received from Greater Manchester Police on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## **5. OPTIONS**

- 5.1 The Sub-Committee must, having regard to the Closure Order and any relevant representations, take such of the steps mentioned in Section 167 subsection (6) of the Licensing Act (if any) as it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 5.2 The steps stated in Section 167(6) are:
  - to modify the conditions of the licence;
  - to exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence;
  - to remove the designated premises supervisor;
  - to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;
  - to revoke the licence;

and for this purpose the conditions of the licence are modified if any of them is altered or omitted or any new condition is added.

- 5.3 The Sub-Committee has the power in relation to steps (a) and (b) to provide that the modification and exclusion only has effect for a limited period not exceeding three months.
- 5.4 The Sub-Committee also have the option to leave the licence in its existing state and/or issue an informal warning to the licence holder and/or recommend improvement within a particular period of time.

## **ATTACHED**

Appendix A – Premises Licence  
Appendix B – Closure Order  
Appendix C – Evidence Bundle  
Appendix D – Notice of Review  
Appendix E – Representation from GMP





Licensing Act 2003

**Premises Licence****PL000475**TRAFFORD  
COUNCIL

## Part 1 – Premises Details

**POSTAL ADDRESS OF PREMISES OR, IF NONE, ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP REFERENCE OR DESCRIPTION****Railway Inn**

153 Manchester Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 5NT

Telephone : 0161 941 3383

**WHERE THE LICENCE IS TIME LIMITED, THE DATES****LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED BY THE LICENCE AND THE TIMES THE LICENCE AUTHORISES THE CARRYING OUT OF LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES**

Recorded Music - Indoors	Sunday - 12:00 to 00:00 Friday to Saturday - 11:00 to 01:00 Monday to Thursday - 11:00 to 00:00 New Years Eve - 11:00 to 02:00 Christmas Eve - 11:00 to 02:00 Boxing Day - 11:00 to 02:00
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Alcohol - On the premises	Sunday - 12:00 to 00:00 Friday to Saturday - 11:00 to 01:00 Monday to Thursday - 11:00 to 00:00 New Years Eve - 11:00 to 02:00 Christmas Eve - 11:00 to 02:00 Boxing Day - 11:00 to 02:00
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Alcohol - Off the premises	Sunday - 12:00 to 00:00 Friday to Saturday - 11:00 to 01:00 Monday to Thursday - 11:00 to 00:00 New Years Eve - 11:00 to 02:00 Christmas Eve - 11:00 to 02:00 Boxing Day - 11:00 to 02:00
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**THE OPENING HOURS OF THE PREMISES**

Licensing Act 2003

# Premises Licence

## PL000475



Sunday - 12:00 to 00:00  
Friday to Saturday - 11:00 to 01:00  
Monday to Thursday - 11:00 to 00:00  
New Years Eve - 11:00 to 02:00  
Christmas Eve - 11:00 to 02:00  
Boxing Day - 11:00 to 02:00

### WHERE THE LICENCE AUTHORISES SUPPLIES OF ALCOHOL, WHETHER THESE ARE ON AND/OR OFF SUPPLIES

The sale of alcohol for consumption ON and OFF the premises.

### Part 2

### NAME, (REGISTERED) ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL (WHERE AVAILABLE) OF LICENCE HOLDER

Rebecca Ellis  
52 Woodhouse Lane, Sale, M33 4JY

07544922908  
becky@railwayinnaltrincham.co.uk

### REGISTERED NUMBER OF HOLDER, WHERE APPLICABLE (E.G. COMPANY NUMBER, CHARITY NUMBER)

### NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORISES THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Rebecca Ellis  
52 Woodhouse Lane, Sale, M33 4JY

### PERSONAL LICENCE NUMBER AND ISSUING AUTHORITY OF PERSONAL LICENCE HELD BY DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORISES THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Licence No: PA1509

Issued by : Trafford

**ANNEXES**

**These conditions should be read in conjunction with plan referenced**

Annex 1 – Mandatory Conditions

**MANDATORY CONDITIONS**

1. No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence:
  - (a) At a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises, or
  - (b) At a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended
2. Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

