

**IN THE MATTER OF: THE ROYAL SPORTS BAR AND CUE CLUB**

I am making this statement in response to the allegations contained in the Wiltshire Council application to review the premises licence relating to the Royal Sports Bar and Cue Club.

I would wish to state that I returned to the United Kingdom on Thursday 11 October 2018 and the first opportunity I had to make this statement was the morning of Friday 12 October 2018. I hope those reading this statement bear that in mind.

1. I am Gordon Sean Smart. I am the holder of the premises licence and am the designated premises supervisor of the Royal Sports Bar.
2. I make this statement in response to the statement made by Martin O'Neill dated 31 August 2018.
3. I am the tenant of the Royal Sports Bar – on the Old Laundry Site there are fourteen other tenants.

The landlord has exclusive control of the site and allocates car parking spaces at his discretion.

My lease entitles me to two car parking spaces. There is a fence between the Old Laundry Site and the Roadway which is used by the school as their car park. That roadway is also used by the owners of property further up the road which I believe are also owned by the landlord.

The fence concerned is not my responsibility but recently when damage was drawn to my attention I reported it to the landlord and obtained his authority to effect repairs.

I purchased a fence from B & Q and had it delivered and installed it. Unfortunately, the fence impedes a short cut and the fence is therefore frequently damaged. It is therefore wrong to suggest that I allowed the fence to be damaged or acquiesced in the damage to the fence and the use of the school car park by those using the Royal Sports Bar.

4. I am aware that there has been contact between the school and my landlord in relation to security issues. In response to these concerns I am aware my landlord has attempted to install CCTV coverage of a car parking area which is used not just by customers of the Sports bar but also by residents of Ivy Cottages and by residents of Chippenham looking for a quiet location.
5. There is a condition on my licence that permits children to remain on the premises after 9.00pm provided they are accompanied by an adult. This is a natural corollary of participating in sports events. Prior to the 15 August 2018 I attempted to contact Martin O'Neill and left a message with his office inviting him to come to my premises to inspect the structure layout and the facilities I had in place to consider how they complied with the four licensing objectives.

It is unfair for me to be criticised in the manner of the police objections. What my actions demonstrate is that I was determined to respect the conditions of my licence and I was seeking the help and cooperation of the police in that endeavour.

During the raid on 15 August 2018 Mr O'Neill apologises for not responding to my request.

6. I have attended "Pub Watch" on many occasions. But when the BID map was published my premises were not included. I objected and unless my premises were included I felt that it was inappropriate for me to pay the sum demanded of me by the BID officials. The BID officials are a dominant presence at "Pub Watch" and it

was difficult for me to attend "Pub Watch" whilst my dispute with BID remained unresolved.

7. My fear is that the dispute between my landlord and the school and the efforts of others who wish the club to close have contributed to the "intelligence reports".
8. During the search there was [REDACTED] who allegedly had one gram of cannabis on [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] was arrested. I do not believe [REDACTED] was using any drugs on the premises but on [REDACTED] phone, there was a text to [REDACTED] discussing drugs.

There were [REDACTED] people arrested [REDACTED] who allegedly had drugs in [REDACTED] car which was parked not on the landlord's premises but on the school car park.

I do not tolerate any use of drugs on my premises and our zero tolerance in relation to drugs is the subject of notices around the premises. Copies which the police have.

9. I am also aware that the landlord installed CCTV cameras which patrolled all the outside area of his property. I wish to emphasise that I do not have any rights over that area, but my landlord was concerned to support my efforts to "police" the premises and to facilitate control of the area.
10. I have no idea what drugs paraphernalia found in the gentleman's toilet refers to. Had I found it I would have seized it and if I had any knowledge of whose it was he would have been expelled from the premises. The toilets are cleaned daily, and I have never received any report of drug paraphernalia being present.
11. I deny that I was unaware of the "Licensing Objectives". I have held a Premises Licence and a Designated Premise Supervisor's licence for nearly four years.

I have passed exams qualifying me to hold those licences. When I passed those exams, I was not the subject to a police raid and being forced into the kitchen of my premises and being interrogated aggressively.

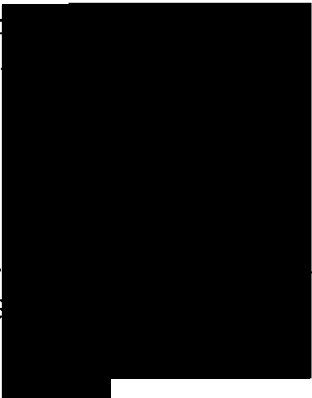
I have complied with all the conditions of my premises licence, except I have not attended all the meetings of "Pub Watch". However, I spoke personally to the licensing officer Mr Roy Bahador and explained the reasons for my non-attendance which he appeared to accept and certainly did not contact me subsequently.

12. Before I installed internal CCTV, I went to the police and asked [REDACTED] whether there was any system that I should install which was compatible with their requirements. I was told there was none and consequently I installed the present system which would enable me to send the footage by email which I felt was the most efficient system.

13. I do not recognise the comment made in the final paragraph and can only answer that allegation on being allowed to examine my phone. I need to know at what time it is alleged that I sent this text and to whom.

I confirm that the contents of  
this statement are true.

Signature.....  
Gordon S



Dated..... 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018