

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 17 November 2025
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: Rennes Room, Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business.

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Josie McDonald, Democratic Services Officer (Committees) on 01392 265354 or email committee.services@exeter.gov.uk

Entry to the Civic Centre can be gained through the Customer Services Centre, Paris Street.

Membership -
Councillors Snow, Fullam and Holland

Agenda

Part I: Items suggested for discussion with the press and public present

4 To Determine a Review of a Premises Licence

To consider the report of the Head of Service – Environment and Waste.

(Pages 3 -
8)

Individual reports on this agenda can be produced in large print on request to Democratic Services (Committees) on 01392 265425.

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Agenda Item 4

From: Christopher Rees Gay
Sent: Thu, 6 Nov 2025 19:54:40 +0000
To: "'david.dadds@dadds.co.uk'" <david.dadds@dadds.co.uk>
Cc: "Licensing Team" <licensing.team@exeter.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Premises Licence Review - Timepiece, Little Castle Street, Exeter, Devon, EX4 3PX
Attachments: TP Proposed Conditions - 14.10.25-CRG2025101416453729.docx

Dear David,

Thank you for your email below, I will respond as follows:

I can confirm that the welfare of customers is of primary importance to our client.

As is set out in our statements and in the CCTV that we seek to rely on, Timepiece's staff assisted the complainant, in particular the female door supervisor that engaged with the complainant and her friends.

Thank you for now confirming that the 'main incident' actually took place on 19 September and not 20 September. We are certain from the CCTV that Complainant A was in fact wearing jeans and a pale sleeveless top, not a dress and a jacket. Can you please confirm that the description that you gave below in your email yesterday is wrong.

We are taking it from your response below, as you have only described one female, that both the 'main incident' and Incident 2 are the same incident, as is our belief.

Thank you for your additional information and witness statements, we will respond in due course.

Timepiece does have an 'Incident Log' - the report for this incident is contained in our supporting evidence.

I can confirm, again as is set out in our documents, that staff are appropriately trained in responding to vulnerable patrons.

For confirmation, our client has received 2 emails in total from you. The first email on 21 September when you lodged the review. That email was not addressed to my client.

The second email received on 27 September was where you ask our client to 'confirm the best method for submitting confidential information relating to the review', the trust of the email relating to confidentiality of material, as set out in the title of the email "Request for Confidential Contact or Solicitor Details – Timepiece Licensing Review".

In relation to conditions, we have worked closely in partnership with the Police and agreed an update to the conditions on the premises licence. As is confirmed by the Police in their Representation, Timepiece are already were already undertaking these conditions.

If you could please confirm that the description of the clothing that you have given for Complainant A is incorrect and that she was in fact wearing jeans and a pale coloured sleeveless top.

Your sincerely

Christopher Rees-Gay

Woods Whur
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Mobile: 07516029758

chris@woodswhur.co.uk

Woods Whur, St James House, 28 Park Place, Leeds, LS1 2SP

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From: David Dadds <david.dadds@dadds.co.uk>

Sent: 5 November 2025 13:47

To: Christopher Rees Gay <chris@woodswhur.co.uk>

Cc: Licensing Team <licensing.team@exeter.gov.uk>; David Dadds <david.dadds@dadds.co.uk>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Premises Licence Review - Timepiece, Little Castle Street, Exeter, Devon, EX4 3PX

Dear Christopher,

Thank you for your email and for following up on these points.

Before addressing your specific queries, I am surprised that you have not enquired as to the welfare of the complainant following what was clearly a distressing incident. It is my understanding that any responsible operator should be concerned for the wellbeing of those involved and should maintain an incident book to record such events.

I would expect that staff present would have assisted the complainant, particularly as the female door supervisor did engage with the complainant and her friends, and assisted her out of the upstairs area via the fire exits.

Turning to your questions:

Descriptions of Females:

As previously indicated, the main incident relates to a single female complainant, who is an Exeter University student. The details provided in the witness statements (enclosed) include her approximate age (early 20s), student status, and the clothing worn on the night (casual student attire, including a dress and jacket). The incident occurred on 19 September 2025, around 23:00, and all references relate to the same individual.

Spiking:

The review application refers to a suspected spiking based on the complainant's symptoms and the initial police urine test, which indicated the presence of a substance associated with drink spiking. This matter is referenced in the witness statements and was reported to the police, who are investigating further. The omission in my letter dated 27 September 2025 was not intended to downplay the seriousness of the allegation, but we are waiting the outcome of police enquiries, and investigation.

I am enclosing additional information and statements which clarify the circumstances and the complainant's experience.

I trust this clarifies the position and provides the information you require. Please confirm whether Timepiece maintains an incident book and whether staff have received appropriate training in responding to vulnerable patrons, as this was a key concern raised in the review application.

Kind regards

David

Ps.

We have previously written to the premises in an effort to engage and open a discussion, but unfortunately have received no response. Notwithstanding this lack of engagement, there remain serious concerns regarding the welfare and safety of customers. From the outset, our intention has only been to request the imposition of additional conditions to improve safety. Given the circumstances, seeking a review of the premises licence is both a proportionate and appropriate step and we remain open to discuss our application and additional steps.

David Dadds

Dadds LLP Licensing Solicitors

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From: Christopher Rees Gay <chris@woodswhur.co.uk>

Sent: 03 November 2025 11:20

To: David Dadds <david.dadds@dadds.co.uk>

Cc: Licensing Team <licensing.team@exeter.gov.uk>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Premises Licence Review - Timepiece, Little Castle Street, Exeter, Devon, EX4 3PX

Importance: High

[EXTERNAL] Beware – This email originated outside Dadds LLP and may be malicious. Please take extra care with any links, attachments, requests to take action or verify your password etc.

Dear David,

I am following up on the below please. Could you please respond in relation to the 'descriptions of females' and the 'spiking' points.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Rees-Gay

Woods Whur
Tel: +44 (0)113 234 3055
Mobile: 07516029758

chris@woodswhur.co.uk

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From: Christopher Rees Gay

Sent: 30 October 2025 11:05

To: david.dadds@dadds.co.uk

Cc: Licensing Team <licensing.team@exeter.gov.uk>

Subject: Premises Licence Review - Timepiece, Little Castle Street, Exeter, Devon, EX4 3PX

Dear David,

We are instructed by the operator of Timepiece, in relation to the review of the premises licence that you have launched.

Timepiece, as a responsible operator have been working in partnership with the local police in relation to the allegations that have been made. You will now of course have seen the representation from the Police Licensing Team.

Descriptions of Females

So that we can be certain that we are investigating the correct allegations, are you please able to provide physical descriptions of the females in question for what you refer to as the Main Incident (20 September 2025, around 23:00) and Incident 2 (19 September 2025). It is our belief (and that of the Police) that it is the same female and that there was only one alleged incident. This is based on the fact that in the Main Incident you cite (CRN 50250244647, PC18331 Osborne), this incident took place on 19 September 2025 and not on 20 September 2025.

If it is indeed two separate incidents as you allege, could you please let me have physical descriptions including: hair colour, height, build, distinguishing features, clothes that were worn, etc. for each female.

Spiking

The review application also mentions a 'suspected spiking', although spiking is then not mentioned at all in your letter dated 27 September 2025. Are you please able to clarify your position on this. As we are aware that you have served no further evidence in relation to the allegations that you have made.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Rees-Gay

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