**ADDITIONAL MANDATORY CONDITIONS (28<sup>th</sup> May 2014)**

1. A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.
2. For the purposes of the condition set out in paragraph 1:
  - (a) “duty” is to be construed in accordance with the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979
  - (b) “permitted price” is the price found by applying the formula

$$P = D + (D \times V)$$

Where

- (i) P is the permitted price
- (ii) D is the amount of duty chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the duty were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol

and

- (iii) V is the rate of value added tax chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the value added tax were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol
- (c) “relevant person” means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a premises licence
  - (i) the holder of the premises licence
  - (ii) the designated premises supervisor (if any) in respect of such a licence, or



- (iii) the personal licence holder who makes or authorises a supply of alcohol under such a licence;
  - (d) “relevant person” means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a club premises certificate, any member or officer of the club present on the premises in a capacity which enables the member or officer to prevent the supply in question; and
  - (e) “value added tax” means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994.
3. Where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 would (apart from this paragraph) not be a whole number of pennies, the price given by that sub-paragraph shall be taken to be the price actually given by that sub-paragraph rounded up to the nearest penny.
4. (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 on a day (“the first day”) would be different from the permitted price on the next day (“the second day”) as a result of a change to the rate of duty or value added tax.
- (2) The permitted price which would apply on the first day applies to sales or supplies of alcohol which take place before the expiry of the period of 14 days beginning on the second day.

**ADDITIONAL MANDATORY CONDITIONS (1<sup>st</sup> October 2014)**

5. (1) The responsible person must ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises
- (2) In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purposes of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises:
- (a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to:
    - (i) drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or
    - (ii) drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise)
  - (b) provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective
  - (c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of

# Premises Licence

## PL000475



24 hours or less in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective

- (d) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner
  - (e) dispensing alcohol directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of disability)
6. The responsible person must ensure that free potable water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.
7. (1) The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.
- (2) The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.
- (3) The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either:
- (a) a holographic mark
- or
- (b) an ultraviolet feature
8. The responsible person must ensure that:
- (a) where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures
    - (i) beer or cider: ½ pint
    - (ii) gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25 ml or 35 ml; and
    - (iii) still wine in a glass: 125 ml; and
  - (b) these measures are displayed in a menu, price list or other printed material which is available to customers on the premises; and
  - (c) where a customer does not in relation to a sale of alcohol specify the quantity of

Licensing Act 2003

# Premises Licence

## PL000475



alcohol to be sold, the customer is made aware that these measures are available.

### Annex 2 – Conditions Consistent with the Operating Schedule

1. The Licensed premises or parts of the licensed premises edged in red on the attached plan of the premises may be open to the public/members of the club and their guests as per the opening hours.
2. The licensable activity qualifying activity is permitted to take place on the licensed premises in those parts of the plan on the attached plan of the premises as per the hours as listed.
3. For premises where entertainment takes place on a regular basis, music and associated sources (including DJ's and amplified voices) should generally not be audible inside noise sensitive properties at any time.
4. Where entertainment takes place less frequently, such noise should generally not be audible inside noise sensitive properties between 23:00 and 07:00 hours. (Based on IOA Good Practice Guide on the Control of Noise from Pubs and Clubs)
5. All external doors and windows shall be kept closed when regulated entertainment is being provided except in the event of an emergency.
6. There shall be placed at all exits from the premises in a place where they can be seen and easily read by the public, notices requiring customers to leave the premises and the area quietly. (Note, this may also include a reference to vehicles).

