

## Representation Form

**Responsible Authority.** Please delete as applicable.

Police

Your Name	Nicola King
Job Title	Area Licensing Practitioner
Postal and email address	Yeovil Police Station Horsey Lane Yeovil Somerset BA20 1SN
Contact telephone number	101

Name of the premises you are making a representation about.	Abbey Convenience Store – (Premier Store)
Address of the premises you are making a representation about.	10 Magdalene Street Glastonbury Somerset BA6 9EH

Which of the four licensing Objectives does your representation relate to? Please state yes or no.	Yes Or No	Please detail the evidence supporting your representation. Or the reason for your representation. Please use separate sheets if necessary
The Prevention of harm to children	Yes	<p>An application has been received to vary the premises licence for Abbey Convenience Store, (Premier Store), 10 Magdalene Street, Glastonbury BA6 9EH to permit off sales Monday – Sunday 0500-2300hrs to facilitate newspaper sales.</p> <p>On behalf of the Chief Officer of Police we submit our formal representation in respect of this application.</p> <p>It is well documented that Glastonbury town centre experiences significant anti-social behaviour, some of which is alcohol and drug fuelled. Anti-social behaviour covers a broad spectrum of activities that cause alarm, distress or harassment to others. It can include loud music, vandalism, graffiti, littering, street drinking, and aggressive or intimidating behaviour.</p> <p>Over the last year it is pleasing to report that due to an increase in the robust policing of the town centre, one of which, being the seizure of alcohol from persons drinking on the street, that in April 2023 it was reported that there had been a 30% reduction in the police crime figures for anti-social behaviour cases from 2022. This also would not have been possible without the support and engagement of the community.</p> <p>Unfortunately, even with this reduction street drinking still remains a constant challenge especially within the town centre. As reported, improvements have been made and it would be disappointing to once again experience high levels of anti-social behaviour fuelled by alcohol.</p> <p>Due to the proximity of the premises within the town centre, and the variety of alcohol available, it is frequented by known street drinkers. The premises offers high strength and cheap</p>
To prevent Public Nuisance		
To prevent crime and disorder		
Public Safety		

alcohol along with other consumable and non-consumable goods. There is evidence to suggest that cheap and high strength drinks are commonly associated with hazardous drinking etc. Many licensees recognise the huge benefits that can result from not stocking these products from their shelves. For example, retailers have previously reported-

- dramatic drops in verbal abuse experienced by staff
- a reduction in assaults on staff
- improved community relations as disruptive customers no longer access their shops
- a reduction in risk of breaching licensing conditions by not selling alcohol to drunken people and underage young people
- increased takings as alcohol for sale has higher profit margin
- happier customers as groups of drunken individuals are no longer in vicinity of shops
- a reduction in the incidence of shoplifting.

Cheap high strength alcohol are often the drinks of choice of people with significant alcohol problems, and there is good evidence that restricting access to low cost per unit of alcohol drinks would be effective in reducing harm. There may also be consequential benefits in relation to harm to others, though evidence for this is very limited e.g., domestic violence affecting men, women and children.

It is noted that the premises now wishes to trade from 0500-2300hrs for the sale of alcohol. Having consulted with the applicant's legal representative around the rationale to provide alcohol at 0500hrs until 2300hrs, we are informed that:

*'As you are aware the law provides that when a store is open, but a licence is not in force, all alcohol must be covered. In our experience this creates issues on a number of levels. Firstly, the licence holder needs to purchase shutters to cover alcohol and that interferes with other products that are in chillers etc. Secondly, customers quite often ignore the shutters, select alcohol and take it to the counter. They are then told the alcohol cannot be sold to them as the premises licence does not start until 08.00 and this creates unnecessary conflict. Thirdly, at 2.5.6 of the Licensing Policy on that area it states, 'Shops will generally be free to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises at any time when the outlet is open for shopping, unless there are good reasons for restricting those hours,'*

Firstly, it should be noted that the premises is currently licensed to trade from 0630hrs - 2130 and has had the benefit of those hours for a number of years. Previous issues in and around the premises has resulted in the police, on occasion, requesting the premises to not sell alcohol before 0900hrs due to an increase in anti-social behaviour from street drinkers obtaining alcohol from the premises. This was a positive move and attributed to a reduction in the anti-social behaviour being experienced within the location.

Secondly, having consulted with the applicant, we are

informed that presently they still do not start sell alcohol until 0800-0900hrs and furthermore, they have stated there will be no change to those hours. There are currently no shutters within the premises to seal off the alcohol so therefore we do not agree with comments around conflict.

Thirdly **2.6.7** of the Councils Statement of Licensing Policy states: Shops, stores and supermarkets will generally be free to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premise at any times when the retail outlet is open for shopping, unless there are good reason for restricting those hours. An example would be where the police make representations that the premises are a focus of disorder and disturbance.

