

PC Owen Dunn 3326EA
Licensing officer Barking and Dagenham

Via Email

24th June 2020

Dear Owen,

Re: Time Limited Premises Licence Application, We Are FSTVL 20, Central Park, Dagenham.

Thank you for your representation dated 13th June 2019, which has been forwarded to me by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD) licensing department.

Whilst I am grateful for the time you spent preparing the representation, I feel that there are significant errors in the representation and that it is important to clarify these so that the Licensing Committee have a balanced picture of the proposed event.

It is also the case that, given the ongoing nature of event planning, many of the concerns raised in your representation have already been dealt with by the provision of additional information to the Metropolitan Police and within the Event Management Plan document.

General

1. Application - In 2020, the first year of the proposed licence, the We Are FSTVL event will take place on 12-13 September. In subsequent years the Applicant will give 6 months prior notice in writing of the proposed event days to the Licensing Authority and the Police. The Applicant is familiar with the site having held an event known as "Defected" on the site in 2019, which is planned to return to this site from 2021 onwards.
2. A comparison is made in your representation between We Are FSTVL in Havering and our proposed event. Such a comparison is flawed.

As you know, there are significant differences between We Are FSTVL in Havering and the current application; as well as its duration and capacity, We Are FSTVL 2019 was a festival with camp-site facilities. The provision of camping at the event extends the on-site duration of the festival to twenty-four hours per day such that We Are FSTVL 2019 ran for 74 hours across 4 days, rather than the 23 hours proposed for our 2020 event which is across 2 days, 11.5 hours per day. If a comparison is required, the proposed We Are FSTVL 2020 event would be better compared to the Defected London FSTVL of 2019 that took place at the same venue in Dagenham, Central Park.

3. It is also the case, that a comparison with a camping festival is not appropriate because the provision of overnight camping will have an impact on indicators such as medical, welfare cases and crime statistics which can be misleading.
4. What is fundamental is that this application should be considered on its own merits. The application is for an event which is 31% of the total duration of We Are FSTVL 2019, for less than a half of the capacity, is staged on public rather than private land and does not feature a camp-site. The licence conditions and event management plans for this application are not relevant to the plans for a different event at a different location over a year ago. This application is for a 10-year Premises Licence on Central Park and is not a debrief for the We Are FSTVL 2019.

5. We have provided a comprehensive set of draft conditions which are based on conditions previously accepted by the Licensing Committee for the successful Defected Festival. If you feel these are inadequate please propose any additions to the conditions provided.

Planning

6. As we discussed at the SAG meeting between all responsible authorities on 3rd June 2020, the information flow for large-scale events is an iterative process, and as planning develops the information provided becomes greater and plans are developed and refined. Ahead of the SAG meeting taking place, a timetable for submission of documents and meetings was agreed to allow for transparency on dates for all parts of planning for the event. There is no reason to suspect that there will be an issue of late delivery of documents in 2020.
7. Additionally, we have circulated documents and provided updates at the (SAG) meetings that MPS has attended. We will continue to provide information and updates via this channel, with the next meeting scheduled for 1st July 2020.

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

8. As discussed above, the application for this event is for a two-day event, for a maximum of 22,500 ticket holders + staff. As you know We Are FSTVL 2019 was attended by a total of 58,540 persons over three days and included campsite facilities. The events are not properly comparable in the context of crime and disorder.
9. The crime report summary for We Are FSTVL 2019 provided in your representation to LBBB Licensing by MPS records 51 offences, of which four do not appear to be connected to the event. These are: an ABH offence at an unrecorded time during a mental health episode at a hospital, a theft from a vehicle by an unknown person in Upminster Town Centre, a person found in possession of drugs three miles away from the festival, and an offence under the Badger Act committed by a (non-event) contractor working at a nearby country park.
10. Of the 47 remaining alleged offences, 21 relate to drugs offences, and were detected in the majority of cases (as was acknowledged by the MPS event commander at the SAG debrief) by the work of event security staff and by an effective search operation. This should not be viewed as a criticism of the event; it was a successful drugs operation carried out by us in partnership with MPS.
11. Included in the 26 non-drugs offences are seven offences described as 'Theft not classified elsewhere', which are recorded as having been registered as crimes by the MPS Territorial Policing Headquarters (TPHQ) rather than the local area Policing operation. It is inferred from the scant descriptions that these recorded offences are mobile phone thefts that have been reported post-event using the MPS online crime reporting facility. It is unclear from the report to what extent these reports have been verified, and it would be good to understand the extent to which post-event reporting of alleged mobile phone theft took place. It is well known that persons at festivals lose mobile phones and subsequently report them as stolen to facilitate claims for their replacement.

12. What is unfortunately not included in the comments about the crime figures is any context, which I think it would only be fair to provide to the licensing committee. This vividly demonstrates our crime figures are low. Provided below are the historic figures provided by MPS for the 2017 and 2018 We Are FSTVL events, plus the 2019 figures for We Are FSTVL and Defected London FSTVL.

