



Safer Communities Service  
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**Date** 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Licensing Team,

**RE: Representation to Review Application  
Ace Lounge (Formerly J6 Restaurant) – 199-201 Lewisham Way, London SE4 1UY.**

The Licensing Team within the Safer Communities Service, is aware that a review of the premises licence for Ace Lounge (formerly J6) of 199-201 Lewisham Way SE4 1UY, has been sought by the Metropolitan Police under the following grounds;

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public Safety
- The prevention of public nuisance

The review has been requested following an incident on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022, when a shooting occurred and resulted in a patron being injured while leaving the premises.

**Licensing Context**

Aces Lounge (J6 Restaurant) was licensed in October 2018 and remains currently licensed for the following:

**Alcohol**

*12:00 – 00:00 Monday*

*12:00 – 00:00 Tuesday*

*12:00 – 00:00 Wednesday*

*12:00 – 00:00 Thursday*

*12:00 – 01:30 Friday*

*12:00 – 02:00 Saturday*

*12:00 – 00:30 Sunday*

**Regulated Entertainment & Late Night Refreshment**

*23:00 – 00:00 Monday*

*23:00 – 00:00 Tuesday*

23:00 – 00:00 Wednesday

23:00 – 00:00 Thursday

23:00 – 01:30 Friday

23:00 – 02:00 Saturday

23:00 – 00:30 Sunday

### Seasonal Variation

*Any day proceeding a bank holiday all activities until 03:00am*

### Action Plan

In October 2021, following reports of anti social behaviour and alleged unlicensed activity, the premises were placed on an Action Plan by the Crime Enforcement and Regulation Team (Licensing Authority).

This action was taken to improve the operation of the premises and ensure that they were upholding the licensing objectives. The action plan remained in place for three months. A copy of this action plan is attached as exhibit RL1.

The action plan covered areas raised within the complaints received about the premises, however no breaches were witnessed by officers from this Service.

### Shooting Incident

A meeting was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at J6 Restaurant with the Premises Licence holder and Designated Premises Supervisor, Josh Owoade. The meeting was arranged following a shooting that had taken place on the street directly outside the premises the week before.

Also in attendance at this meeting were Police officers PC Butler and PC Bobb as well as myself and my colleague Frank Olaniran, the senior ASB officer.

The victim, who had received gunshot injuries, had earlier in the night been a customer inside the premises.

This incident, whilst incredibly serious, **was not related to the premises itself**, and the perpetrators are not known to have any links to the business.

Mr Owoade began the meeting by stating that, on the night of the incident, music was turned off at 0140 and that all patrons were out of the premises by 0210.

Public realm CCTV already obtained by Police showed that a crowd had congregated close to the entrance outside and had remained in place until after 0300, 90 minutes after the time licensable activity should have finished on that night (Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April into Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April).

Mr Owoade also stated that door staff on the evening finished their shifts at 0230, meaning that they would have finished working and left the scene with a large group still in place, congregated outside.

A check of the premises CCTV gave further cause for concern, as there were clearly sales of alcohol being made and people dancing to music after 0130. On the night in question,

licensable activity should have ceased at 0130. At this point, Mr Owoade confirmed that the night had in fact gone on until 0200 and suggested that he thought the licence covered this.

CCTV also showed that a door supervisor had returned to the scene after the shooting, meaning that he had left the premises with a crowd outside and remained in the area, whilst off duty. The reason for this behaviour is unknown, but it clearly showed that he was not concerned with dispersal, contrary to Annex 3 condition:

***When door supervisors are employed all reasonable steps must be made to encourage onward journeys ensure the customers of the premises do not loiter outside. This must be included in the dispersal policy.***

The dispersal policy of the premises was not written down and not available to officers on request, in clear breach of Annex 3 condition:

***A documented disposal policy must be in place and reviewed annually with the metropolitan police/local authority.***

There were no staff training records for officers to view, contrary to Annex 3 condition:

***All staff to undergo Licensing training which will be documented and provided to police / licensing authority on request. This training is to be refreshed every 12 months. All new staff must undergo this training before being allowed to sell alcohol.***

The CCTV showed the moments preceding, as well as the aftermath of the shooting outside the premises. Police officers seized the hard drive from the premises to pass to their VIDO colleagues to assist in the ongoing investigation.

The timing of the CCTV was not accurate as incidents did not coincide with the times that Police had documented on the night. This in itself is a serious failure to uphold licensing objectives, as it would not be reliable for Police officers responding to incidents, or as evidence in any criminal investigations.

There remains concerns over the capability of the management to run this kind of business, operating out of this premises to the times specified on the licence without having a detrimental impact on the surrounding area. The licence states that the premises is a restaurant, however it is predominantly a late night drinking/dancing establishment which is regularly hired out to promoters.

With this in mind we support the enforcement action taken by the Police in this regard, but recognise that a fundamental change in the premises business model, enforced by conditions, should also prevent further issues.

Our main concerns are the failure of the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) to ensure that he is adhering to his licensing hours or moving customers away from the area at closing time. It was clear from our meeting that the licensing conditions and therefore the licensing objectives are not currently being upheld.

The licensing team would therefore make the following recommendations.

### **Recommendations**

- Removal of the Designated Premises Supervisor.
- The premises licence to be suspended until an appropriate DPS has been found and added to the licence (following vetting of the application by the Police).

- The times for the sale of alcohol to change for the following days:

12:00 – 00:30 Friday

12:00 – 00:30 Saturday

12:00 – 23:30 Sunday

The times for Monday – Thursday to remain the same.

- The times for regulated entertainment to change for the following days:

23:00 – 00:30 Friday

23:00 – 00:30 Saturday

23:00 – 23:30 Sunday

The times for Monday – Thursday to remain the same.

- The removal of the seasonal variation

In addition of the above actions, we would like to see the following conditions added to the premises licence:

- All door supervisors must be employed from a company approved and accredited by the SIA.
- No patron under the age of 21 is to be allowed on the premises.
- A computer based identification entry system (ID scan system) shall be installed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Police.
- When the premises is open beyond midnight all persons (including promoters and DJ'S and staff) entering the premises after 22:00 hrs and when the premises are conducting licensable activities must have their personal details recorded by the ID Scan system. This condition applies whether the premises are open to the public or in use for a private event.
- The ID Scanner must record a visual image of the person producing identification, an image of that identification, and the time of entry. This information must be made available to police or any authorised Officer of the Council on request.
- In the event of a system malfunction, action must be taken immediately to rectify the fault.
- Any person wishing to re-enter the premises after leaving (for whatever reason) shall be subject to these Entry and ID Scan conditions.

These measures are considered proportionate, as this Service has exhausted all advice and guidance that can be provided to the premises.

Should the Committee agree with the above recommendations, we believe it will equip the establishment better in taking a proactive approach to sustaining their business whilst mitigating further concerns around their ability to safeguard licensing objectives.

Yours sincerely

Richard Lockett

Safer Communities Senior Officer - Licensing