

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to Representation - Tap & Tail, 26 Sea View Street
Date: 25 September 2025 14:05:20

Dear Licensing Committee,

I am writing in response to the representation made regarding my premises licence application for Tap & Tail. I would like to thank the resident for raising their concerns and to address them clearly, with reference to the licensing objectives, in particular the ***Prevention of Public Nuisance***.

Noise Management

- We fully recognise the importance of preventing disturbance to nearby residents. We have already agreed a number of conditions that directly address these concerns:
- - **Condition 23:** Clear signage will request that customers respect local residents and leave quietly.
 - **Condition 15:** Patrons who leave to smoke after 21:00 will not be permitted to take drinks or glass containers outside.
 - **Condition 25:** Staff will conduct regular litter checks at the front of the premises and remove any debris or glass.
- In addition, I am happy to confirm that **all doors and windows will remain closed after 21:00 except for access and egress**, further minimising any potential for noise escape.

Bi-Fold Doors

- The representation raises concerns about the bi-fold frontage. For clarity, these doors **lock in three separate places** and can be used as a **standard single swing door**, similarly to every other business frontage along the street.
- From a licensing perspective, the important fact is that the doors can and will be kept closed after 21:00, exactly in line with the agreed conditions. With the doors closed, there is **no greater noise escape than any traditional doorway**.
- The structural design of the frontage is a planning matter, not a licensing one. Licensing concerns relate to noise management, which is already fully addressed by the conditions we have accepted.

Difference from Previous Operators

- The representation refers to historic noise complaints at this address. It is important to highlight that **Tap & Tail is a completely different business model and under entirely new management**.
- Previously, the premises was operated solely as a bar with no food offering, encouraging vertical drinking and late-night noise. In contrast, Tap & Tail is a **premium dining and drinking venue**, with a seated format (minimum of 40 seats downstairs and 30 upstairs required by **Condition**

- 14) and substantial food served daily until 21:30.
- This fundamental change in operation ensures the premises will not create the same issues associated with past operators.

Outside Drinking and Furniture

- The representation raises concerns about pavement use. To be clear: **we have not applied for a pavement licence and will not be placing any tables or chairs outside the premises.**
- Condition 15 already prohibits customers from taking drinks outside after 21:00, meaning there will be no alcohol consumption outside late at night.

Food Provision and Definition of “Substantial Food”

- Tap & Tail is designed as a premium dining and drinking venue. **Condition 24** requires that substantial food is available until 21:30 daily.
- The Licensing Act 2003 and subsequent case law make clear that “substantial food” means more than a light snack. It refers to food of a type and quantity that amounts to a meal. It is the same definition relied upon in licensing law when allowing 16 and 17 year-olds to consume alcohol only when accompanied by an adult and having a table meal.
- Our offer of freshly prepared food and a full dining menu goes well beyond this definition.
- The suggestion that food must be available until one hour before closing is not a standard requirement and does not apply to other local businesses. For example, The Fisherman’s Arms ceases food service at 8pm on weekends but continues with live entertainment until midnight without issue.

Planning Issues

- We acknowledge the points raised about planning matters. However, as the **Licensing Act 2003** makes clear, **planning and licensing are distinct regimes**. We will always work with the planning authority separately to ensure all planning requirements are met.

Responsible Operation and Community Support

- Tap & Tail is being operated by the team behind *Visit Cleethorpes*, one of the towns largest tourist information forums. We are already known as **responsible operators who have brought hundreds of thousands of visitors and significant business into the local area.**
- We have worked openly and collaboratively with both **North East Lincolnshire Council and Humberside Police** throughout this application process. Every condition they have suggested has been accepted in full, and neither authority has felt the need to submit any objection or representation.
- Both the police and the licensing authority have confirmed they are satisfied that the agreed conditions promote the licensing objectives.
- In addition, we are gathering letters of support from nearby residents and businesses who welcome Tap & Tail’s contribution to the community and local economy.

Conclusion

We take our responsibilities seriously and are committed to upholding the licensing objectives. The concerns raised have been specifically addressed by the enforceable conditions already agreed with the responsible authorities. Tap & Tail will be a seated, food led venue operated by an experienced team with 25+ years of a proven track record in responsible management and positive impacts on the area.

This application is also a matter of urgency. Due to the limits of a Temporary Event Notice, the business is required to close until Thursday next week if the license is not granted. This would risk immediate job losses for our local employees and create significant cash flow issues; which undermines the investment of our life savings into this project. Our aim will always be to create a sustainable, positive business that is not only profitable for us but assists others in improving footfall to Sea View Street.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Committee to grant the premises license.

Yours sincerely

James Bottomley

Director - Tap & Tail