

**Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the  
Licensing Act 2003**

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form.  
If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary. You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

**I Sergeant 3707 Gary Hennighan (on behalf of the Chief Constable of Lancashire Constabulary)**

*(Insert name of applicant)*

**apply for the review of a premise licence under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in Part 1 below.**

**Part 1 – Premises or club premises details**

<b>Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description</b>  Nag's Head 78 Blackburn Road	
<b>Post town</b> Accrington	<b>Post code (if known)</b> BB5 1LE

<b>Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)</b>  Nags Head Accrington Ltd
---

<b>Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known)</b>  PL0164
---

**Part 2 - Applicant details**

I am

Please tick ✓ yes

- 1) an individual, body or business which is not a responsible authority (please read guidance note 1, and complete (A) or (B) below)
- 2) a responsible authority (please complete (C) below)
- 3) a member of the club to which this application relates (please complete (A) below)

**(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT** (fill in as applicable)

Please tick ✓ yes

Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms  Other title  
(for example, Rev)

**Surname**

**First names**

**I am 18 years old or over**

Please tick ✓ yes

**Current postal  
address if  
different from  
premises  
address**

**Post town**

**Post Code**

**Daytime contact telephone number**

**E-mail address  
(optional)**

**(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT**

Name and address
Telephone number (if any)
E-mail address (optional)

**(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT**

Name and address Sergeant Gary Hennighan Lancashire Constabulary EAST Division Licensing Blackburn Town Centre Police Station St John's Court Ainsworth Street BB1 6AR
Telephone number (if any) 01254 353625
E-mail address (optional) gary.hennighan@lancashire.police.uk

**This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)**

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
|   | Please tick one or more boxes ✓ |
| 1) the prevention of crime and disorder | <b>X</b>                        |
| 2) public safety                        | <b>X</b>                        |
| 3) the prevention of public nuisance    | <b>X</b>                        |
| 4) the protection of children from harm |                                 |

**Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 2)**

**The prevention of crime & disorder licensing objective**

It is the view of Lancashire Police that the DPS and Licence Holder is unfit to uphold this objective due to an aggressive altercation with police that led to his arrest recently. The pub also has a challenging clientele. Violent incidents and that the licensing objective of the prevention of crime and disorder is being seriously undermined at the premises.

**The public safety objective**

It is the view of Lancashire Police that the actions of management and people involved with the running of the pub have undermined public safety through loutish behaviour, drink driving and breaching Covid restrictions.

**The public nuisance objective**

It is the view of Lancashire Police that the actions of management at this venue have undermined the public nuisance objective through loutish behaviour.

**Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 3)**

The licensed premise known as the Nag's Head is located on Blackburn Road, in Accrington. The premises licence is held by Nags Head Accrington LTD with the directors being Simon WIDDOWSON and Stuart PARKINSON.

The premises are licensed for sale by retail of alcohol between the following hours:

Monday-Thursday 10:00am-midnight (Open until 12:30am)

Friday-Saturday 10:00am-01:00am (Open until 01:30am)

Sunday 10:00am-midnight (Open until 12:30am)

The premises generally uses most of the hours they are entitled to serve alcohol and be open.

The Designated Premises Supervisor is Simon WIDDOWSON.

In a nutshell, I do not believe WIDDOWSON is a fit and proper person to have the responsibility of being a licence holder or running a licensed premises.

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021, PC 6591 ROBINSON was dealing with an incident in ACCRINGTON TOWN CENTRE when it was believed that a male she was looking for had entered the Nag's Head. WIDDOWSON came out of the pub, drunk and started hurling verbal abuse at PC ROBINSON. Such was the ferocity of WIDDOWSON's demeanour, he had to be held back by members of the public and his door staff. He threw a full can of beer at PC ROBINSON but missed. If it had hit, he would have been looking at police assault. PC ROBINSON shouted for back-up and WIDDOWSON was arrested for drunk & disorderly behaviour. She described him as "very erratic and intoxicated". A snap bag with the remnants of cocaine was found on him and he admitted to having consumed alcohol and cocaine prior to the incident. The pub was advised to close early as a result. Log no: LC-20210918-1886 refers and bodyworn video footage of the incident is available.

WIDDOWSON has been vocal around the need for a Pubwatch scheme in Accrington town centre to try and improve the town and keep troublemakers and drug users out of licensed venues. This merely shows him to be hypocritical when his own standards of what is expected from a licensee has fallen short.

There have also been issues with other staff members and people involved in the running of the pub too which demonstrates a clear lack of judgement throughout the structure.

On Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021, at 06:08, police received a tip-off that a male was about to leave the premises and drive home while under the influence of alcohol. This male was a doorman at the Nag's Head who had clearly stayed after his shift finished to drink alcohol. He was stopped, breathalysed and found to be over the limit. He was subsequently charged and convicted at court of drink driving. (Log LC-20210821-0359 refers).

