

West Mercia Police has previously made submissions with regards to an application for a premises licence for the Royal Oak Hotel, South Street, Hereford

As a result of recent e-mail correspondence between a Russell Stevens who is a director who owns the building and issues about who is actually responsible for the business and the Licensing Authority, West Mercia Police have changed their position and **now OBJECT to this application in its entirety.**

It is common knowledge that the building is under the control and overall management of Mr Stevens and a limited company who he is a director of. Ms Brooke the applicant for the premises licence is employed by Mr Stevens as the manager and therefore has no financial control and management in the ownership of the building.

West Mercia Police are objecting as they have grave concerns with regards to how this applicant (Ms Brooke) will promote the licensing objectives - and in particular where the promotion of public safety is concerned. There are a vast range of issues where public safety is of concern where potentially significant money may have to be paid in order to maintain the premises and therefore make it safe as a licensed premises for the general public and those who are employed there. As Ms Brooke is the manager and not a director, the issue of who is ultimately responsible is a serious issue.

You will be aware that Mr Stevens as a company director indicated to the Licensing Authority on the 14 October 2015 that the original application for a premises licence should have been in the name of his company and that it was a 'mistake' making it in the name of Ms Brooke. As there is no current premises licence, the details of who is the applicant cannot be changed at such a late time after the consolation period has concluded.

This further causes concern with regards to how the licensing objectives can be promoted in an effective manner.

Regards

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