Given the location and the problems experienced within this area we would argue that the premises, if granted the additional hours as applied for with the limited conditions, would soon become a 'honey pot' for persons to frequent at all times of the day, especially for those persons who have a reliance upon alcohol. If not controlled robustly this can result in street drinking, anti-social behaviour and littering within the area which in turn results in a negative impact upon the town centre of Glastonbury. As outlined above, significant work has been undertaken in the town to prevent such issues, ensuring communities feel safe and people feel able to visit the town centre at all times of the day.

The plan submitted with the application identifies the whole shop area as the licensed area with certain locations outlining where alcohol is displayed for sale. There is one area identified as the location of 'spirits' and one small area for 'alcohol'. This plan is misleading as there is a large display of alcohol offered for sale and not as shown on the plan.

To support the applicant, we would, however, consider the sale of alcohol between the following hours with conditions attached as below. These will not only assist in the promotion of licensing objectives but will also assist in the ongoing work with the community and partners, ensuring Glastonbury continues to have a vibrant and enjoyable experience to all those that visit the town throughout the year.

**The sale of alcohol between 0630-2200hrs Monday – Sunday**

At present, the police are not satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated within their operating schedule that the four licensing objectives will be promoted taking into consideration the problems experienced within the town centre linked to the sale of alcohol and the ongoing work from the local community in association with the Police and other partners.

If the applicant is not in agreement with the restriction of hours or the proposed conditions, then please accept this as formal notice of the police representation to the application in its entirety and any evidence will be produced prior to the hearing.

Suggested conditions that could be added to the licence to remedy your representation or other suggestions you would like the Licensing Sub Committee to take into account. Please use separate sheets where necessary and refer to checklist.

1. The premises must install and maintain a comprehensive surveillance system to the satisfaction of the Police and ICO guidelines. The system must be maintained in full working order and record at all times when the premises is open for licensable activities. The correct time & date must be generated on all recordings which must be retained for a minimum period of 31 days. Recorded images must be of evidential quality. Copies must be made available on request, to the police or authorised officer of the licensing authority. If the system is inoperative or faulty for any reason, steps must be taken to repair or replace the equipment within 24 hours. A Data Controller who is conversant with the operation of the system must be available at all times when the premises is open to the public and be able to provide police or authorised officer of the licensing authority recent data or footage with the absolute minimum of delay when requested. Management, storage, giving and sharing of data recordings must comply with the general data protection regulations at all times.
2. An incident register must be kept and maintained to record all incidents occurring on the premises or outside and associated with the premises. Records must be made available to the Police & Licensing Authority on request and records will be kept for at least 12 months.
3. A refusals register must be kept at each bar and used on the premises, to record instances where any sale of alcohol and proxy sales to a patron is refused. This must also include refusals to persons who are intoxicated. Records must be kept for a minimum of 12 months and must be made available request to the Local Authority, Police and Trading Standards Officers upon request.
4. The premises must operate a "Challenge 25 policy", whereby anyone wishing to purchase alcohol that appears to be under the age of 25 years, must be asked to provide photographic identification e.g., Passport, driving licence, PASS card. Challenge 25 posters must be displayed.
5. All persons involved in the sale of alcohol must receive training on commencement of employment, with regards to preventing the sale of alcohol to persons who are under the required age and proxy sales. This training must also include refusing the sale of alcohol to persons who are intoxicated. This training must be documented and signed for by employees to acknowledge that they have received this training. All employees must receive refresher training every six months. Records must be made available for inspection by the Police & Licensing Authority upon request.

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|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. Spirits shall be located behind the till, and all other alcoholic beverages to be located on display in such a position that it is not obscured from the constant view of the cashier / staff by other fixtures.</li><li>7. The Premises Licence Holder shall co-operate with Police or Officers of the Local Authority in the implementation of any initiatives to combat crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour or nuisance in the vicinity.</li><li>8. The premise licence holder shall ensure that measures are in place for all sealed containers of alcoholic drinks offered for sale for consumption off the premises to be clearly labelled or marked with the name and postcode of the premises.</li><li>9. The premises licence holder shall be a member of "Shop Watch" or any similar scheme that runs in Glastonbury.</li><li>10. Beer, lager, cider or perry with an ABV of 6.5% and above must not be sold at the premises.</li><li>11. No single cans of beer, lager or cider shall be available.</li><li>12. A Personal Licence Holder or responsible person, who has received adequate training with regards to licensing, must be on the premises at all times when alcohol is being sold. Any such person must be able to make decisions and act on behalf of the premise licence holder when dealing with responsible authorities.</li></ol> |
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N.B If you, as the Responsible Authority, make a representation, a member from your Authority will be expected to attend the Licensing Sub Committee and any subsequent appeal proceeding.

Signed: N King

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Please return this form along with any additional sheets to: The Licensing Unit, Somerset Council

This form must be returned within the Statutory Period.