### Annex 3 – Conditions Attached After a Hearing of the Licensing Committee

None

**Signature of Authorised Officer**

Licensing Act 2003

# Premises Licence Summary

## PL000475



TRAFFORD  
COUNCIL

### POSTAL ADDRESS OF PREMISES OR, IF NONE, ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP REFERENCE OR DESCRIPTION

#### Railway Inn

153 Manchester Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 5NT  
Telephone : 0161 941 3383

### WHERE THE LICENCE IS TIME LIMITED, THE DATES

### LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED BY THE LICENCE AND THE TIMES THE LICENCE AUTHORISES THE CARRYING OUT OF LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES

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### THE OPENING HOURS OF THE PREMISES

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Licensing Act 2003

# Premises Licence Summary

## PL000475



TRAFFORD  
COUNCIL

### WHERE THE LICENCE AUTHORISES SUPPLIES OF ALCOHOL, WHETHER THESE ARE ON AND/OR OFF SUPPLIES

The sale of alcohol for consumption ON and OFF the premises.

### NAME, (REGISTERED) ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL (WHERE AVAILABLE) OF LICENCE HOLDER

Rebecca Ellis  
52 Woodhouse Lane, Sale, M33 4JY

07544922908  
becky@railwayinnaltrincham.co.uk

### REGISTERED NUMBER OF HOLDER, WHERE APPLICABLE (E.G. COMPANY NUMBER, CHARITY NUMBER)

### NAME OF DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORISES THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Rebecca Ellis

### PERSONAL LICENCE NUMBER AND ISSUING AUTHORITY OF PERSONAL LICENCE HELD BY DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORISES THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Licence No: PA1509

Issued by : Trafford

### STATE WHETHER ACCESS TO THE PREMISES BY CHILDREN IS RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED

No restrictions.

Signature of Authorised Officer



**CLOSURE ORDER**

**Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 s.80**

**In the Manchester Magistrates' Court**

Date: 21/02/2024

The Premises: The Railway Inn, 153 Manchester Road, Altrincham, WA14 5NT to include all attached accomodation

Applicant Authority: Trafford Borough Council, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, M32 0TH

Following service of a Closure Notice at the Premises on 13/02/2024 the Applicant Authority applied for a Closure Order for a period of three months on 21/02/2024

The court is satisfied:

- (a) That a person has engaged, or if the order is not made is likely to engage, in disorderly, offensive or criminal behaviour on the Premises;
- (b) That the use of the Premises has resulted, or if the order is not made is likely to result in, serious nuisance to members of the public;
- (c) That there has been, or if the order is not made is likely to be, disorder near the premises associated with the use of the Premises;

and that a closure order in respect of the whole Premises is necessary to prevent the behaviour, nuisance or disorder from continuing, recurring or occurring.

This closure order prohibits access to the Premises by all persons at all times and in all circumstances except for the persons and classes of person specified below who may access the Premises at any time:

- Employees of Trafford Council
- Employees of the Emergency Services on official business.

**This closure order will end at 2359 hours on 20/05/2024**

**Any person who without reasonable excuse remains on or enters the Premises in contravention of a closure order commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 51 weeks or to a fine or to both.**

..... 10.10 21.2.24  
District Judge/Justice of the Peace  
Manchester Magistrates Court  
DJMC L Hogan

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## APPENDIX C

**Filed on behalf of:** Applicant

**Witness:** N Courtney

**No. of Statement:** First

**Date of Statement:** 28/02/2024

**Exhibit(s):**

**IN THE MATTER OF S.52 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

**B E T W E E N**

**TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**APPLICANT**

**AND**

**THE RAILWAY INN**

**RESPONDENT**

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF NEILL COURTNEY**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

1. I am the above named person and I am employed by Trafford Council as the Community Safety and CCTV Team Leader
2. Part of my role is to manage four community safety coordinators within the Community Safety Team and to address matters of crime, nuisance, and anti-social behaviour in the borough. To achieve this, I am provided authorised access to Greater Manchester Police computer systems and daily business records,

intelligence and crime information. This access being granted upon completion of vetting and appropriate training.

