

CERTIFICATE UNDER SECTION 53A(1)(b) OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003

I hereby certify that in my opinion the premises described below are associated with serious crime.

Premises: Church Inn, 477 Oldham Road, Failsworth, M35 0AA

Premises licence number (if known): PL 0074

Name of premises supervisor (if known): Miss Kerry Dowdall

I am a (Police Chief Superintendent Estelle Mathieson) of the Greater Manchester Police force. I am giving this certificate because I believe other procedures under the Licensing Act are inappropriate in this case, because:

On the 31/10/2025 approximately 23:30 hrs at the Church Inn in Failsworth, a fight broke out in the dance floor area. This involved the defendant and several unknown offenders.

The cause of the fight is unknown however via CCTV, one unknown male can be seen smashing a bottle on the head of one person and then using his arm in a stabbing motion against another, this would be considered a section 20/18 assault under the Offences against the Person Act 1861.

Another male can be seen to throw a wooden stool towards another male. The security team arrives but can be seen to keep their distance from the aggressors and do not intervene or take any form of positive action to deal with the events as they make their way out via the beer garden. After a few moments the offenders move out of the premises onto Oldham Road whereby the fight continued in the road. This was dangerous for road users and the individuals fighting. Once again, no intervention is taken by the door team on the premises. It is also of note that Greater Manchester Police did not receive any calls from the premises to report the matter or request the police. Even though one of the individuals had smashed a bottle over another person's head and had made stabbing motions, then it continued outside the premises.

PC 05079 Alexander was passing in a liveried vehicle and stopped to de-escalate the situation, which to be clear the door team should have already taken actions to resolve. As she attempted to detain one of the offenders, another male from the group can be seen on CCTV approaching from behind and punching PC Alexander to the face.

This caused PC Alexander to immediately fall, banging her head on the floor and was then rendered unconscious. Witnesses reported seeing her begin having what was described as fits or convulsions.

One would expect that the door team or members of the management would have assisted the seriously injured officer and intervened. At no point did either of the door security assist in trying to separate the fighting outside the premises and help the lone police officer.

When officers arrived, she was not conscious but breathing and NWS quickly attended and transported her to hospital. All offenders had run away from scene prior to further patrols attending the scene.

A crime scene was secured in the premises and Oldham Road (A62) which required police patrols to guard over night during a busy weekend.

The male responsible for the attack on the police officer was subsequently arrested and charged with section 20 assault, affray and possession of class A drug (cocaine).

The DPS was not present and left her father in control of the premises and to manage the public house. The father was witnessed by the officer who had attended to view and seize CCTV immediately after the events to be heavily under the influence of alcohol, so much so, that he became obstructive to the officer. To allow the officer to be able to undertake the investigation he was arrested for obstructing the police officers in the execution of their duties. This was a dynamic situation to apprehend the individual who had assaulted the officer. The manager of the premises at the time only hindered matters and was clearly not in complete control due to his intoxicated state.

Three of the four licensing objectives have been breached; Crime and disorder, public nuisance and public safety. This was a serious incident which took place at the premises. There were crimes of S 20 assault, what could be considered violent disorder and serious disorder. Members of the public were in danger and or fear and apprehension of violence. Outside the premises where a female police officer was punched unconscious was also not dealt with appropriately by the door team or premises overall.

I am satisfied that the conduct constitutes an offence for which a person aged 21 years of age or over with no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for 3 or more years as per section 81(3) Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA 2000). Satisfying the definition for serious crime.

It was also what would be considered a scene of violent disorder and serious disorder inside and outside of the premises. Using bottles as weapons and fighting in the main thoroughfare of a busy road.

In the interim, Greater Manchester Police would request that the licensing authority consider suspension of the premise licence until the full review is heard before the committee. At that time all matters can be fully addressed whilst being able to consider all the necessary evidence.

The premises has not been managed appropriately and that due to these concerns until Greater Manchester Police can investigate, discuss and consider the management of the premises that it would be unsafe for patrons to attend at this present time.

The incident which occurred raises concerns over the management of the premises and the ability of the Licence Holder and the Designated Premise Supervisor to promote the licensing objectives.

There have also been some other incidents of note involving the use of knives which were being brought to the premise and a glassing which occurred in May 2025. A full analysis will take place in relation to the premises.

I have considered all powers available and feel that closure powers contained within Section 76 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 are inappropriate due to the limited 48-hour closure not being sufficient to protect the public. The notice would expire before the matter was heard and in any event once heard would be transferred to the licensing authority for consideration.

Section 51 of the Act in addition to the above is inappropriate due to the serious nature of the offence being investigated.

The powers contained under Section 53A the Licensing Act 2003 are appropriate to be exercised due to the above previously mentioned powers being inappropriate for the purposes of this review. There are safeguarding issues and immediate concerns that the management of the premises is failing to promote the licensing objectives or the prevention of crime and disorder, public nuisance and public safety. It is correct and proper that the committee should consider such an application having the necessary knowledge and understanding of the area and premises.

By failing to promote the licensing objectives it has led to serious crime and disorder occurring at this premise and that serious physical injury to a police officer and members of the public.

Chief Superintendent Estelle Mathieson – 03/11/2025