

Monday 3rd Feb January 2020

Tim Pogson
Southside Community Council, c/o the Nelson Hall, 5 Spittalfield Crescent
Edinburgh
EH8 9QZ

Dear Tim

I am writing to let you know a little bit more about Summerhall's recent application to vary our existing Premises Licence, as I feel that the site notice paperwork or documentation circulated by the council, gives little or no context by way of explanation of what we are trying to do. We recently Continued the application to allow us a little more time to work on some of the recommendations given by the Council staff who visited as part of the application.

Just to give some background, we currently have a Premises Licence allowing us to be open and permit the sale and consumption of alcohol in specific areas of the site only, until 1am, 7 days a week. This licence comes with an automatic extension of 2 hours over the Fringe Festival and Christmas & New Year period each year, allowing us to remain open until 3am if we so choose. It also grants Summerhall the permission to host events such as live music, corporate events, exhibitions, weddings and parties, dance, screenings and theatre.

We also have a Theatre Licence and Cinema Licence in place, governing the details of both of these activities specifically. These are annual licences and while the footprint of these may change slightly each year to suit our programme, they essentially cover most of our cinema, theatre, lecture or performance spaces.

We regularly (21 times in 2019) apply for and are granted supplementary Extended Hours licences to enable us to host events with a 3am finish time on Friday and Saturday evenings, and these are almost singularly held in either the Dissection Room or Anatomy Lecture Theatre or a combination of both. These licences have to be submitted 28 days in advance by our solicitor and often are only decided less than 8 hours before an event, leaving us in a position of uncertainty right up until the last minute.

My application to increase our Premises Licenced hours till 3am, applies solely to the Dissection Room and Anatomy Lecture Theatre, and only on Fridays and Saturdays. This is to enable us to confidently programme events into these days of the week, without the threat of a licence being refused. It also removes a level of admin and burden on the council who we ask to process these applications each month.

While we may marginally increase the number of late-night events being held across the year, this extension is not seen as opportunity to fundamentally change Summerhall's current



operational plan or artistic output. We will continue to host mostly music gigs and other events, that end by 1am or earlier and adhere to the guidance issued by the Council.

The second part of the application is to increase the licenced footprint of Summerhall and I wanted to again give context to this part of the application.

There are currently a number of spaces within the building that are currently used as either performance or gallery spaces (Demonstration Room, Cairns Lecture Theatre, Sciences Gallery, Corner Gallery, Meadows Gallery, the Old Lab and the Red Lecture Theatre) which are not included on our premises license. Meaning that when an audience member comes to see a theatre show, cinema screening or Exhibition launch in one of these spaces, they cannot carry their drink brought in from the bar, into these spaces and must simply leave it in the corridor. . The current solution for this is to apply for an Occasional Licence, again with 28 days' notice, via our solicitor and is often not granted until the day of the event. Applying to have these spaces included on the licenced footprint simply cuts down on this paperwork and removes uncertainty when programming events. It is not intended to fundamentally change the activities going on within these spaces because as theatres and galleries their remit is clearly part of current programming plan.

I collected your address from the objections to this recent application to vary Premises Licence Variation, that were submitted to the Council and then forwarded on to Summerhall. If you would prefer that I didn't contact, you then please simply email me and I will delete your address from my records.

I hope that this explanation goes some way to allay your concerns about this application to vary the Premises Licence. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me. Or if you would like to meet to discuss the application, I'd be more than happy to do so.

Yours sincerely,

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General Manager

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