

From: "Nigel Connor"
To:
Date: 17/10/2011 14:19
Subject: Consultation regarding Olympic Statement to the Licensing Policy

Mr Shivashankar

Thank you for your letter of the 11th October in reference to the above.

I have some comments to make in response:

- The presumption against grant of any application relating to licensable activities during the Olympic period as defined goes against the prevailing wider legacy themes of the Olympics of inclusiveness and encouraging tourism and commerce. The number of individuals who are able to enjoy the games in the stadiums will be limited but others may want to do so in other ways via events organised by the hospitality industry during the period. Such activity should be encouraged and whilst there may be reasons for an individual application to be refused on receipt of a representation, the actual adoption of a presumption against grant would seem to be unnecessarily prescriptive in so far that it discourages such events from being planned.

It remains open to the licensing authority, and indeed it is proper for it to do so, to refuse applications where a risk the licensing objectives will be undermined and I do not see in the circumstances why any additional policy statement which might discourage a perfectly risk free application needs to be issued.

One would have thought that encouraging dialogue between the Licensing Authority, the responsible authorities and the applicant well in advance of any event to minimise those risks would have been a more constructive approach and more in the spirit of what the games are seeking to achieve

- The proposed statement refers to issues of police, transport and emergency resources during the games and that "due consideration" will be given to representations from the police on the grounds that police and other emergency services resources are insufficient. If you do decide to adopt the policy statement, then the presumption against grant when a risk is identified should only relate to representations from the police.

I hope the above points have been of assistance.

Regards

Nigel Connor

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