

From: [Debbie Voss](#)
To: [M&CP - Licensing](#)
Subject: Formal Objection to Premises Licence Application for Forge, 24 Cornhill EC3V 3ND
Date: 08 October 2024 20:51:47

THIS IS AN EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear City of London Licensing Authority,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the premises licence application submitted by Stonegate Pub Company Limited for Forge at 24 Cornhill, EC3V 3ND. This objection stems from the serious and dangerous implications associated with promoting excessive alcohol consumption, which often leads to binge drinking and escalates into antisocial behaviour, potential sexual assaults, illegal drug use, and other criminal activities. The proposed licensing hours pose a real threat to public safety and order, and I respectfully outline below the reasons that substantiate this objection.

1. Public Nuisance and Antisocial Behaviour (Licensing Act 2003)

The Licensing Act 2003 emphasizes the importance of preventing public nuisance, which includes noise, litter, and antisocial behaviour. Extending the operating hours of Forge until 3 AM on weekdays and 4 AM on Saturdays creates an environment ripe for binge drinking, which is known to result in violent altercations, vandalism, and other disruptive behaviour. Given the location of Forge in proximity to both residential and commercial areas, these risks are heightened, with likely disturbances spilling into the surrounding streets late into the night.

Legal precedents, such as *William Charles Hope and Nicholas James Glory, trading as Hope and Glory Public House Ltd v Westminster Magistrates' Court* [2011] EWCA Civ 31, demonstrate that anticipated public nuisance is sufficient grounds for refusal of a licence, even without prior issues. The risks here are not hypothetical. Similar establishments operating late into the night have historically led to increased levels of antisocial behaviour, often involving intoxicated patrons engaging in disorderly conduct. Furthermore, such disturbances can affect anyone in the vicinity, not just nearby residents, as affirmed in *Daniel Thwaites Plc v Wirral Borough Magistrates Court* [2008] EWHC 838 (Admin).

2. Escalation of Dangerous Behaviours and Public Safety (Licensing Act 2003 and Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)

The sale of alcohol as well as Forge's heavily discounted drink offers in a late-night setting, coupled with insufficient oversight, heightens the risk of binge drinking and related hazards such as sexual assaults, violence, and substance abuse. Such an environment encourages reckless behaviour, where intoxicated individuals are more likely to engage in criminal activities, posing serious threats to the safety of patrons and the public alike. The application lacks robust measures to address these concerns.

Cases like *Peter Wainwright v South Ribble Borough Council* reinforce the necessity for thorough safety protocols to protect not only the patrons but also those in the surrounding area. The lack of adequate crowd control and safety measures in this application raises serious questions about whether Forge's management is prepared to handle the consequences of intoxicated, unruly crowds spilling into the streets late at night. Without sufficient safeguards, this venue is likely to become a hotspot for dangerous incidents.

3. Inadequate Management and Failure to Prevent Dangerous Situations

The management plan included in this application is woefully inadequate in demonstrating that the venue will be able to prevent the inevitable escalation of violence, antisocial behaviour, and other criminal activities associated with binge drinking. Experience has shown that venues with extended hours, without strict oversight, become breeding grounds for public disorder and lawbreaking.

In *Frederick Godfrey, trading as Quiet Nights Ltd v Birmingham City Council*, the court upheld the revocation of a late-night licence due to the venue's inability to control such behaviour. The same risk exists here. The proposed operating hours will inevitably attract large crowds, many of whom will be heavily intoxicated. The failure to implement robust safeguards in the application suggests a lack of preparation to prevent the dangerous situations that could result from binge drinking and drug use in the area.

Conclusion

The premises licence application for Forge at 24 Cornhill EC3V 3ND poses serious risks to public safety and order, and promotes an environment conducive to binge drinking, which can lead to violent antisocial behaviour, sexual assaults, and other dangerous outcomes. In light of the significant concerns outlined above and the supporting legal precedents, I respectfully urge the Licensing Authority to reject this application or, at the very least, impose stringent conditions to mitigate these risks.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,
Debbie Voss