



Leicestershire Police

Licensing Act 2003 Representation in respect of a major variation application

Details of person or body making representation	
Your Name:	PC Jefferson Pritchard
Your Address:	Mansfield House, 74 Belgrave Gate, Leicester LE1 3GG

Details of premises representation is about	
Name of Premises:	Secret Garden Lounge
Address of premises:	66 Braunstone Gate Leicester LE3 5LG
Application No. (if known)	

Please tick one or more of the licensing objectives that your representation relates to:	
Prevention of crime and disorder	X
Public Safety	
Prevention of public nuisance	X
Protection of children from harm	

Please summarise your concerns about this application:
I write in my capacity as Leicester City Centre's alcohol licensing officer for Leicestershire Police, with delegated authority from the Chief Constable. My representation to this major variation application is based upon the licensing objectives, as per the Licensing Act 2003. The application would undermine two of the four licensing objectives if granted, namely: (1) The prevention of crime and disorder. (2) The prevention of public nuisance.

The premises is located on Braunstone Gate and between the junction of Narborough Road and Western Road.

The premises is situated on the ground floor and has residential flats directly above. Access to the flats is to the side of the premises.

Two other licensed premises are located adjacent and opposite and others nearby.

In December 2024, a similar variation was submitted by the previous operator but was later withdrawn. During the consultation process, it was established that significant building works had been completed without planning permission.

Despite the premises now being under new ownership, it is unclear if these historic planning matters have been resolved.

The premises has previously come to the attention of Leicestershire Police and Leicester City Council from an enforcement perspective, as recently as January 2026. However, this was whilst the premises was under previous ownership and not since a change of ownership in late January 2026.

The premises is situated within an "area of special interest" as per Leicester City Council's existing Statement of Licensing Policy 2022-2027. The application does not refer to this policy, so it is unclear if the environmental factors which gave rise to this policy have fully been considered. Similarly, the applicant has not engaged in early consultation as recommended within Section 4.6 of the policy.

The premises existing opening hours to the public are:

Sunday to Thursday from 11am until 1am.

Friday & Saturday from 11am until 2:30am.

Whilst licensable activities ceasing thirty minutes prior to closing to the public.

However, the premises own website states the premises is open on Friday and Saturday until 3am. Similarly, Leicestershire Police is also aware of previous events which have been advertised online as ending at 3am.

Therefore, the applicant wishes to significantly extend the premises daily opening hours to 7am until 5am. With licensable activities ceasing thirty minutes prior to closing.

The supply of alcohol to the public, live music, recorded music and anything similar from 11am until 4:30am. With, late night refreshments being from 11pm until 4:30am.

The application states *"the premises will continue to operate as an Italian restaurant and lounge"*.

Leicestershire Police would question the demand/need for "late night refreshments" (Hot food and hot drinks) in the early hours of morning and believe that the supply of alcohol and playing of live/recorded music will be the primary licensable activities in the early hours of the morning on the balance of probabilities.

Therefore, the risk factors associated to this application are far greater and will undermine the licensing objectives.

The application proposes some additional measures which is positive. However, many of these conditions are vague and open to interpretation.

Premises licence conditions need to be clear and precise to be enforceable from a responsible authority perspective. This means Leicestershire Police do have concerns about the premises intentions to remain open daily until 5am. But also, as the proposed measures are not specific to the environmental factors which gave rise to the “area of special interest”.

The application states a comprehensive CCTV system will be operated but does not provide specifics. Similarly, the application states “SIA licensed door supervisors will be employed when considered appropriate following risk assessment.” However, Leicestershire Police believe the proposal is vague and does not provide satisfactory reassurances that sufficient security personnel will be employed at the premises in the early hours of the morning, at a time when alcohol related violent crime and anti-social behaviour increases.

The application does not include a smoking policy and therefore customers will only be permitted to smoke/vape outside the premises on Braunstone Gate. This is likely to result in noise and potentially cause a disturbance to local residents who live above the premises and nearby. Similarly, the operator is highly likely to be unable to control noise made by its customers once outside the premises and whilst they disperse from the vicinity.

Since the start of the year, Leicestershire Police has recorded several incidents of violent crime on Braunstone Gate but not necessarily connected to the premises itself with the exception of one. On the balance of probabilities, the proposed increased operating hours would result in increased risk to the operator and increased risks of alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour both at and in proximity to the premises, regardless of the best intentions of the applicant.

Leicestershire Police respectfully request the application is refused.

PC2093 Jefferson Pritchard
Leicestershire Police
Tuesday 8th September 2026.