

Nicola Duckworth Statement – Para. 35 Licensing Objectives Analysis

ND Comment	AMG Response
Public Safety	
a. The Licensee has failed to maintain a safe and secure premises which is fit and suitable for the purposes it has been granted a licence for PL000631.	The premises is safe and secure as evidenced by the two independent structural survey reports from Booth King and Harry Seymour Associates. There is no evidence that the premises is unsafe. AMG carry out regular property inspections in addition to Fire Risk Assessments and Health and Safety Audits.
b. There was no evidence that a building control completion certificate for the change of use from a warehouse to a music venue had been achieved.	AMG had understood that the building control completion certificate had been provided by the landlord. It transpires a fire officer's report was pending and the certificates had not been issued.
c. There is no evidence that the AMG has sought to obtain any information prior to our involvement in relation to the structural integrity of the building that they are using for the activities as listed in licence PL000631. There is no evidence that there have been any ongoing structural checks carried out during the time the premises has been occupied by AMG.	AMG obtained a comprehensive Condition Survey report from chartered structural engineers when they acquired the venue in 2018 and no structural concerns were identified. AMG have not previously been asked to produce any evidence which would have been provided if requested.
d. There has been no site-specific risk assessment carried out by AMG, which assesses the risks which are presented by individual events.	AMG had a number of documents in place which constituted a suitable and sufficient event specific risk assessment. These have been consolidated in the new Event Management Plan and appendices including event specific risk assessment documents provided to the Council.
e. There is no specific event management plan which addresses crowd management and control within the venue, depending upon the nature and type of the event- a generic system of low/medium/high rating is used, which does not adequately address individual risk which might be present by a specific event.	There is no requirement under the existing licence conditions or under health and safety legislation for a specific event management plan (EMP). The venue did have policies, procedures and risk assessments in place which constituted suitable and sufficient risk assessments. However, from October 2023, the venue has adopted the EMP approach with consolidated documentation for all future events as mentioned above.
f. There is no written system in place to liaise with other premises within the immediate vicinity in relation to the management of their events in order to ensure that there is no safety issues highlighted	The venue maintains regular communications with MUFC and LCCC for the exchange of information and collaboration. These communications are documented and will be compiled in an electronic folder for the future.

<p>g. The documentation provided does not take into consideration the risks which may be posed acts of terrorism and how it can implement the up coming requirements of the protect duty.</p>	<p>Protect duty legislation is not yet in force. However, the venue has been proactive in this very important area and robust counter-terrorism measures are provided in Compact's Security Plan and the venue's Security Operating Plan; Emergency Operations Plan and AMG's Approach to Counter-Terrorism. These documents were provided to the Council on 5th October 2023 and have not been questioned.</p>
<p>h. The stewarding plans in place are not event specific, and the stewards briefings do not adequately convey safety messages in relation to possible crowd management issues. The stewarding plan has been provided by a contracted company and not by AMG.</p>	<p>The security team provided for all events at the venue ranges between 50 – 60 and (approximately) only 4 of these will be stewards. The 'stewarding' (security?) plan does not need to be 'event specific' as it changes little from event to event and these are addressed within existing plans and risk assessments. It is standard practice for venues to rely on the contracted security company to provide a security plan.</p>
<p>i. The medical plan for each event is lacking in detail and whilst does have a change in name depending on the event, it does not reflect information which should be provided in such a plan. On some visits staff at the venue have not been adequately trained.</p>	<p>The medical plan has been provided in the documentation submitted to the licensing authority. AMG consider this provides sufficient information although would be happy to consider any suggestions. It is not accepted that the medical team have not been adequately trained although if there is specific evidence to the contrary this will be reviewed by AMG and appropriate action will be taken.</p>
<p>Prevention of Public Nuisance</p>	
<p>j. Following a review of the visits carried out and the documentation provided the plans which have been provided, do not sufficiently address any impact on the surrounding neighbourhood,</p>	<p>This matter has not been raised before. The venue has an existing noise management plan in the form of Sound Control Procedures, F1 Acoustics Example Noise Monitoring Report and a Noise Management Strategy which have been provided to the Council and together with the egress and dispersal policy address the impact on the surrounding neighbourhood.</p>
<p>k. In particular AMG have not addressed the impact of parking when an event is on at the venue.</p>	<p>The main difficulty with parking is the operation of 'parking pirates' in the area over which AMG has no real control. The issue has been raised with the Council on several occasions by Mr Taylor-Toal which is referred to in his statement.</p>
<p>l. They have also not considered in their plans the impact of holding an event on a same day and time as other venues in the immediate vicinity, for example Manchester United Football Club, Lancashire County Cricket club.</p>	<p>The venue has considered the impact of match day clashes which is addressed in the specific ingress plan. An agreement is in place with MUFC which is referred to in Steve Hoyland's statement and is working satisfactorily. The</p>

	venue has regular meetings with MUFC and LCCC which is referred to in Mr Taylor-Toal's statement (paras. 44 and 51)
Prevention of Crime and disorder	
m. The documentation which has been reviewed does not take into account the impact of an event when other events are happening in the area.	Please see response immediately above.
n. The documentation provided does not take into account the risks posed by people being in a crowded space.	AMG's operating policies and procedures for the venue do consider these risks and are incorporated within several documents including the Showstop Procedure; Emergency Lockdown Procedure; Emergency Operations Plan and Egress Procedure. There is comprehensive CCTV monitored at all times by a security operative and SIA security also monitor the crowd densities within the venue.
o. The documentation provided does not show how the venue manages the safety of all people in relation to acts of terrorism.	AMG's Approach to Counter-Terrorism (CT) has been submitted to the Council (5th October 2023) and has not been questioned. It is also covered in the venue's comprehensive Security Operating Plan.
Prevention of Children from harm	<i>['Prevention' should read 'Protection']</i>
p. Some events held at the venue allow children from the age of 14 into the premises accompanied by an adult. For all of the reasons above there is not sufficient evidence in the document review that this licensing objective is being met.	No issue has previously been raised with the venue in relation to child protection issues which is taken very seriously by AMG. Since September 2023, without instigation, the venue engaged W.E.L CIC to provide event safety and welfare services for all its events. This is referenced in Mr Taylor-Toal's statement at para.55. The venue's Alcohol Management Plan and Training policies also highlight relevant policies including Challenge 25.