3. I hold a professional qualification in Crime and Nuisance Management and have fourteen years' experience in dealing with crime and disorder in policing, housing, and local government settings.
4. For a period of time from December 2023 onwards I was in receipt of various items of information in relation to the Railway Pub, which is a premises located at 153 Manchester Road, Altrincham, Trafford.
1. I am aware that the railway is a public house which serves drinks and advertises food and is located on a busy main road in Trafford.
5. The property is subject to a premises license issued by Trafford Council's Licensing Team.
6. The Property is adjacent to a busy retail park which serves families and various members of the public. Located on the retail park are such stores as McDonalds, The Range, Argos, Sports Direct, Hobbycraft and KFC.
7. The licensee of the premises is known to me to be one Rebecca ELLIS.
8. Enquiries reveal that her father, Richard ELLIS also has an interest in the premises and uses the living accommodation above the premises.
9. A check with companies house has revealed that the Railway Inn is incorporated as a company with Richard ELLIS listed as the sole director and lists Rebecca

ELLIS as a person with significant control. The company in question was dissolved on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

10. Officers with Greater Manchester Police received several items of intelligence which indicated to them that the Premises were being used to offer sexual services for reward. This information was provided confidentially. I am privy to this intelligence which is sensitive in nature, but indicates that multiple women, working as sex workers in the Manchester area have reported to various different professionals that they have been taken to the Railway Inn, or encouraged by ELLIS to go to the Railway Inn to engage in sex work there, with ELLIS having told them he has “punters” lined up for them. ELLIS would pay them or make offers to make payment in the form of drugs. Once at the premises, the women report that ELLIS would make it difficult for them to leave.


11. On 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 I attended a briefing held at Altrincham Police Station. The purpose of this briefing was to prepare staff who were attending at the premises to execute a search warrant issued by the Magistrates Court pursuant to S.8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. The warrant covered both the pub itself which is the ground floor of the two-storey premises and the living accommodation above. The warrant was issued based on the information detailed above which was considered by the court to be of sufficient credibility and quantity to allow a warrant to be issued.

12. Shortly thereafter we attended at the Premises where officers had arrived momentarily earlier.

13. As we arrived at the Premises we were met with and spoke to Police Sergeant 15017 CLARKE. Sergeant CLARKE advised us that a female adult had been found in one of the bedrooms of the Premises, and that this female had been brought to the Premises by Richard ELLIS having been collected from Manchester where she was carrying out sex work. She explained to officers, who recorded her account on their body worn video that that she had been engaging in sex work at the pub, where Richard ELLIS had provided her with drugs. The female whose identity is known to me, explained that she engages in sex work in Manchester to pay for an addiction to crack cocaine.
14. The female adult stated she had been provided by crack cocaine for free, and had been told not to leave the upstairs of the pub. She felt that Richard ELLIS would make it difficult for her to leave by doing such things as keeping her belongings and refusing to transport her elsewhere unless she agreed to return. She told Police officers that Richard ELLIS pestered her to have sex with him in exchange for crack cocaine.
15. This female was immediately transported from the premises by Police Officers for safeguarding tasks to be carried out. She was treated as a victim of trafficking throughout and was provided appropriate offers of support. These include tasks that would customarily be made in circumstances where a person is deemed to be a victim of modern slavery or trafficking.
16. I then went inside the Premises where Police Officers were carrying out a search. In the downstairs bar area of the Premises were sat both Rebecca and Richard ELLIS. Both persons were placed under arrest by Police Officers for offences of controlling prostitution for gain.

17. At 1800 hours that same day I determined that the use of the premises had caused serious nuisance to members of the public, including to the vulnerable female and other unknown females believed to have been trafficked there. I therefore explained to Rebecca and Richard ELLIS that I was issuing a closure notice to the Premises pursuant to S. 76(1) of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. I explained the effect of the notice and the consequences should the notice be breached. I also made arrangements for the matter to be heard at the Magistrates Court within 24 hours.
18. The search of the premises yielded several items which I was shown by police officers. Specifically a quantity of unwrapped condoms, used condoms, sexualised female lingerie type underwear and a large number of disposable, burner type telephones. I also noted that the upstairs of the premises were filthy and smelly and that there were numerous deposits of dog excrement throughout. There were also pieces of broken pipes of the type used for the smoking of crack cocaine strewn about the floor.
19. Officers transported Richard and Rebecca ELLIS to custody where they were interviewed and provided no significant explanation for the circumstances revealed at the public house. They have been bailed pending further enquiries and analysis of the various telephones. The bail conditions include not to be concerned in the running of any licenced premises.
20. On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 officers from my team attended at Manchester Magistrates Court where District Judge HOGARTH heard the matter. She determined that the notice would remain in force for seven days to permit Richard and Rebecca ELLIS to attend court and provide an explanation.