Crime rate per 1000 2019 (source: metpolice.uk/crime-data-dashboard)	Area	Notes
74	Havering	Source – Met Police website, Crime Data Dashboard 1 year from Jan19-Dec19
94.2	Barking and Dagenham	Source – Met Police website, Crime Data Dashboard 1 year from Jan19-Dec19
78.4	Redbridge	Source – Met Police website, Crime Data Dashboard 1 year from Jan19-Dec19
0.7	WAF 2019	41 crimes as at 27/05/19 / vs 58540 people
1.16	WAF 2019	68 crimes as per Owen Dunn 17/06/20 vs 58540 audience
0.45	Defected 2019	5 crimes as at 18/11/19 vs 11026 audience
No data presented	HLLWN 2019	No data presented

13. The crime per head at We Are FSTVL has been low for a number of years compared to a typical London Borough and that number of overall offences has continued to fall, and the number of victim-based offences has fallen by an even greater margin. The reduction in recorded crimes between 2017 and 2019 has been by 59%. For our latest event (Defected) the rates have been even lower.
14. To put the figures in a wider context:
- For the London Borough of Havering, where We Are FSTVL has taken place, the average crime rate for the 12 months Jan 2019 – December 2019 was 74 crimes per 1000 population [source: met.police.uk].
 - For We Are FSTVL 2019 the crime rate For We Are FSTVL was 0.7 crimes per 1000 attendees.
 - For the period 2017-2019, the We Are FSTVL average crime rate per 1000 attendees was 1.32.
 - In the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham the average crime rate for the 12-month period from January 2019- December 2019 was 94.2 crimes per 1000 population [source met.police.uk].

- For Defected London FSTVL 2019 held at Central Park, Dagenham, the crime rate was 0.45 crimes per 1000 attendees.
15. It should be noted that one of the key elements of the crime reduction strategy for We Are FSTVL is the provision of an entry search operation conducted by event security staff. After extensive consultation with MPS leader commander Superintendent Piscapo, this includes communications about no drugs, amnesty bins, searching and agreed protocols and procedures. The search regime is clearly documented in the operational plan shared with MPS and consulted upon on 6th April 2020. The proposed searching regime for the 2020 event was agreed on 17th May 2020 as that based on successful searching regime at the Defected FSTVL 2019 event.
 16. The MPS representation in relation to crime and disorder does not suggest any measures that MPS wish the applicant to take in addition to those already agreed. Further, there have been several meetings which have already taken place between our security co-ordinator Richard Woolford and the MPS leader commander Superintendent Piscapo for the event which are not reflected in the representation. The current representation shows a striking resemblance to the representation that was made by MPS against the Defected 2019 application so far as it related to drugs related and crime and disorder. That representation was not accepted by the licensing committee at a hearing and the event demonstrated a positive outcome with a low level of crime and arrests and no arrests for violence and sexual offences.
 17. Medical data also presents a positive picture when the number of drug intoxications per event and admissions to hospital are considered. **Please note We Are FSTVL numbers are for an event over twice the size and three times the duration: -

Event	Date	Drug intoxication Numbers	As a % of audience	Admissions to Hospital
Defected 2019	12/9/19	3	0.03	1 – non drug related
HLLWN 2019	24/10/19	11	0.1	1 – drug related
WAF19	May 2019	33	0.056	11 – of which 3 are drug related
WAF18	May 2018	53	0.092	5 – non drug related
WAF17	May 2017	56	0.096	8 – non drug related

18. Our Medical provider, EMS led by Event Medical expert, Dr.Robbins holds regular dialogue with the London Ambulance Service and their view as to resources expressed to SAG is as follows:-
“It’s not an issue that will affect either the ambulance service or the local acute hospital trusts in the short term – the likelihood of an unwell patient presenting on the day is small, and will not have a significant impact on day-to-day activity.”
19. The issue of gangs attending the event has already been properly raised by the MPS leader commander Superintendent Piscapo at an early stage of the planning for the event. It is a consideration at all major events and will continue to be discussed in planning with MPS. We have assisted in joint operations between our security and the MPS in the past which have been intelligence based, it will be no different this year. The MPS stated in the Defected FSTVL 2019

debrief “No safeguarding issues with one arrest made. Five crimes within the footprint surrounding and no weapons seized. No issues to report”.

