

I am Nathan Howson, Enforcement Team Leader (Licensing), an authorised officer of Chorley Council under the Licensing Act 2003. I make these representations on behalf of the Licensing Authority, acting in the capacity of a responsible authority, following an application for the review of a premises licence made by the PC 6884 Connolly on behalf of the Chief Officer of Police of Lancashire Constabulary.

This representation relates to the premises known as The Imperial, 59 Union Street, Chorley, PR7 1AB and are concerned with the following licensing objective being undermined at the premises:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

On 30.03.22, an application to vary the premises licence to specify Darren TICKLE as the designated premises supervisor for the premises was made. An objection was made by Lancashire Constabulary and the application was withdrawn by Trust Inns on 12.04.22.

From 30.03.22, I am aware the premises has been under the control of Chris TICKLE and Darren TICKLE, although I was informed that there was a period where Darren was no longer involved, before coming back on board.

A number of DPS variations were subsequently made by the premises licence holder, summarised below:

Date Submitted	Proposed DPS	Outcome of application
12.05.22	Brendan Ferguson	Following conversation with licensing officers regarding his responsibility towards the premises, withdrew his consent to be designated on 19.05.22.
26.05.22	Lee Holden	Following objection from the police, the application was withdrawn by the Premises Licence Holder on 06.06.22.
09.06.22	Phillip Marrow	Granted and in force until 25.08.22
25.08.22	Christopher Tickle	Following objection from the Police, the application was withdrawn by the Premises Licence Holder on 09.09.22.

Throughout May and June 2022, I had a number of conversations with Chris Tickle and explained I was not satisfied there was adequate supervision of the premises due to the "interim" DPS who were being specified. Chris was in the process of applying for a personal licence and I received numerous assurances that he would shortly become the DPS.

Since the period the Tickle's have been the tenants at this premises, it has been clear that they have, ultimately, been in charge of the premises.

On 17.06.22 and at 2355hrs, I was undertaking night-time enforcement duties in the Town Centre and attended The Imperial in company with another Licensing Officer. During this visit, music was very loud, and it was difficult to converse without shouting in the premises. Chris Tickle was in attendance and was heavily intoxicated, stating he was not on duty that night. I advised Chris that he must submit his application for a personal licence and be specified as the designated premises

supervisor without delay. There was a female who purported to be the “bar manager” who I showed some resources for staff training and how to sell alcohol responsibly to.

On 20.07.22, I received an email from a person called Richard Brumfield who described himself as the manager of the Imperial. Richard asked me for contact details for the Pubwatch Scheme and I provided the Scheme with his details. I received a follow up email from Richard on 28.07.22 stated that he hadn’t had any contact. On chasing this up, I was informed that the Pubwatch Co-ordinator had attended the premises and had been told that they didn’t want anything to do with Pubwatch as the banned persons are their customers and that they sacked their last manager as they wanted to be part of Pubwatch.

On 29.07.22, I received an email from Lesley Miller, an Environmental Health Officer, regarding a noise complaint at the premises. This complaint alleged very excessive noise being played from the premises on a Tuesday evening.

On 03.08.22, I received correspondence from the manager of another licensed venue in Chorley Town Centre which alleged that The Imperial was becoming associated with significant drug use both inside and down the side of the premises.

On 16.08.22, I attended the premises with another licensing officer. During this visit, I met with Chris TICKLE and another person who identified herself as “Alison” and stated she was the bar manager. Chris confirmed at this point that Darren TICKLE was again involved in the premises.

During our conversation, I advised that the premises was becoming the source of complaints from various different sources and that I was concerned about the management of the premises. I asked why the premises hadn’t become a member of Pubwatch where Alison advised that the previous bar manager was supposed to sort this out but didn’t.

I advised that an incident had occurred at the premises the previous weekend where a person who is on the Pubwatch barred list had been implicated. Alison stated she was aware of this person and that he was on the barred list, but that he was “never any trouble” at the premises. I stated it didn’t make sense knowingly allowing barred persons into the premises, whilst purportedly waiting admission into the Pubwatch Scheme. There were a number of conditions of the premises licence which were not being complied with which I pointed out to the management. I advised I would expect to see immediate improvement at the premises and that I would attend on the Friday to check this, or enforcement action would follow.

Following this visit and on 19.08.22, the following Friday, I again attended the premises. I identified a number of issues at the premises and, as a result, provided correspondence to the Premises Licence Holder. I produce a copy of this correspondence as Appendix 1. This correspondence gives the detail of the visit.

Following this, I am aware the Police had cause to visit the premises on a number of occasions.

On 09.09.22, I received confirmation from Trust Inns that the application to specify Christopher TICKLE as DPS was being withdrawn. From this date, there hasn’t been a DPS specified at the premises and so it has remained closed.