

## Email from applicant to the Metropolitan Police

Thank you for your email received on the 5th March with your further reasons for rejecting the proposed TENS.

Once again I would like to express our willingness and openness with licensing authorities and police to work together to have a safe event and with due consideration for our neighbours.

I thank Mr Bobb for his efforts in helping us to address concerns around public safety and public nuisance and so respond / clarify as follows:

### - Numbers of attendees

**Please note the attached agreed TENS for an event we held in 2019**, it was for a maximum of 200 people. I have stated time and time again and informed both Mr Bobb and his colleague in person that the original form for this event was mostly pasted from our previous form and when the form was downloaded it copied the number-(please download the form and see that this is not very straight-forward).

We have never had any intention of inviting or hosting any more than 60 attendees hence why there are 60 limited available reservations and this is why this number was corrected and resubmitted.

There seems to be an unhealthy obsession with this 200 number which I would like ceased from this point on.

Mr Bobb has mentioned barbershop members in excess of 1000.

Please allow me to clarify that Smoddysharp male grooming offers Made to measure suits and shoes, grooming services, barbering, safe space services, meditation sessions. We are **not** a barbershop.

**PLEASE SEE attachments including our write-up in the Lewisham Ledger and the Goldie magazine.**

In the context of the conversation, when I mentioned our client list of 1000 it was in relation to the type of clientele we had at Smoddysharp. I also mentioned that they are mostly professionals and that there were only a limited number of invites.

Mr Bobb has mentioned that I was hesitant when asked how many people had confirmed attendance. I take issue with this statement as it has an inference without proper context. Please note that at the time I could only give the information I had available to me as it was my colleague who had submitted the TEN and we have different roles and responsibilities. What I knew for certain is exactly what I said in that there were less than ten attendees that had confirmed and that we had only 60 invites available in total.

**PLEASE SEE eventbrite screenshot attached which shows that as of this morning we have only 8 (eight) confirmed attendees.**

I am grateful to Mr Bobb for suggesting a number of 40 based on his opinion. In my opinion, I still think that we could accommodate 50-60 but I'm happy to reduce the number of available invites if this gives peace of mind to our Police colleagues.

It is useful to note that to date we have had 8 confirmed guests from 60 so I wouldn't imagine we will get any more than 50 attendees.

### - Public Nuisance

Most of the points raised are opinion so I would only reiterate our stance that A) we have already had a successful event -(see approved TEN from 2019 in which we used the courtyard); and B) We are limited to a set amount of TENS per year so this would not be a regular occurrence.

At our last event, we informed our neighbours by letter yet again with our contact details which can be reached at any time during the event. Our attendees were very respectful and polite. It is also useful to note that our attendees will be in excess of 30yrs, smartly dressed which I believe does not fit into the usual anti social behaviour cohort.

We have taken Met advice and have put available signage regarding smoking and also a polite notice to neighbours.

**- Parking Restrictions / Availability** - I can clarify that at the time of the event, there are no parking restrictions and Mr Bobb may not be aware but a few years ago, Dartmouth Road was redeveloped to make additional parking bays in which, again, at the time of the event there will be no restrictions.

**Public safety** - It is stated that we are primarily a barbershop and so the premise for this is around chemicals and setting a trend for events. To reiterate what was said earlier, I find it hard to fathom how I have given a tour of our establishment and yet this opinion persists. Barbering is a part of our business in the same way Marks & Spencers sells food and clothes and so its business is retail.

We have hosted topical discussions around men's health and wellbeing (I myself lost a brother to suicide), we have hosted photoshoots and have been featured in local and international BBC news.

During lockdown we also facilitated online meditation sessions to help our clients who were at home.

Needless to say the only chemical we have is barbicide which is no stronger than bleach and naturally, all equipment and products will be locked away.

**PLEASE SEE attachment of locked stockroom.**

### **- Our integrity**

Unfortunately, there were a few points raised by Mr Bobb that I believe, may have questioned our integrity or our respect for the licensing authority.

These seem to centre around understanding around the number of attendees and our invite process. I would reiterate that at the time of the visit, I could only answer the questions asked of me.

In respect of 90s Nostalgia, this was not discovered, this was mentioned and noted by his colleague at the time of the visit.

I would hope that the clarifications above have satisfied these concerns but to add to this, Eventbrite is one of the safest means of invitation and event management.

Due to this platform on which our invite clearly states that numbers are **limited**, we also have personal information on attendees including name and card details.

In essence, our events are very safe.

We can also add messages to confirmations e.g 'Please respect our neighbours', 'please only park in available bays' etc

It was deduced as the best way to handle the birthday request and so invitees have been directed to the page.

 [\\_Suits Photoshoot.jpg](#)

 [\\_Goldie article.jpg](#)

 [\\_Lewisham Ledger.jpg](#)

 [\\_Suits Photoshoot.jpg](#)

In terms of our licensing for other activities, a simple phone call could have sufficed and Mr Bobb would have been reminded that two years of lockdowns meant that lapsed licensing had been extended and that administrative backlogs and communication had caused delays.

Needless to say, this has been corrected.

**In Summary -**

In my humble opinion, I think the overall learning from this is that we as business owners, the council and the police are seen as working together to help business owners to thrive and bring value to the community whilst also obviously considering public safety and environmental health.

We would be very grateful if you would approve our TEN.