



APPENDIX B1

**Leicestershire Police**

**Licensing Act 2003 –  
Representation in respect of New Grant Application – Live Nation Music  
Event**

<b>Details of person or body making representation</b>	
Your Name:	David Braithwaite
Your Address:	Force Licensing Department Mansfield House 74 Belgrave Gate LEICESTER LE1 3GG

<b>Details of premises representation is about</b>	
	Beyond festival
Address of premises:	Abbey Park Grounds, Abbey Park Road, Leicester.
Application No. (if known)	

<b>Please tick one or more of the licensing objectives that your representation relates to:</b>	
Prevention of crime and disorder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prevention of public nuisance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Protection of children from harm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Please summarise your concerns about this application:</b>
<p>I write in my capacity as Deputy Licensing Manager for Leicestershire Police on the authority delegated to me by the Chief Constable.</p> <p>This is an application from JBR Events LTD for a new grant to hold an annual 3 day event at Abbey Park, Leicester during the last weekend of June.</p> <p>On each day, it is planned to start the event at 10:00 hours and close the show at 22:45 hours.</p> <p>All licensable activities will run between 11:00 x 22:00 hours.</p> <p>The main focus of the event will be to provide various forms of live music and performances by a number of acts / artists.</p>

The main part of the festival weekend will be a dance focused event that will run on the Saturday, the target audience will be those mainly aged between 18 – 30 years old (students).

The applicant has indicated that there will be a total of 3 x stages for artists to perform on.

It is also proposed to have a fairground area within the boundaries of the premises.

The applicants have indicated that they intend to draw crowds of up to 10,000 people per day, so in total around 30,000 are expected over the weekend if they use all 3 days and manage to reach capacity sales.

Abbey Park is situated just on the outskirts of the city centre and is only a short distance from the town centre. It is hemmed in by Abbey Park Road, St Margaret's Way (A6) and The River Soar. There are numerous entry and exit points to the location along both of the said roads and also various bridges cross the river which again offer entrance to the park.

The park itself (where the proposed event will be) is surrounded by the remaining grounds of the public park. To the west side of the park, there are also various football and hockey pitches which again are used daily by members of the public.

Also, very close to the proposed site are numerous ponds (which are hazardous due to the deep silt that has built up in them over the years), and a river (which runs along the edge of the licensed area).

Within close proximity to the venue are residential dwelling house on both St Margaret's Way and Abbey Park Road, there are also various businesses and commercial units that surround the park.

Both Abbey Park Road and especially St Margaret's Way (A6) which is a dual carriage way and one of the main arterial routes into the city, are very busy roads at all hours and are also used by people who are going to or from the city as part of both day and night time economy periods.

Also close by to the venue is the main inner ring road (Burleys Way) which is also busy throughout the day and night.

Leicestershire police accept that such a large event will provide a very good economic benefit to the city; however, we are concerned that the present application fails to promote The Prevention of Public Nuisance, Public Safety, Prevention of Crime and Disorder and the Protection Of Children From Harm.

This is due to the following reasons.

1. Prior to the application being submitted to the police on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 the organisers had failed to meet or engage with us (Licensing Department) to discuss their plans for the proposed event. This should have been an essential part of the application process due to the nature of the event and also that it is going to be a large scale festival. Since the application was submitted, we have been advised that some form of consultation has taken place prior to the grant being applied for. This causes grave concern due to the fact that and at no point have we been approached or asked to take part in the consultation.
2. The application as already stated, is for a very large event with a capacity crowd of around 10,000 people each day. Such events over three days will have an unprecedented effect and impact on the local community, public transport, the road infrastructure, local businesses and also the resources of Leicester Police and the other emergency services.

3. This event will fall on a weekend in the middle of the summer period where demand on policing – particularly the Night Time Economy will already be high and where our abstractions are at their greatest.
4. Whilst it is recognised that the event organiser will undoubtedly seek to minimise the requirement for police resources inside the temporary venue, our role will extend to cover all aspects of the pre-event build up, support during the event and of course post event during egress and then the associated knock on to the wider Night Time Economy. Even as a one day event the impact would be significant and if this is to be a three day event then this is magnified.
5. We also have to consider how we then seek to deliver normal business and as such, this event impacts on our ability to respond to incidents across the wider force area.
6. With events on this scale, the likelihood of impact on crime and disorder are also vastly increased, particularly where they are fuelled by either the use of drugs or alcohol (or a combination of both). Our experience of the previous festivals with a similar theme, showed that due to the age group that will be attending this event, a vast number of the festival goers will consume either alcohol or drugs. We have to bear in mind that the main event on the Saturday, is being described on the applicant's web site as 'The biggest ever dance festival in Leicester' and 'Ravers dream'
7. Such large events also have the potential to attract local, regional and national criminality (as experienced at other festivals of this size), to commit organised crime such as phone thefts or the distribution of controlled drugs. The wider impact on ASB, vehicle crime and public order post event is harder to quantify. A three day event is likely to attract significant organised crime and will impact on crime and disorder.
8. We should not underestimate the effect of so many festival goers converging on the area will have on the local community, especially public nuisance and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) issues caused by people before the event and more crucially after the show when they are leaving. Those attending will also need transport to get to the city and then require parking when they get there, which in turn could lead to vehicles being abandoned in and around the local residential and business areas which will obviously have a direct impact upon the local residents.
9. There is no mention as to how or who will address those individuals / groups that turn up without tickets and then loiter either on the outside of the erected fencing or more concerning around the nearby streets. This needs addressing due to the fact that the remainder of the park will be open to the general public.
10. The festival goers, who use public transport to get to the show, will also add to any problems after the event is closed down, due to their numbers outstripping the availability of any form of transportation such as buses, trains and taxis.
11. As with other events at the location, we expect a vast amount of the people to leave the venue and then head into the city and become part of the Night Time Economy (NTE). This in turn could lead to outbreaks of crime and disorder, because the city will already be busy with those who are already there as part of NTE, you will then have a large influx of people from the event which will then stretch the capacities of pubs and clubs which in turn will lead to people being refused entry and having nowhere else to go. Most of these people will have consumed large amounts of alcohol. The applicant within his documentation has indicated that they expect around 70% of their customers to make their way to the city and add to those who are already part of the NTE, once the festival has finished.