I had spoken to the doorman the evening before regarding his conduct and responsibilities as a SIA-registered doorman following concerns from colleagues in the CCTV control centre. At 23:17hrs, on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021, a male was assaulted outside the venue by a male who was drinking at the pub and having a smoke outside. CCTV showed the doorman laughing and joking with the offender before seemingly telling him to disappear as police were coming. Police arrived and the doorman failed to point out the offender, who had only just walked off, to officers. (Log LC-20210815-1646 refers).

Another concern is that one of the directors of the licence holding company is Stuart PARKINSON – WIDDOWSON's brother. PARKINSON was responsible for a COVID breach on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at the pub. Police attended and saw that there were five males jumping around to music. A male came to the door and refused entry to officers. PARKINSON was responsible for the get-together at the pub and was intoxicated and very obstructive. Another male was arrested for aggressive behaviour and being obstructive.

I have known WIDDOWSON for around three years as Licensing Sgt as the Nag's Head has been a key ACCRINGTON venue that has needed interventions from police and council. Although WIDDOWSON only became DPS in January 2020 and licence holder in February 2021, he has run the pub for a number of years as his mother was the previous DPS who stepped aside through illness.

Although I have generally got on with him, on my second meeting with him, working alongside Ivan Tough from Hyndburn Borough Council's Licensing department, he was abrupt with us. On 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018, we visited the pub to carry out doorstaff checks and noise compliance. WIDDOWSON was advised that the karaoke was too loud. WIDDOWSON was intoxicated and was aggressively defensive until we had to calm him down.

One frequent issue that we have had to flag up frequently with WIDDOWSON was how drunk his customers were and that it was an offence to serve alcohol to somebody who is drunk. On our visits, Ivan and I were frequently interrupted by drunken people asking what we were doing and refusing to go away and leave us to do our work. Although these people have never been aggressive they have been extremely annoying down to their level of intoxication.

However, that said, there have been a sizeable number of crime-related violent incidents which can be attributed to the drunkenness of the clientele and advice was passed regarding this. At the time of writing, the pub has had the seventh highest number of incidents across East Lancashire and the third highest in the Hyndburn area since pubs reopened on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (17 incidents).

Although I don't wish to dwell on every single crime and disorder-related incident that has occurred at this venue, of which there has been plenty over the last few years, I reserve the right to submit redacted incident logs of all related calls to the police regarding this venue to give the committee a snapshot of what has been occurring.

We also had to ask WIDDOWSON to focus on getting his obligations to licensing conditions correct – such as being able to produce staff training records, noise level books and signs asking people to leave quietly.

Following the Covid breach in November, a licence review was considered but we decided to give WIDDOWSON the chance to submit a minor variation to improve the pub licence as we perceived it to be outdated and not fit for the issues experienced at this venue. It took WIDDOWSON five months to submit this variation reluctantly. He was claiming that the council, in particular Ivan Tough, was harassing and bullying him when, in fact, this was a joint recommendation from police and council to help him move forwards.

In my opinion, the Nag's Head has shown slow, gradual improvements over the last three years in terms of drunken people and violent incidents however I cannot excuse WIDDOWSON's behaviour which clearly undermines his position and undermines the licensing objectives, along with the lack of responsibility from others involved with this venue.

The council and the police have tried to work with WIDDOWSON on many occasions with this challenging pub but enough is enough. We have been lenient for long enough.

**The following options are available to the committee:-**

- 1) Do nothing – However the sheer number and seriousness of the offences causes grave concern for no action.**
- 2) Modify the conditions of the licence – The Police feel that modifying the conditions may have some impact in promoting the Licensing Objectives but these modifications will have to be robust and proportionate.**
- 3) Remove the Designated Premises Supervisor**
- 4) Suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months**

**5) Revoke the premises licence so that no alcohol can be sold at all.**

In the opinion of Lancashire Police, the information presented here indicates the total undermining of the Prevention of Crime, Public Nuisance and Public Safety licensing objectives.

Lancashire Police respectfully requests that the committee considers whether revocation of the premises licence is proportionate to this premise due to the issues raised.

Removal of DPS alone would have minimal impact as WIDDOWSON would still be in control of the venue.

Please tick ✓ yes

Have you made an application for review relating to the premises before

If yes please state the date of that application

Day	Month	Year
27	09	2021

**If you have made representations before relating to the premises please state what they were and when you made them**



Please tick ✓

yes

- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate
- I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected

**IT IS AN OFFENCE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003, TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION. THOSE WHO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT MAY BE LIABLE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO A FINE OF ANY AMOUNT.**

**Part 3 – Signatures** (please read guidance note 4)

**Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent** (please read guidance note 5). **If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

Signature

.....

Date 27/09/2021

.....

Capacity **Police Licensing Sergeant**

.....

<b>Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application</b> (please read guidance note 6)	
<b>Post town</b>	<b>Post Code</b>
<b>Telephone number (if any)</b>	
<b>If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional)</b>	

**Notes for Guidance**

1. A responsible authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.
2. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
3. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
4. The application form must be signed.
5. An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
6. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.

