



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Licensing Committee
Subject:	Application for the Transfer and Variation of a Seven-day Annual Entertainment Licence - Ronnie Drew's, 79-83 May Street
Date:	11th December, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control, ext. 2450
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext. 2435

1	Relevant Background Information						
1.1	<p>Applications have been received from Mr Dominic Malone, Stillery Inns Limited, for the transfer and variation of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence for Ronnie Drews, based on the Council's standard conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.</p> <table><tr><td>Premises and Location</td><td>Ref. No.</td><td>Applicant</td></tr><tr><td>Ronnie Drews 79-83 May Street Belfast BT1 3JL</td><td>WK/2013/1619</td><td>Mr Dominic Maloney Stillery Inns Limited</td></tr></table>	Premises and Location	Ref. No.	Applicant	Ronnie Drews 79-83 May Street Belfast BT1 3JL	WK/2013/1619	Mr Dominic Maloney Stillery Inns Limited
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Ronnie Drews 79-83 May Street Belfast BT1 3JL	WK/2013/1619	Mr Dominic Maloney Stillery Inns Limited					
1.2	<p>The areas currently licensed to provide entertainment are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ground floor bars, with a maximum capacity of 200 persons• First floor lounge, with a maximum capacity of 100 persons• First floor session bar, with a maximum capacity of 50 persons						
1.3	<p>The days and hours during which the premises are currently licensed to provide entertainment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday to Saturday: 11.30 a m to 1.00 a m the following morning, and• Sunday: 12.30 p m to 12.00 midnight						
1.4	<p>The premise provides entertainment on a Friday and Saturday night in the form of solo performers and small live bands.</p>						
1.5	<p>The nature of the variation applied for is to extend the hours during which entertainment may be provided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friday and Saturday: 11.30 a m to 3.00 a m the following morning						

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Reasons for the variation</p> <p>The licensee has stated that the variation to extend their permitted hours is required because he wishes to cater for the European and International visitors to the city and provide varied types of music for this clientele. The extension of hours will also allow Ronnie Drews to compete with other venues in Belfast City which have Entertainment Licences to 3.00am.</p>
2.2	<p>A copy of a letter from the applicant outlining the reasons for making the variation application is attached at Appendix 4.</p>
2.3	<p>Representations</p> <p>No written representation has been lodged as a result of the public notices of the application.</p>
2.4	<p>PSNI</p> <p>The PSNI has been consulted and has confirmed that they have no objection to the applications. However, they have suggested that the Committee give consideration to adding conditions to the Entertainments Licence regarding the employment of SIA registered door supervisors; the use of non-glass vessels when the venue operates beyond the hours of 12.30 a m and the installation of a suitable CCTV system.</p>
2.5	<p>The applicant has been informed of these proposals by the police and will be in a position to comment on whether he will be agreeable to some or all of them at your meeting.</p>
2.6	<p>A copy of the PSNI correspondence is attached at Appendix 3.</p>
2.7	<p>Health, safety and welfare inspections</p> <p>A total of two during performance inspections have been carried out on the premises by Officers from the Service in the last 12 months.</p>
2.8	<p>One inspection uncovered minor issues, including an emergency exit sign not being illuminated, which were quickly addressed.</p>
2.9	<p>The other inspection revealed that the conditions of the Entertainments Licence were being adhered to and Officers were satisfied that all operational and management procedures were being implemented effectively.</p>
2.10	<p>Noise issues</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Unit has confirmed that they have received no complaints for the premise.</p>
2.11	<p>Licensee</p> <p>The applicant and/or his representative will be available to discuss any matters relating to the applications should they arise during your meeting.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>None.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>None.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality or good relations issues.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Taking into account the information presented you are required to firstly consider the application for the transfer of the Licence from Studio Inns Ltd to Mr Dominic Malone of Stillery Inns Ltd and to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the application for the transfer of the licence, or 2. Refuse the application for the transfer of the licence.
5.2	<p>Thereafter, if you agree to approve the transfer application, you are required to consider the application for the variation of the licence and to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the application for the variation to extend the hours during which entertainment may be provided to 3.00am the following morning on Friday and Saturday nights, or 2. Approve the application with special conditions; in addition to the standard conditions, or 3. Refuse the application for the variation of the licence
5.3	If the applications are 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.
5.4	Should you refuse to vary the licence as requested, and the applicant decides to appeal, the licence will continue with its present conditions until the Appeal is determined.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>If the applications are granted, the applicant will be sent a copy of the Licence within 7 days of the Council decision. The person responsible for this action is Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control.</p> <p>If the applications are refused, or special conditions are attached to the Licence to which the applicant does not consent the applicant will be advised in writing within 7 days of his right to appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the Magistrates' Court. The person responsible for this action is Henry Downey, Democratic Services Officer, Chief Executive's Department.</p>	

7	Documents Attached
<p>Appendix 1 - Application form</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Location map</p> <p>Appendix 3 - PSNI comments</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Rationale for extension of hours</p>	