

OLDHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING PANEL - ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

The procedure outlined below, which was enclosed with the notice of hearing sent to each party, and a copy of which is before you today, will be followed.

Documentary evidence may be relied upon and considered by the Panel if it has been served on the Licensing Authority prior to the hearing, or if all parties consent it can be produced on the day of the hearing.

Any person wishing to call a witness to speak at the hearing must have applied in writing for permission from the Licensing Authority at least 5 working days before the hearing and must also have provided the name of the witness and a brief description of the points on which that person may be able to assist the authority in relation to their application, representations or notice. Any application to call a witness where the party has not given 5 working days notice will be considered by the Panel at the beginning of the hearing and permission will not be unreasonably withheld.

Each party will have the same amount of time in which to address the Panel, a time limit has been set because of pressures on the Panel to hear so many applications in a short period of time. Each party will have 20 minutes to address the authority and give any further information (which must be relevant to that party's or another party's application or representation). Where any party considers this time to be insufficient then, a request in writing may be made to the Constitutional Services Officer for an extension of time at least two working days before the hearing; however this will not automatically be granted, and will be at the discretion of the Panel.

Any person behaving in a disruptive manner will be asked to leave the hearing, however, if this occurs that person will be entitled to submit in writing any information they would have been entitled to give orally.

The Authority will provide a record of the hearing in a permanent and intelligible form and keep it for 6 years from the date of determination or disposal of any Appeal.

Members are advised that they are making decisions in a quasi-judicial manner. As such, they have a duty to view all evidence presented before them impartially. Members must disregard any information given by a party which is not relevant to the promotion of the licensing objectives. The Panel is not bound by the formal rules of evidence. Nevertheless, Members must carry out their duty placing what weight they feel is appropriate given the nature of the evidence and the manner in which it was obtained, and communicated.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION

The Constitutional Services Officer (“the Clerk”) will welcome those present and outline the procedure to be followed (as set out below) and record those present. The Clerk will remind everyone that each party will have 20 minutes to address the Panel and give any further information.

APPLICATION

The Clerk to the Panel will outline the nature of the application.

The applicant and/or their representative to address the Panel, present additional information in support of the application (where consent to do so has been granted) and call any witnesses (subject to having given the required prior notice or having received permission at the beginning of the hearing). The Applicant and any witnesses may be questioned by Members of the Panel.

Any party, if given permission by the panel, may question the applicant and his witnesses, but this shall not take the form of cross examination.

REPRESENTATIONS

The Party making the representation and/or their representative to address the members of the Panel, providing any additional information in support of their representation (where consent to do so has been granted) and call any witnesses (subject to having given the required prior notice or having received permission at the beginning of the hearing). The party and any witnesses may be questioned by Members of the Panel.

In the event that a number of members of the public are present at the meeting who intend to make a representation in relation to the application as interested parties then the Chair has discretion to ask that they appoint a nominated spokesperson to present their representations.

Any party, if given permission by the panel, may question the party making representations and his witnesses, but this shall not take the form of cross examination.

These representations will be taken in the following order: -

- Police Representation
- Environmental Health Representation
- Other Responsible Authorities Representation
- Public Representation (Interested Parties)

CLOSING STATEMENTS

The party making the representation may summarise their representation and make a closing statement.

The holder of the premises licence may summarise their representation and make a closing statement.

The Applicant may summarise the application and make a closing statement.

SUMMARY The Chair to summarise who has made representations.

DETERMINATION

The Panel Members will leave the hearing to consider their decision in private. The panels may request the Services of legal representative and Constitutional Services Officer.

The Chair of the Panel will announce the determination of the application and the reasons for that determination, and it will then be confirmed in writing within 5 working days of the hearing.