

Circus Area Residents Association



28th January 2013

Blue Rooms 13/00332/LAPRE

The Circus Area Residents Association (CARA) has been established since 1987, and our membership consists of over a hundred households. George Street forms one of the boundaries of this area, and we have members living there and very close by.

We are writing in support of the Police application.

Residents living in the vicinity regularly complain about noise nuisance and antisocial behaviour emanating from late night licensed premises in George Street, including the Blue Rooms. This includes shouting, street urination and vomiting, as well as vandalism. In addition residents have seen evidence of public drug taking. George Street has a disproportionately high rate of violent crime and disorder; police statistics show that in the year to September 2012 some 12% of reported violent crime in the city took place here.

Residents often see acts of antisocial behaviour - some of it violent - and public nuisance, much of which is not reported. Most of this comes directly from the operation of the night time economy. George Street has a large number of licensed premises; many of these operate very late at night and in the early hours of the morning, the Blue Rooms being one of the largest.

The crowds outside the Blue Rooms are a regular cause of noise and disturbance to both residents and visitors, and elderly residents have been intimidated by the crowds a number of whom appear intoxicated blocking the pavement, which often means they feel forced to leave the pavement and walk in a busy street, which is patently unsafe.

A considerable number of households in the George Street area are adversely affected by the night time economy. Drugs and drug taking in the early hours are becoming much more noticeable thereabouts. Most residents know about the reported findings on which the Police recommendations to the committee are based. They will feel that it is absolutely essential that the committee support the Police in dealing with what seems to be a focal point of both crime and disorder and public nuisance.

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