

# SOHO SOCIETY LICENSING MANDATE 2024

## Draft 17.2.24

### Area

For licensing purposes, the Soho boundary is understood as that outlined by Oxford Street, Regent Street, Shaftesbury Avenue (both sides) and Charing Cross Road.

We may also consider applications on the border with the London Borough of Camden.

### Our Objectives

- To make Soho a better place for people to live, work and visit by preserving and enhancing the area's historic fabric, its existing character and its diversity of uses; and by improving its facilities, amenities and the sustainability of its environment.
- To protect the amenity and interests of local residents and the interests of smaller traders and workers.

### How we work to achieve this

- Reviewing **ALL** licence applications for Soho
- Making representations on all applications which may impact adversely on residential amenity
- Holding regular monthly committee meetings to review licence applications and discuss licensing issues
- Liaising with the Planning Committee of the Soho Society
- Supporting local residents with licensing issues including reviews
- Liaising with relevant officers from Westminster Council: Licensing, Police, Environmental Health
- Recording all representations and maintaining an accurate archive

### Policy Context

This mandate is written within the context of the following documents:

The Licensing Act 2003 and Westminster's City Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 or subsequent version

The Cumulative Impact Assessment 2023

The Gambling Act 2005, Westminster's Statement of Licensing Principles for Gambling 2022

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended, Westminster's Sexual Entertainment Venues, Statement of Licensing Policy 2012

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, Westminster's Sex Shops Policy 1999

### Licensed Premises

All representations made on behalf of the Society in response to licensed premises applications in the West End Cumulative Impact Zone aim to promote the licensing objectives of:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm

**Our detailed aims are as follows:**

With consideration of cumulative impact and the licensing objectives, we will make representations to the following :

- All applications that wish to trade beyond defined core hours
- All new applications for betting shops, music and dance, night club premises, fast food premises
- All new applications for bars, including non drink-led premises to sell alcohol until 9pm
- All new sex shop licences. Renewal applications if premises perceived to be a problem.
- All new sexual entertainment venue licences. Renewal applications if premises perceived to be a problem.
- Applications to extend the terminal hours of licences on a temporary / time-limited basis
- Reviews of licences
- Late night refreshment licences
- Applications to increase capacity
- Shops applying to sell alcohol after 8pm. We will request premises also provide toilet facilities
- Shops applying for off sales
- Any other applications which may impact adversely on residential amenity

**Relevant considerations**

Authorised members of the Society engaging in licensing matters should always consider the following:

- **Protection of Residential Amenities:** The Society will require particular protection of local residents where noise is intrusive and we will actively seek review of licences that are deemed to be causing a reduction of residential amenity
- **Schools and Nurseries:** Special consideration will be paid to the interests of parents and children in the area of the school and/or nurseries and routes travelled by them as a matter of necessity
- **Proliferation issues:** We will make objections on the ground of proliferation or concentration
- **Environmental Issues;** Particular note will be paid to noise, closing times of premises, the switching off of mechanical equipment such as air conditioning, the disposal of rubbish and bottles, and the orderly and quiet leaving of premises by patrons and staff
- **Quality of the Licensee:** We will make objections and representations in respect of licences where the operator has managed the premises in an unsuitable or inappropriate manner with

regard to the aims of this mandate and the objects of the Society

**Conduct of persons speaking on behalf of the Society**

Any members of the Society who are authorised to engage in licensing-related activities must ensure that oral or written representations, opinions or comments made on the Society's behalf use reasoned and objective argument based on empirical research or direct experience on issues relating to the Charity's objects.

Members must remember at all times their responsibility as representatives of the Society and not conduct themselves in any way that may be likely to call into question its reputation.