

Before a Licensing Sub-Committee of Trafford Council

In the matter of:

A Review of the Premises Licence Number PLOOO631

and

The O₂ Victoria Warehouse

First Statement of Alison Acton

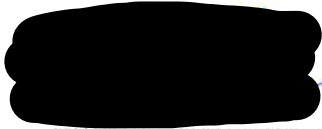
1. I am Alison Acton and am an Environmental Health Officer and I am authorised by Trafford Council to make this statement on behalf of Environmental Health in its capacity as a responsible authority.
2. My statement in relation to an application for the review of the premises licence held by Academy Music Limited in respect of the O₂ Victoria Warehouse.
3. On the 7th November 2023, I attended an appeal hearing about a prohibition notice served on Academy Music Group Ltd and Live Nation (Music) Uk Ltd. The reason for the appeal was they wanted the notices which had been complied with, withdrawn. This is not normal practise and demonstrates a lack of willingness to accept they had an issue. Evidence is to be exchanged and a further hearing held on this matter. All premises have historical data which is used as part of the requirement to consider ongoing compliance and suitable actions to take.
4. The prohibition notice was to provide a comprehensive assessment of the first floor loading including a detailed analysis that takes into account dynamic loading resulting from crowd movement as there could be a risk of overloading and collapse. There had not been any such assessment before this time.
5. On the 29th November 2023, I carried out a visit to O2 Victoria warehouse accompanied by some officers from regulatory services team. The purpose of this visit was to look at the compliance with an improvement notice served by myself in relation to event specific risk assessment. The improvement notice was to provide a suitable and sufficient site specific and event specific risk assessments, as far as reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of employees, sub-contractors, volunteers and spectators, that they are not exposed to risks arising from the operation of events.

6. The guidance given was that -This should include, but not limited to
- Venue Suitability / Design
 - Resilience activities for events (contingency & emergency planning)
 - Medical plan / assessment
 - Communications
 - Transport management
 - Working at height
 - Temporary demountable structures
 - Fire safety
 - Electrical safety
 - Barriers and Fencing
 - Crowd management/demographic
 - Special Effects
 - Amusements
 - Waste management
 - Noise
 - Toilet facilities
 - Information & Welfare
 - Food, drink & water provision
 - Pyrotechnics- special effects
 - Dealing with Crime and Disorder
 - Working with Regulatory Bodies
 - Worker Welfare
 - Accessibility
 - Counter Terrorism
 - Licensing of Events
7. I was looking at the compliance of the documents which had been produced and comparing them to the actual activities at the event.
8. Matters identified in statements of Graeme Dixon and Nicola Duckworth identify gaps with the implementation of the policies and procedures sent to support the groups compliance with the improvement notice.

Statement of Truth

9. I believe that the facts stated in this witness 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.

Dated 6th December 2023



Alison Acton