21. On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 a further hearing was held which was not attended by Rebecca and Richard ELLIS. At this hearing District Judge HOGARTH again heard the matter and found that persons had engaged in criminal, offensive or disorderly behaviour on the premises. A closure order pursuant to S80 of the Anti-Social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act was issued by the Judge prohibiting access to the premises for a period of three months. I attended that hearing and an officer from my team gave evidence to the Court.
22. Shortly after the hearing concluded I encountered Richard and Rebecca ELLIS in the court building who explained that they had gone to the wrong court building and hence were late attending. They were provided a copy of the Closure Order and court bundle at this time but were advised that as they had not attended for the hearing, the judge had made her ruling. They then left the Court complex.
23. Officers from my team then made arrangements to secure the premises and to allow Richard ELLIS to collect a dog and some items of medical equipment which he stated he had left inside.
24. I believe that the facts stated in this statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.



Signed:

Position: Community Safety and CCTV Team Leader



Date: 28/02/2024

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**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
**NOTICE OF REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE FOLLOWING**  
**ISSUE OF A**  
**s.80 CLOSURE ORDER**

**Premises: RAILWAY INN, 153 MANCHESTER ROAD,  
ALTRINCHAM, WA14 5NT**

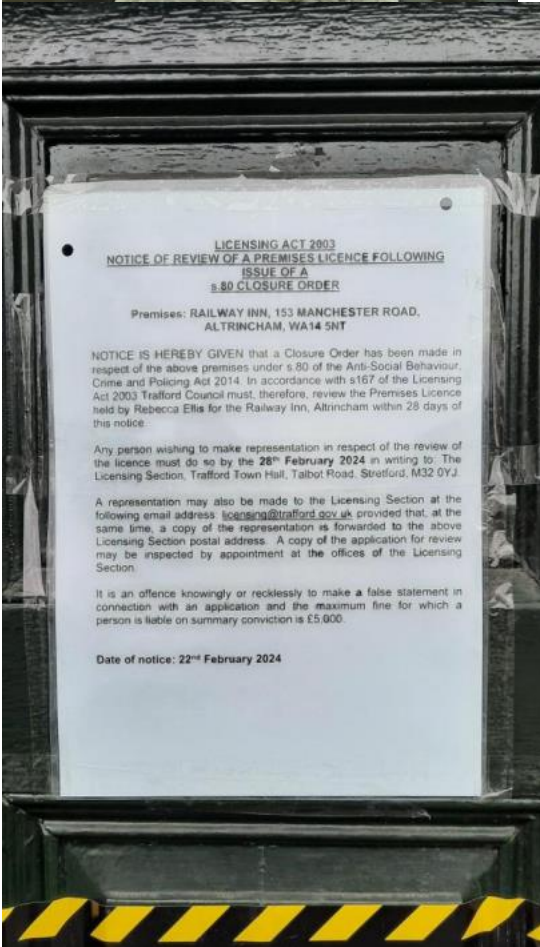
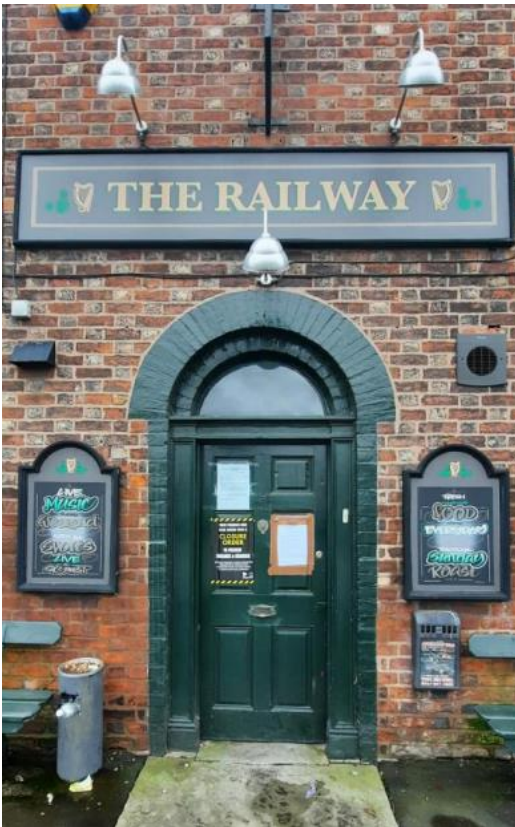
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Closure Order has been made in respect of the above premises under s.80 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. In accordance with s167 of the Licensing Act 2003 Trafford Council must, therefore, review the Premises Licence held by Rebecca Ellis for the Railway Inn, Altrincham within 28 days of this notice.

