



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Application for the Variation of 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence for Margot, 18 Donegal Square East.</b>
<b>Date:</b>	18 March 2026
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control, Ext. 2300
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Hipkins, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>						
1.1	To consider an application for the variation of a 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence to extend the hours during which entertainment may be provided at Margot based on the Council's Standard Conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.						
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 421 595 454"><b>Area and Location</b></td> <td data-bbox="724 421 836 454"><b>Ref. No.</b></td> <td data-bbox="1003 421 1139 454"><b>Applicant</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 461 660 589">Margot 18 Donegal Square East Belfast BT1 5HD</td> <td data-bbox="724 461 919 495">LN/200200147</td> <td data-bbox="1003 461 1362 562">Mr Paul Langsford Clover Clarence Chambers OPCO Limited,</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Area and Location</b>	<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	Margot 18 Donegal Square East Belfast BT1 5HD	LN/200200147	Mr Paul Langsford Clover Clarence Chambers OPCO Limited,
<b>Area and Location</b>	<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Applicant</b>					
Margot 18 Donegal Square East Belfast BT1 5HD	LN/200200147	Mr Paul Langsford Clover Clarence Chambers OPCO Limited,					
1.2	A location map is attached as Appendix 1.						
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>						
2.1	<p>Taking into account the information presented, and any representations made in respect of the application you are required to make a decision to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approve the application for the variation of the 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence to vary the hours during which entertainment may be provided as requested, or</li> <li>b) Approve the application for the variation with special conditions, or</li> <li>c) Refuse the application for the variation of the 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence.</li> </ul>						
2.2	If an application is refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court. In the case that the applicant subsequently decides to appeal, entertainment may not be provided to the later hours requested until any such appeal is determined.						
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>						
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>						
3.1	<p>The areas currently Licensed to provide indoor entertainment and their maximum occupancies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lower Ground floor</b> - Lounge – 100 persons, Main Bar – 185 persons, VIP – 30 persons, Snug 1 – 20 persons, Snug 2 – 25 persons</li> <li>• <b>Upper Ground floor</b> – Cocktail Bar – 50 persons, Hallway 1 – 40 persons, Hallway 2 – 30 persons, Lounge – 40 persons, Main Bar – 70 persons, Rear Bar – 80 persons.</li> </ul>						
3.2	<p>The days and hours during which entertainment may be provided under the terms of the current indoor Entertainments Licence are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday to Thursday: 11.30am to 1.00am the following morning,</li> <li>• Friday and Saturday: 11.30am to 3.00am the following morning, and</li> <li>• Sunday: 12.30pm to 1.00am the following morning</li> </ul>						

3.3	The variation application relates to a proposed extension to the hours during which entertainment can be provided Monday to Thursday and Sunday to 3.00am the following morning.
3.4	Members are reminded that applications to provide indoor entertainment beyond 1.00am are subject to consideration by Committee.
3.5	The licensee has requested the variation to extend permitted hours until 3.00am, indicating that that the premises is an integral part of Belfast's nightlife and that part of the recent major fit-out was the opening of Rudi, a late bar/nightclub, and the proposed changes in hours are to keep them in line with similar venues in the vicinity, allowing them to compete within the sector, which is essential for the commercial success of the business.
<b><u>Representations</u></b>	
3.6	Public notice of the application has been placed in the newspaper, and no written representation has been lodged as a result of the advertisement.
<b><u>PSNI</u></b>	
3.7	The Police Service of Northern Ireland have been consulted and have confirmed that they have no objection to the variation application.
A copy of their response is included as Appendix 2 to this report.	
<b><u>NIFRS</u></b>	
3.8	The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service have been consulted in relation to the application and have confirmed that they have no objection to the variation application.
<b><u>Health, safety and welfare</u></b>	
3.9	The premises has been subject to inspections as part of the licensing application process and all technical requirements and associated operational and management procedures have been checked and are satisfactory.
<b><u>Noise</u></b>	
3.10	No noise complaints have been received by the Service in the past 12 months in relation to the venue.
3.11	Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2011 gives the council additional powers in relation to the control of entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.
<b><u>Applicant</u></b>	
3.12	The applicant, and/or their representative will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the applications.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b>
4.1	None

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b>
5.1	There are no issues associated with this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appendix 1 – Location map</li><li>• Appendix 2 – PSNI Response</li></ul>