

Barking and Dagenham Licensing Authority

EA – LICENSING TEAM

EAST AREA BOROUGH

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03/07/2019

For the Attention of Management Team DEFECTED LONDON FSTVL LTD

**Police Representation to the Application for a new Premises Licence for DEFECTED,
CENTRAL PARK, Central Park Dagenham RM10 7EU, 14th September 2019.**

I certify that I have considered the application shown above and I wish to make representations that the likely effect of the grant of the application is detrimental to the Licensing Objectives for the reasons indicated below.

- 1. The prevention of crime and disorder,**
- 2. Public safety,**
- 3. Prevention of public nuisance, and**
- 4. The protection of children from harm**

Mick Bowles on behalf of DEFECTED LONDON FSTVL LTD. has made this application.

The promoters and organisers of the event are the same as those that run the WEARE FESTVAL in Havering. Whilst this application is a new application, there is significant cross over in the management, ownership and organisation of both events. As a result, comparisons can made between the existing WeAre festival and the proposed application for DEFECTED.

During the application, process there has been dialogue with the organiser Mr Mick BOWLES. The police licensing team have agreed in principle conditions for the licence if granted. These include documentation that would be expected within the event management plan and conditions covering safety and security.

Whilst conditions have been included in the application police, have concerns that the grant of the application is likely to impact on the licensing objectives as summarised below.

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

As detailed above the same organisers run the WeAre festival in Havering. The anticipated crowd dynamics of the DEFECTED festival are similar to that of WeAre as is the style of the festival.

The 2019 WeAre festival was carried out over three days. Approx. 3000 persons attended on the Friday night with approx. 25000 persons on the Saturday and Sunday of the event.

There were 66 crimes in total at the event.

Significant incidents include a GBH where a male was stabbed in the abdomen (CRIS: 5408662/19), seven allegations of robbery, one of which was at knife point (CRIS: 5408758/19) and nineteen drug related incidents, including supply and possession of class A drugs.

Drugs have been a common theme of the festival during the period it has been in existence in Havering. Representations made against the festival by police in 2017 detail this issue and are can be seen at Appendix A

Should the DEFECTED festival licence be granted it is likely that the festival will see a similar pattern of crime? Dance music attracts a crowd that are more likely to consume class A drugs, which brings associated issues of intoxication, vulnerability and exploitation by criminal gangs.

Public Safety

The Management have not, at the time of these representations, submitted any of their Event Safety Management Plans along with the formal application. As per discussions with police prior to the event, this should include a Crowd Safety Plan, Alcohol Plan, Security Plan, Transport Plan, and Food Safety Plan.

Police have concerns that the absence of these documents reflects the current stages of planning for the event, if the crowd safety and security plan do contain sufficient detail then it is likely that there will be issues within these areas.

The applicant submitted the crowd safety plan for the WeAre festival 2019 on the last day possible to be compliant with the licence. There was a large breach at the entrance gates to the festival. This resulted in a number of injuries due to a crush in the crowd with a Twenty (20) persons admitted to Hospital for treatment four (4) into the Intensive Care Unit

The introduction of new technology at the gates contributed to this issue. By the organisers introducing new technology to the entry lane system, they ignored a report, commissioned by themselves, in relation to the WeAre festival 2017

The report was extensive and written by a professor within the industry. The author's conclusions were quite clear and included the following comment:

"12.14 To conclude the recommendations and as a final note, it is clear from the observations by the author of the testing, knowledge of a wide range of festivals and events and the documentation provided by the police, local authority and the event that the key characteristics related to this report centre on the following issue(s). The length of time that patrons would be required to wait to gain full access to the site would be unreasonable. This is compounded by the possibility of disorder and issues of safety which cannot be overlooked. The use of an untried and untested scanning system in an outdoor event environment is not a strong enough basis for the recommendation of its use."

There was numerous Breaches of the Perimeter Fence by large numbers of persons gaining entry

There was no contingency plan in place for the supply of bottled water to the Crowd waiting to gain entry to the venue. Prior to the crowd surge patrons had been waiting for several hours in hot weather.

Transport Plan – No BTP (British Transport Plan confirmed to support egress into the station)

No Metropolitan Police Resource to cover the Dagenham East Tube Station

No Confirmed Transportation agreement with Secret Cinema which is on at same time opposite Dagenham East Tube Station with up to 2000 visitors (Agreement to transport Secret Cinema visitors to another station to ease crowd dynamics) if a particular number of Tickets for DEFECTED were sold.

Police have concerns, based on this application, that the applicant has considered all areas necessary to ensure a safe festival.

There has been no plans submitted with due consideration that include people driving to the venue and dropping/collecting attendees. The marshalling/control for people coming in via buses from Dagenham and Romford Town. The bus rank is just off the roundabout in Wood Lane. Also the potential for people to come in on mainline trains to Romford who may either bus or walk to Central Park (2.6miles). This has the high potential to cause serious traffic congestion and hold ups in and around major junctions and traffic lights.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

This festival is located in a public park in a residential area. There have been festivals in this location in the past, although not of the same nature. Dance music tends to include repetitive beats and bass which local residents may have issue with over an extended period.

Although not submitted with this application police have had sight of a draft transport plan. The route proposed includes persons walking from the park to Dagenham East station. There are licensed and residential premises along the route. Any congregation of persons along this route will likely cause nuisance to persons living nearby. The draw of licensed premises, may also cause any transport plans to be impacted by crowds not leaving the area.

Police also have concerns with the current transport plan and the provision of taxi and drop off points. Given the transport plan is untested, any issues may lead to large crowds congregating in and around the festival and in nearby residential areas.

The Protection of Children from Harm

In order to protect children from harm at an over 18's festival there is a necessity for multiple checks to ensure that patrons are old enough to attend and purchase alcohol. This would include checks during the ticket purchase stage, ID checks on entry and at bars within the venue. Within the application, these considerations have not been included in any detail.

At the 2019 WeAre Festival there were two crime reports where the victims were seventeen years old.

One male was a victim of robbery and a female the victim of a sexual assault. (CRIS: 5408721/19 and 5408968/19).

There were eight test purchases of bars at the festival with a 50% failure rate where staff did not check for ID under the challenge 25 principles.

There were a limited number of checks conducted by security at the queueing lanes, this was non-existent during the large crowd surge on the Saturday of the festival. The event management plan detailed that checks would be conducted at the first entry point to the queueing lanes, these were not conducted as security staff were largely trying to hold back a crowd.

This application does not detail any measures that satisfy police that children will be excluded from the festival; there are also no considerations around safeguarding any children found on the site.

If I can be of any further assistance please feel free to contact me

Yours sincerely,

Richard Clay PC 2636EA

Licensing officer Barking and Dagenham