Any person wishing to make representation in respect of the review of the licence must do so by the **28<sup>th</sup> February 2024** in writing to: The Licensing Section, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, M32 0YJ.

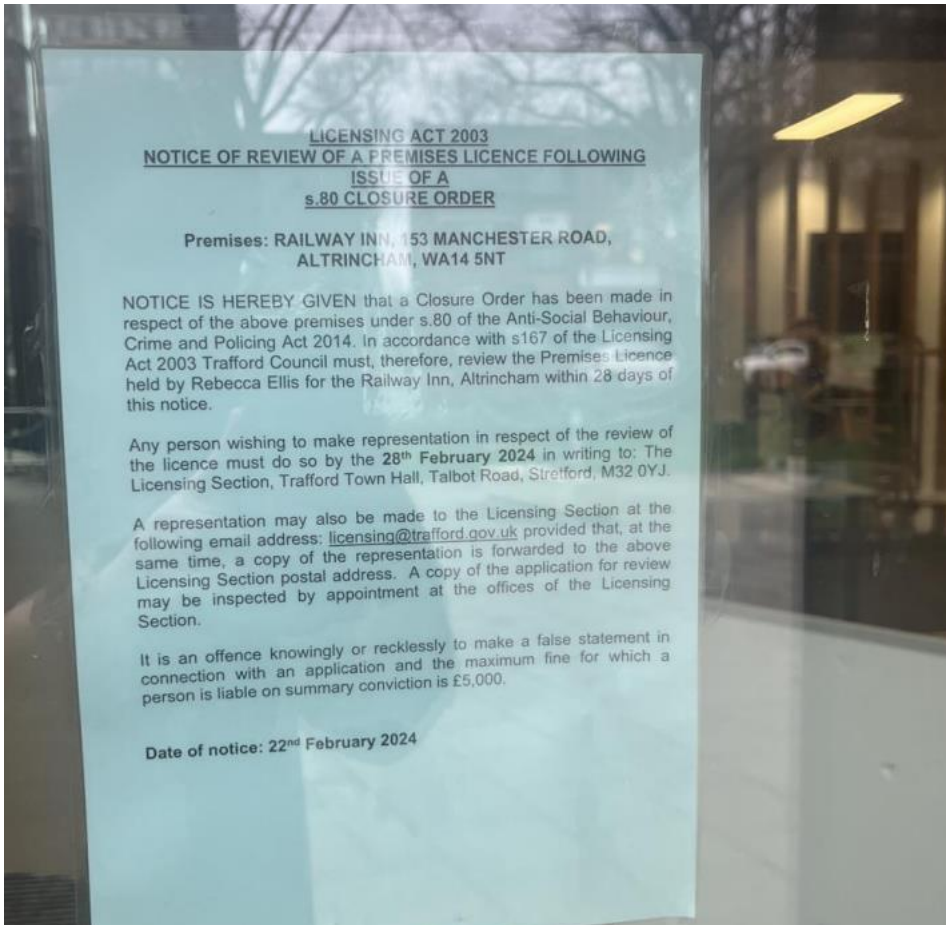
A representation may also be made to the Licensing Section at the following email address: [licensing@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@trafford.gov.uk) provided that, at the same time, a copy of the representation is forwarded to the above Licensing Section postal address. A copy of the application for review may be inspected by appointment at the offices of the Licensing Section.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is £5,000.

