

City of Westminster

Memorandum

TO Karyn Abbott

REFERENCE 19/12460/LISEVR

FROM Leroy Adedeji
City Inspectors, 15th Floor, City Hall

REFERENCE 19/051563/LIINSP

DATE 08 February 2020

RE: Sunset Strip, 30 Dean Street, London W1D 3SA

On 31 January 2020 a letter was received from a member of the public by the Licensing Service stating a series of allegations concerning the conduct of staff and management at Sunset Strip. The allegations included a claim that cameras in the private booths were not working. Other allegations include physical contact between performers and customers, lack of adequate SIA security operatives in the basement dance area, lack of supervision and safety of the dancers in the private booths and a fight that occurred between a customer and a dancer that took place 17th January 2020 after midnight.

I carried out a visit to Sunset strip with my colleague Martin Ratley on Saturday 8th February 2020 at 13:32 to investigate the alleged breaches stated in the letter. We were met on arrival by the duty Manager, Helena Martins and a SIA security personnel, Besnik Halilaj. The content of the letter was discussed with Ms Martins and a walk through was conducted. Following a walk through of the venue with Mr Halilaj, larger 'No Touching' signs were only noted in one of the three private booths. Cables attached to the CCTV camera in one of the private booth was seen to be hanging out.

We requested the viewing of all the CCTV cameras in the private booths and it was gathered that camera 5 attached to one of the private booth was not operational. As a designated manager by the Licence holder, Ms. Martins was not fully conversant with the operations of the CCTV system. She admitted that it has been a while since she operated the system.

Mr Forde was contacted on the telephone and I explained our visit to the premises and the lack of qualified member of staff to operate the CCTV system. He admitted the cameras were faulty but were rectified a week ago. We requested to see the incident book to ascertain if there were entries made regarding the faulty cameras. As alleged and stated in the letter received by the Licensing Service, we requested to see the entry for the 17th of January 2020.

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There was no entry of fights on the date stated. We viewed CCTV footage for the 17th of January from 23:30 to 00:55 and there were no fights seen. The issue of SIA personnel was also raised, Mr. Halilaj confirmed there are two SIA personnel every night. According to Ms. Martins, the premises is confirmed to have 16 operational cameras. During viewing of the CCTV screen, I noted that cameras 5, 10, 15 and 16 were not fully operational.

The lack of operational CCTV cameras and a staff member not conversant to operate the CCTV system are breaches of condition 10 and 11 of your SEV licence, which requires:

10. The premises will install and maintain a comprehensive CCTV system as per the minimum requirements of a Metropolitan Police Crime Prevention Officer that ensures all areas of the licensed premises are monitored including all entry and exit points will be covered enabling frontal identification of every person entering any light condition. All cameras shall continually record whilst the premises is open for licensable activities and during all times when customers remain on the premises. All recordings shall be stored for a minimum period of 31 days with date and time stamping. Recordings shall be made available immediately upon the request of Police or authorised officer throughout the preceding 31 day period together with facilities for viewing.

11. A staff member from the premises who is conversant with the operation of the CCTV system shall be on the premises at all times when the premises is open to the public and this staff member should be able to show Police recent data and footage with the absolute minimum of delay of the request.

There is also a breach of condition 12 (f) of your SEV licence, which requires:

12. An incident log shall be kept at the premises, and made available on request to the Licensing Authority or the Police, which will record the following:

(f) any faults in the CCTV system or searching equipment or scanning equipment;

Please, if you have any queries concerning the information provided, do not hesitate to contact me or Martin Ratley.

Leroy Adedeji
City Inspector