Public Safety

20. Your representation notes that, to date, a security plan hasn't been sent. However, we can confirm that our Drugs Policy, Search Policy and Procedure, Security Operations Plan & Security Strategy have been included in our ESMP document since 20th May. In addition, the MPS lead commander for the event, Superintendent Piscapo has given recommendations on security deployment that have been accepted and are being developed by our security coordinator Richard Woolford.
21. Regarding the We Are FSTVL front gate incident on the Saturday on the event in 2019, there were zero admissions to hospital from site, and the treatment of 4 individuals in ICU related to drugs and were not related to the gate incident. The comment in the representation is wholly inaccurate.
22. Furthermore, the admission procedure was rectified on the Sunday of the event and the admission of customers was straight forward and proceeded with no issues. MPS leader commander Superintendent Piscapo quoted in the hot debrief for WAF 2019. “The new gate system used on Sunday worked well”. There was water provision for the queues and the requirement for distribution was communicated by the ELT to security so that it was given out when required.
23. The updated admissions procedures in place on the Sunday event of We Are FSTVL 2019 were carried over to the London FSTVL at Central Park in September 2019 and to the We Are HLLWN event in October 2019 with great success and resulted in no issues at both of these events.
24. The MPS representation makes reference to a study that we commissioned for wholly untested ID Scan technology which was being insisted upon by police licensing ahead of our 2017 event. The primary finding of the study, following tests, was that this technology carried a severe risk to public safety and was wholly unworkable. As examples, the system would not work in bad weather and admission to the festival was calculated to take days rather than hours. This is very different to the RFID entrance technology that we chose for our 2019 event which had previously worked successfully across many events throughout the world. However, the MPS comments are irrelevant to the events proposed in our application for 2020 and beyond because the admission procedure will be that which has already proved successful at We Are FSTVL on the Sunday of that festival and subsequently at the Defected and HLLWN events in 2019.
25. For the Defected London FSTVL 2019, British Transport Police (BTP) held the firm view that the numbers using Dagenham East Tube station did not pose a threat and there was no need for their presence. We anticipate a similar number to travel on the tube this year, with the rest of the customers being shuttle bussed away from the site as per the Transport Plan included in the Event Management Plan. BTP are being consulted as part of the planning process for 2020.
26. In the transport plan shuttle buses and coaches are planned to pick up and drop off in the same location as the Defected London FSTVL 2019 Central Park Event (the Secret Cinema Dagenham Film Studios site). The pick up drop off area for customers is being considered by our traffic management experts who are working on 2 options currently:-

- a. A pedestrian route through Barking Park and into Barking & Dagenham College car park
- b. Dagenham Film Studios, the location used for our shuttle buses in 2019 and 2020.

Both of the above options have more than enough capacity for event traffic of this size.

27. We have submitted version 1 of a Transport Management Plan, Ben Jones from CPA (our Transport management company) has met with Highways and this plan is being developed as part of the planning process.
28. There has been regular dialogue by us with the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and they have made no representations. LFB have confirmed that they are happy with our plans.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

29. The comment in the representation that there has been a festival in Central Park although not of the same nature as that planned under the application is not accurate. We held a similar style show namely, Defected London FSTVL 2019 in Central Park last year. LBBDD have already been consulted about our noise plan and do not have any concerns nor have they made a representation against the licence application. The EHO department at LBBDD and our noise management specialists are the recognised experts in this field and will continue to liaise about the noise management plan.
30. We Are FSTVL, Defected FSTVL and We Are HLLWN FSTVL have a strong track record for cleaning and waste management in the relevant local areas. As a part of our procedure, there are always before and after photographs of the areas that we clean up, quite often we make areas far tidier than they were pre event. We only work with the best Waste Management events teams in the country as we take pride in leaving the local environment better than we found it.
31. We Are FSTVL in Havering was on an event site that has a water course that flows into a SSSI. The senior management team at We Are FSTVL have dedicated links with Natural England and DEFRA who have helped us develop mitigation measures over the last 3 years. We have worked well alongside their team to establish in good working partnership. As a result, we have an experienced wildlife consultant that is able to deal with any specific enquiries that you or the licensing authority may have with regards to the public municipal park grounds that make up Central Park Dagenham.
32. The Defected 2019 SAG debrief report and HLLWN 2019 SAG Debrief report they make no mention of any public nuisance or anyone going into Romford after the Festivals had finished. We have transport modelling data and records for bus numbers on all egress routes to show where people went post event.

The Protection of Children from Harm

33. At We Are FSTVL 2019, we had a team which carried out a huge number of test purchases with a very small failure rate. The independent company employed to do so conducted 48 test purchases at the event. Nevertheless, we have decided to adopt the No ID no Sale policy for 2020. In addition, there were 14093 "challenge 25" challenges over the three days and there were 637 refusals.

At Defected 2019 and We Are HLLWN 2019 our test purchase operation was a success. At Defected, there were 6264 challenges of which 49 were refusals. At HLLWN, there were 1862 challenges of which 22 were refusals.

34. During the crowd surge on the Saturday of We Are FSTVL 2019, we did not carry out ID checks for a very short period following the instruction given via Event Control that the incident was a public safety issue. Priority was given to speeding up admission. The incident was contained in a matter of minutes.
35. According to figures supplied to us by MPS there were no sexual assaults at We Are FSTVL 2019, therefore we believe the information you have provided is incorrect.
36. We note your recommendation that if a premises licence is to be granted, it should only be a 3-year licence. No reason is given for this. Please can you explain the rationale why the licence conditions and our Event Management Plans can only be effective for 3 years and will fail in subsequent years of the proposed licence.
37. With regard to your suggestion that the SAG will make a final decision about an event going ahead, please see the detailed conditions that we have provided which ensure the procedure for approving the Event Management Plan in each year of the licence prior to the event being allowed to take place. This is a tried and tested procedure throughout the UK.

I hope you find our detailed response helpful and if you require further clarification of our plans or anything in this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

We understand that the licencing authority are arranging a mediation meeting and we look forward to discussing your concerns there.

Yours sincerely,

Reece Miller