

Date: 19 August 2022  
Our Ref: 22/00571/LAPLA  
Doc Type: LICORR

Civic Offices  
Union Street  
Chorley  
PR7 1AL

Trust Inns Limited  
Blenheim House  
Foxhole Road  
Chorley  
PR7 1NY

Dear Trust Inns Limited,

**Re: PLA0253**  
**The Imperial, 59 Union Street, Chorley**  
**Licensing Act 2003**

I write following a number of visits to the above premises and wish to make you aware of incidents which are occurring at the premises.

Chorley Council has received a number of reports regarding the premises, initially relating to noise nuisance. An Environmental Health officer of Chorley Council attended the premises at the beginning of the month and discussed the issues with both Darren and Chris Tickle. During this visit, the officer pointed out a condition of the premises licence which requires the premises to be fitted with a noise limiter. The Tickles confirmed that there was no such device fitted at the premises.

The Council has also received allegations of drug dealing and drug taking at the premises, with the management allegedly "turning a blind eye". To be clear, these allegations have not been substantiated, but come from reputable sources.

The Police has received a number of complaints regarding disorder, including a report of a person being assaulted at the premises by a person who is on Chorley Pubwatch's barred list. In this log, the person is described as being a "part-time bouncer" at the premises.

A colleague and I attended the premises on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 to discuss these issues. We were met by a person who described herself as the manager, Alison, and Chris Tickle. I've informally visited the premises before and have yet to meet the DPS, Phillip Marrow, and I understand there was another manager in place who had recently left, Rick.

Chris advised that, in relation to the noise issues, he was now following the officer's advice and was conducting check in the outside areas. He also stated that the windows were closed when entertainment was being played.

I asked why the venue had not yet become involved with Pubwatch, despite on an earlier visit informing me that they were very keen to get involved with Pubwatch and would make arrangements to join the scheme. I was informed that the previous manager, Rick, had requested the "Pubwatch paperwork" but was still waiting, despite there being no bar to joining the scheme based on paperwork. I was informed Rick had left the business 2 weeks ago, but that there had been no further advance on joining Pubwatch.



01257 515151



[chorley.gov.uk](http://chorley.gov.uk)

I informed Chris that the Pubwatch Co-ordinator had told me he'd attended the venue and had been told in no uncertain terms that they weren't interested in Pubwatch as they were "their customers". Chris denied this.

Chris stated that he was not aware of drug dealing/ taking at the premises and that he would find out who was doing it and bar them.

We then spoke about the incident regarding disorder at the premises. I was informed that Alison was aware of the individual and that she was aware that he was on the barred list but that he was "never any trouble" and so was allowed in the venue. I explained it was concerning that, in their words, they were awaiting admission to the scheme and were waiting for the Pubwatch applications but were knowingly allowing persons who were on the barred list access to the venue.

I then pointed out the following conditions of the premises licence:

- 2) Any amplified sound must be connected to a noise limiter or cut out device of a type and with settings approved by Environment Services and to be used at all times during public entertainment. Officers from the Environmental Services Unit reserve the right to check the settings on the noise limiter at any reasonable time.*
- 3) The licensee shall ensure that the noise limiting or cut out device is not tampered with, bypassed or adjusted in any manner without the consent of the Environmental Services Unit.*
- 4) The licensee shall ensure that the noise limiter or cut out device is working at all times and will not hold public entertainment in the event that the noise limiter or cut out device ceases to work. Environmental Services should be notified of any fault as soon as is reasonably practicable.*
- 5) Environmental Services should be notified within 24hours of any amendment or adaptation to the entertainment equipment (i.e. amplifiers and speakers) or noise limiter/cut out device in place at the time the licence is granted.*
- 7) All recorded music to be at a background level only from 23.00 onwards*

I advised that the EHO had pointed these conditions out at towards the beginning of the month and asked what progress had been made towards ensuring compliance. I was informed that there had been no progress and that the noise limiter was still not functioning. Chris showed me that there was a noise limiter on the premises but that it didn't work. I told Chris I expected this to be rectified by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August.

Alison provided a Trust Inns "due diligence" book which was filled with various paperwork. This paperwork had clearly just been printed and placed in a folder; nothing was filled in or signed and both Chris and Alison stated they hadn't read it.

I attended the premises again today, Friday 19<sup>th</sup>, to check compliance with the noise limiter condition. Alison advised that the DJ had ordered the part and was coming later on to fit it. She messaged the DJ whilst I waited and he replied that he hadn't ordered the part and that he wouldn't be able to come in today. Chris arrived at the premises and I raised an incident of disorder which was alleged to have happened at the premises the previous evening.

Chris stated it had been a group of girls and there was nothing to it. I asked to view the CCTV. The CCTV showed that a male had exited the premises without a shirt and that an altercation had occurred directly outside of the premises, comprising of a number of people. This spilled out across the street. Some of the persons who appeared to be involved were permitted access back into the premises. As an aside, I found the CCTV to be of poor quality and the frame rate was very slow. I consider this to be far below the usual accepted standard for licensed premises in 2022.

I asked Chris about the male and he stated he had entered the premises at approximately 1700hrs and his shirt was hanging off, with only one button remaining but that he had taken his shirt off during the evening. I asked why he hadn't been refused entry or why he hadn't been ejected when his shirt had been removed. Chris couldn't answer this and didn't especially see a problem with a person not having a shirt on in the venue at approximately half midnight. Chris denied that any person who had been involved was permitted access back to the premises and stated he thought it would have been wasting police time to call the police.

I informed Chris that he must not provide regulated entertainment at the premises without the noise limiter being in place.

I'm concerned that there are a number of different issues occurring at the premises which appear to be connected with poor management.

Yours sincerely

Nathan Howson  
Enforcement Team Leader (Licensing)

cc. Police Licensing Unit  
Designated Premises Supervisor