



Subject:	Applications for the Variation of a 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for The Merchant Hotel, 16 Skipper Street.
Date:	15 June 2022
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435
Contact Officer:	Quintin Thompson, Senior Building Control Surveyor, Ext 2570

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues						
1.1	<p>To consider an application for the variation of a 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for the hours during which entertainment may be provided at the Merchant Hotel based on the Council's Standard Conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.</p> <table><tr><td>Area and Location</td><td>Ref. No.</td><td>Applicant</td></tr><tr><td>The Merchant Hotel 16 Skipper Street Belfast BT1 2DZ</td><td>WK/202002061</td><td>The Merchant Hotel Limited, 3 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA</td></tr></table>	Area and Location	Ref. No.	Applicant	The Merchant Hotel 16 Skipper Street Belfast BT1 2DZ	WK/202002061	The Merchant Hotel Limited, 3 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA
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1.2	A location map is attached as Appendix 1.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Taking into account the information presented and any representations received Members are required to consider the application and to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approve the application for the variation of the 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for permission to provide entertainment to 3.00am, or b) Approve the application for the variation with special conditions, or c) Refuse the application for the variation of the 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for permission to provide entertainment to 3.00am.
2.2	<p>If an application is refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court. In the case that the applicant subsequently decides to appeal, entertainment may not be provided to the later hours until any such appeal is determined.</p>
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The areas currently Licensed to provide indoor entertainment and their maximum occupancies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Merchant Hotel - 300 • The Cloth Ear - 300 • Ollies Nightclub - 550 • Ollies Garden Room - 20 • Bert's - 240 • Conference Room 1 - 100 • Conference Room 2 - 100 • Conference Room 3 - 100 • Conference Room 1,2 & 3 - 100 • 4th Floor Lounge - 40 • USC Ground Floor Front Bar - 50 • USC Ground Floor Rear Bar - 144 • USC First Floor Rear Bar - 220 • USC First Floor Front Bar - 30
3.2	<p>The days and hours during which entertainment may be provided under the terms of the indoor Entertainments Licence are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday to Saturday: 11.30am to 1.00am the following morning, • Sunday: 12.30pm to 12.00midnight.
3.3	<p>In addition to the above standard operating hours entertainment may be provided in Ollie's Nightclub to 3.00am seven days a week and the USC First Floor Rear Bar to 3.00am on Friday and Saturday nights.</p>
3.4	<p>The days and hours during which entertainment is proposed to be provided, are:</p>

- Monday to Sunday: 11.30am to 3.00am the following morning.

3.5 Members are reminded that applications to provide indoor entertainment beyond 1.00am are subject to consideration by Committee.

3.6 The applicant has stated that the extension of hours to 3.00am is to fulfil the customers demand for a late night music venue and will be used in conjunction with Article 44a extension to Liquor Licensing hours.

3.7 This premises also has an outdoor entertainments licence for a beer garden with an occupancy of 60 persons. The days and hours during which entertainment may be provided under the terms of the outdoor Entertainments Licence are:

- Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday: 11.30am to 1.00am the following morning,

3.8 Layout plans of the premises are attached at Appendix 2.

Representations

3.9 Public notice of the application has been placed and no written representation has been lodged as a result of the advertisement.

PSNI

3.10 The Police Service of Northern Ireland have been consulted and has confirmed that they have no objection to the application.

3.11 A copy of their correspondence is attached at Appendix 3.

NIFRS

3.12 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service have been consulted in relation to the application and has confirmed that they have no objection to the application.

Health, safety and welfare

3.13 An inspection has been carried out on the premises within the past 12 months and Officers from the Service are satisfied with all safety measures and management procedures.

Noise

3.14 No noise complaints have been received in relation to the premises in the last 12-month period.

3.15 Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2011 gives the council additional powers in relation to the control of entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.

Applicant

3.16 The applicant, and/or their representatives, will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the application.

3.17	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.18	<p>There are no issues associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Location map • Appendix 2 – Layout Plans • Appendix 3 – PSNI Response