**Date of notice: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**



## Notice Displayed at Premises:



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## Trafford Council

**The Licensing Act 2003****Responsible Authority Representation Form**

FAO The Licensing Service, Licensing Section, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, M32 0TH

<b>Section 1 - Application Details</b>	
<b>I wish to make a representation regarding the application for the review of a premises licence for the following premises:</b>	
Premises name: The Railway Public House	
Premises name and address: 152 Manchester Road, Broadheath, Altrincham WA14 5NT.	
Type of Application: Application for the Review of a Premises Licence	
Application Number (if known):	PL000475

<b>Section 2 – Responsible Authority's Details</b>	
<b>Responsible Authority's Details:</b>	
Please tick appropriate box:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief Officer of Police
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire and Rescue Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Planning Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health and Safety Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Health Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bodies recognised as being responsible for protection of children from harm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Authority Director of Public Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Weights and Measures Authority (Trading Standards)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Licensing Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Home Office Immigration Enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
Full name:	John LLOYD
Job Title:	Police Officer
Tele number:	07391860064
Email:	john.lloyd@gmp.police.uk

Address:

GMP  
 Stretford Police Station,  
 Talbot Road, Stretford.  
 M32 0XB

**Section 3 – Representations**

In relation to the review of a premises licence, if the licensing committee are minded to modify the terms of the licence, either immediately or after a period of suspension, we would like to see the conditions outlined in section 3B included on the licence for the reasons outlined in section 3A.

**Section 3A – The Licensing Objectives**

To prevent crime and disorder

*Please state your reasons:*

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Greater Manchester Police attended Manchester Magistrates Court and presented details to the court in the form of an application for a warrant. This warrant was granted by the courts under Section 1 & 2 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour - Human trafficking.

On the back of the warrant being granted GMP and partners (Trafford Council Community Safety Team) arranged to execute this on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The address in question was The Railway Public House 153 Manchester Rd, Broadheath, Altrincham WA14 5NT. This is a detached public house with public main entrance at the front accessed via pavement and at the rear a beer garden which backs onto the retail parks public parking. This has a gate which was unlocked with access the beer garden. The door leading out to the beer garden is a locked door and not used for access/egress unless the beer garden is being used. The rooms above the pub are accessed via a door inside the pub marked ‘Staff Only’. To the best of my knowledge no person is registered as living at the property from Tax Records however one of the arrested parties has stated they have lived there for over two years on one of the rooms. The door leading from the



pub to the flats above marked 'Staff Only' was closed but unlocked upon my arrival.

In the pub at the time were three people the licensee Rebecca ELLIS, also present was the believed owner and finally a female who stated she was a friend of Rebecca ELLIS, her details were taken and allowed to leave.

A search of the full property was undertaken, In one of the six bedrooms upstairs a female was located and spoken to, she provided her details. This individual is a known sex worker. Upstairs was made of six bedrooms (some en-suite) each equipped with a bed and little other furniture. There was also a laundry room, no kitchen or living room. Within the upper property as mentioned in the representation from the Community Safety Team there were items found such as used condom, sealed condom bag containing boxes of new stockings. One of the rooms was clearly being used as a bedroom by someone.

Both individuals were arrested under an offence of Controlling Prostitution for Gain: Section 53 Sexual Offences Act 2003 or trafficking for the purposes of prostitution.

This is still a live criminal investigation and as such am mindful of disclosing details of the ongoing investigation in a public hearing and details of the arrested.

I can confirm the CCTV which covers the licensed premises was seized as possible providing evidence of offences, one of the conditions on the license would be for CCTV to be installed and working currently this has been removed by Greater Manchester Police.