12. We also need to safeguard other members of the public who may be in the area as part of their normal daily business when the event is taking place. Such large crowds of people, some of which may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs would be very intimidating, especially to children and vulnerable people. This is especially crucial in the park area itself, as the remainder of it will still be open to the general public.
13. As with any festival, certain acts / types of music draw crowds from various backgrounds and age groups, some of which also have followers who have a history of causing disorder. We have not been given any indication as to what artists will be taking part. Obviously, this is alarming as we cannot plan for such events without the information to hand. An event targeting people aged 18 – 30 years old would have the potential of causing more problems than a festival for more mature / older people. The applicant has provided basic information that a music event will take place in their operating schedule, but they have not supplied anything of substance to enable an informed decision of their application in relation to the four licensing objectives.
14. The police are also concerned that the application itself and more importantly the proposed operating schedule are not specific for this event, they have literally been copied from another parks licence within the city (Nelson Mandela Park) and appear to be a generic one.
15. For events on this scale, the police believe that a full Event Management Plan (EMP) should be submitted at least two months prior to it taking place and the final version be signed off by all relevant authorities no later than a month before the festival.

Following on from a SAG meeting 18/02/2022 with the applicant and various other relevant authorities the following additional issues were raised.

1. The park authorities raised a point that the park policy is for all events to cease at 21:00 hours, however concessions were made, and it was agreed that the following times would be applied.
  - i. Friday – 22:00 hours for the orchestra concert.
  - ii. Saturday – 21:30 hours for the music festival.
  - iii. Sunday – 21:00 hours for any event that takes on this day
 On the application it states that all licensable activities will cease at 22:00 hours each day and the event will be closed by 22:45 hours. This is in contradiction to what has been agreed.
2. It was established that up until that date, no consultation has taken place with the local community nor the nearby businesses.
3. The applicant's representative also stated that the reasoning behind applying for a permanent licence is to future proof it, he added that this was to save time and also the need for dealing with any representations that may come in should they apply annually. The police need to address the future proofing comment and ask what exactly does it mean.

**We also have not been provided with an Event Management Plan (EMP) which should contain the following**

- Transport management plan.
- Alcohol management plan.
- A full security operation plan.
- Emergency evacuation/Incident plan.
- Noise management plan.
- First aid / Welfare plan.
- Protection Of Children From Harm Plan
- Anti-Terrorism plan

- Covid19 plan (if regulations are still in place)

To date all that we have received are draft copies of some risk assessments, transport plan, Security deployment plan, medical plan and so on, however all of these have lacked detail. Leicester Police cannot be expected to sign off on this event until a full and acceptable EMP has been submitted to the relevant authorities.

I need to finish by emphasizing again, that 10,000 people attending the location on one day alone would stretch resources to the limit, have an adverse effect on the local residents, increase the risk of crime and disorder in the area and also cause a large amount of issues on the local road network and public transportation, however to have it repeated over a three day period is unprecedented, especially when it (the venue location) is virtually in the city centre.

### **POLICE POSITION**

Whilst not wishing to restrain the discretion of the committee, it is my opinion that granting this application in its present format would be contrary to the intentions and objectives of the four licensing objectives.

I would strongly urge that if the committee is minded to grant this licence, then it does so with limitations on the type of events and numbers on both the Friday and Sunday and permit the large music festival to run on the Saturday of the chosen weekend.

The reasoning behind this request is to prevent this one day dance festival turning into a 3 day event which could happen should this application be granted in its current format.

### **Appendices**

The following appendices will be submitted in due course for the committee

1. Statement from PS James WELLS (Annex A)
2. Copy of Nelson Mandela Park Licence (Annex B)
3. Copy of Applicants advert for the event (Annex C)
4. Various pictures of the location (Annex D)
5. Statement from PC 2208 Anton Wilson (Annex E)

David Braithwaite  
Deputy Licensing Manager  
Leicestershire Police

7<sup>th</sup> March 2022