

[REDACTED]
St Michael's Alley
London [REDACTED]
22 March 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Representation re George & Vulture

I am a local resident in St Michael's Alley whose front door is less than 100 feet from that of the G&V and even closer to Castle Court. I have lived here for 20 years and during that time the G&V has been a restaurant only, opening at lunch (closing at 4pm) & occasionally opening in the evenings for private events. I write to object to the removal of condition 4 of Annex 2.

I understand that the G&V could, in theory, operate as a pub now, but with condition 4 of Annex 2 in place (which restricts the use of the ground floor bar to waiter/waitress service only and forbids the consumption of alcohol by the public in that bar), they would have to set up a separate bar on the ground floor, which might be difficult for several reasons.

The license conditions were imposed by the Magistrates Court at least 20-30 years ago and it is reasonable to assume that they were deemed necessary to restrict vertical drinking and overcrowding both inside and outside in the narrow alleys. There were already drinkers in the alley from the Jamaica Wine House, and the probable intention then would have been to avoid adding to the numbers.

The reason for having this condition has not changed, so requiring the condition to remain is entirely reasonable and proportionate. Indeed now that the numbers of outside drinkers has increased substantially (at least doubling over 10 years)), I would argue that to remove the condition would be unreasonable, knowingly adding to the public nuisance already suffered. The fact that the City of London does not have a "cumulative impact policy" (very surprising) should not affect this decision. It is the likelihood for increased public nuisance that is relevant.

You will know that the Alley is narrow and high-sided and already contains 2 licensed pubs whose customers completely fill the alleyways and George Yard in the mild afternoons and evenings, especially from April through December. On peak days, numbers can exceed 400 in George Yard alone, with another 250+ in St Michael's Alley. George Yard has now become a "venue" attracting buskers, beggars & the alcoholic homeless who steal drinks. These numbers are very difficult to manage.

The records within Licensing might not show many complaints. Residents & businesses no longer complain either to the Police or to Licensing because

frankly, we believe that very little will be done to reduce the numbers of outside drinkers, which is the real source of all the problems.

Regards

Jude Goffe (Miss)