There had been a report from September 2023 that it was suspected the business had been displaying BT / SKY programmes and avoiding the payment of the of the relevant commercial fee, I can confirm the licensed premises was advertising BT/SKY Sports on external signs (see attached Appendix E2 - JL1) and also electronic signs on the bar (see attached Appendix E4 - JL3), there were three SKY boxes plugged in and showing green power light (see attached Appendix E3 - JL2). At the time of entering the public house terrestrial TV was playing on the televisions.

APPENDIX E1

	<p>Following the arrest the Community Safety Team issued a closure notice for 24 hrs, the following day at Manchester Magistrates Court this was extended for one week until Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, then on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February this closure order was granted for three months.</p> <p>Along with the three-month court issued closure the current licensee has a Police imposed condition <i>“Not to apply for any new licenses at any public house, or to be involved in the running or employment of any licensed premises”</i> this is in place until 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024. The licensee is also named as DPS for another City Centre licensed premises, I contacted the appropriate people to conduct a visit. On the door dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 was an enforcement letter from bailiffs that the business had been secured and closed, see attached. (see attached Appendix E5 - JL1 Bar 8).</p> <p>The Designated Premise Supervisor has a responsibility and obligation to keep within the law and to follow the licensing objectives. Having a known sex worker transported to and staying on the property, being found in the bedroom of someone associated with the running and ownership of the premise and access to these bedrooms is via the pub is concerning and casts doubt on how the business its operated.</p> <p>I believe this Pub is being run and operated in a manner which is not consistent with the licensing objectives, Greater Manchester Police had reason to apply for and execute a warrant. As a result, two persons present linked to the business were arrested and on Police Bail.</p> <p>Manchester Magistrates Court have been presented with a report from Trafford Council Community Safety Team and based on this issued a three-month closure order.</p>
Public safety	<i>Please state your reasons:</i>

<p>To prevent public nuisance</p>	<p><i>Please state your reasons:</i></p>
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<p>The protection of children from harm</p>	<p><i>Please state your reasons:</i></p>
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**Section 3B – Suggestions/Further information**

Please give any suggested conditions that could be added to the licence to remedy the cause of your representations, or other considerations you would like the Licensing Sub-Committee to take into account.

I believe while the business is closed, combined with the Police investigation and bail conditions restricting the licensee from being involved in the running or employment of any licensed premises and the closure notice the license should be considered for revocation and DPS removed. This is to prevent the business reopening and trading in the way it has previously.

I confirm that this representation may become a public document

Signed PC John LLOYD 18264                      dated 28/02/2024

N.B if you do make a representation you will be expected to attend the Licensing Sub-Committee hearing and any subsequent appeal proceedings.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this representation. This is punishable, on summary conviction, by a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

Please return this form along with any additional sheets to: **The Licensing Service, Trafford Council; Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0HT** or email to [licensing@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@trafford.gov.uk).

This form must be returned within the Statutory Period. Please check with the Licensing Section by emailing [licensing@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@trafford.gov.uk)



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# Enforcement Specialists Ltd

## Take Notice

Mr Richard Gerard Ellis And Ms Rebecca Jane ..... Lessee

Address: Unit 1 Middle Warehouse, Castle Quay, Chester Road Manchester  
M17 4NT .....

and

Landlord: Peel L&P Investment Properties Ltd .....

TAKE NOTICE that the Landlord and/or Bailiff has today re-entered 19.01.2024] in accordance with the Landlord's power under the Lease or Licence . As a consequence of the re-entry, the Lease is forfeited and the premises have been secured.

AND TAKE NOTICE that no one can lawfully enter the premises unless they have been given authorisation by the Landlord.

Any attempt to enter the premises without the Landlord's authority may be a criminal offence and result in a prosecution.

If you have any enquiries about the premises, please contact: Peel L&P Investment Properties Ltd....

Dated this 19th day of ..... January .....2024.....

Signed..... Bailiff  
For and on behalf of. Peel L&P investment Properties Ltd

Enforcement Specialists Ltd.

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