



**VW - Merton Borough
VW - Wimbledon Police Station**

Licensing Team

London Borough of Merton
Merton Civic Centre
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Dear Sir/Madam,

Police Representations

Re: Application for a New Premises Licence – Time In RO

On 25th July 2018, I received a copy of an application for a new Premises Licence under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003 for Time In RO, 20-22 Abbottsbury Road, Morden, SM4 5LQ.

The application can be summarised as follows:

A restaurant and event hall open to the public from 0800-2200hrs Mon-Thu, 0800-0430hrs Fri, 0800-0500hrs Sat, and 0800-0100hrs Sun. Alcohol sales for the entire time that the premises is open to the public. Live Music, Recorded Music, and Performance of Dance on Fri/Sat/Sun evenings until close. Late Night Refreshment, ie hot food after 11pm has not been applied for.

The Metropolitan Police Service wishes to make the following representations with regard to two of the four Licensing Objectives:

- 1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder**
- 2. Prevention of Public Nuisance**

I have concerns around the applicant's professional ability to manage a Licensed Premises safely and legally, let alone one that remains open throughout the night. The applicant wishes to open until 4:30am on a Friday night, 5:30am on a Saturday night, and until 1am on a Sunday night. If the application is approved, Time In RO will become the latest opening Licensed Premises in Merton. Control measures have been offered by the applicant as a result of our recent meeting, but these do not adequately address the potentially serious impact that such late opening (including the option of live music) will

have on crime and public nuisance in the local area. If further control measures were imposed, I do not have the confidence in Mr Prisecaru to maintain those measures.

The applicant, Mr Prisecaru rents or owns two adjacent premises within a parade of shops in Morden town centre. He also has control of the residential flats above the premises, which are currently occupied. Mr Prisecaru is currently using the premises at No 20 Abbotsbury Road as a Romanian bar/restaurant, named Time In RO. He wishes to expand the restaurant to include the floor area of No 22 Abbotsbury Road and intends to create a large open archway between the two premises to effectively double the size of his restaurant.

The floor area of No 22 Abbotsbury Road is intended to be used as an event venue, for weddings and parties, with a stage area / DJ booth in one corner (not marked on the plan). Mr Prisecaru told me that he would install a noise limiter but would not commit to proposed dB levels.

Mr Prisecaru claims to be a qualified Accountant.

This current application is the third submission due to the first two being rejected by Merton Council as incorrect. Each submission has varied significantly in terms of hours and layout. Mr Prisecaru told me that his previous submission was to licence No 22 separately from No 20 as he was unsure if the shorter lease on No 20 would be renewed. If he lost No 20, Mr Prisecaru could then move his business into No 22. Mr Prisecaru also told me that by having two separate licensed premises he could avoid Business Rates.

I originally arranged to meet the applicant at his restaurant on Wednesday 18th July, but unfortunately Mr Prisecaru forgot to attend. We rescheduled for the following evening.

Immediately prior to our meeting on 19th July 2018, I discovered that the Premises Licence for No 20 Abbotsbury Road (Currently operating as Time in RO) had been suspended for non-payment of the annual fee. Mr Prisecaru was keen to phone the Council Licensing in front of me. When he admitted to having dissolved the company to which the licence was registered three years ago, it became apparent that the Premises Licence he had been operating his restaurant under was not valid and could not be re-instated.

I served a Closure Notice on 20 Abbotsbury Road for attempting to carry out licensable activities without authority.

On the 20th July 2018, Mr Prisecaru attended the Civic Centre and successfully re-instated an old Premises Licence in his name for 20 Abbotsbury Road. This licence, for "ABC Grocery / Butcher" had not been surrendered when the "Time In RO" Licence had been granted.

On 30th July 2018, I became aware that the Premises Licence LN/000002788 that the applicant is now using to operate as a bar/restaurant only authorises the supply of alcohol for consumption OFF the Premises. This means that Time In RO is still operating without the proper authorisation and therefore in contravention of the Closure Notice I served on the 19th July. I have informed Mr Prisecaru of this and warned him that any further breach will result in my application to the court for a Closure Order.

The current application for a new Premises Licence does not offer any undertaking that any existing licence will be surrendered if the new licence is granted.

The applicant claims to be a qualified accountant with an excellent understanding of Licensing Law, yet he has been unable to ensure that his own premises is correctly licensed.

I have no confidence that Mr Prisecaru could keep to any restrictions imposed on the Premises Licence if granted as he does not appear to take his responsibilities seriously.

A bar/restaurant opening through the night to 4:30am and 5am, carries a massive risk to the Licensing Objectives relating to Crime & Disorder, and Public Nuisance. Morden town centre is relatively small with only the RS Snooker Club open after midnight. Morden town centre hosts the last stop on the Northern Line, one of the few 24hr underground services in London. Morden is mostly residential and after midnight the town centre only serves as an Tube and Night Bus terminus. The residents and local businesses are not prepared for a significant increase to the local Night Time Economy.

Research into Abbotsbury Road and Morden Town Centre shows an already unacceptable level of night time violence and anti-social behaviour:

- 14/10/2017 2300hrs Abbotsbury Rd – Criminal Damage (urinating through letterbox)
- 18/09/2017 0100hrs Abbotsbury Rd – ABH, victim drunk
- 25/05/2017 1955hrs Abbotsbury Rd – Racially Agg Harassment, suspect drunk
- 07/07/2018 2030hrs Abbotsbury Rd – GBH, all parties drunk
- 27/08/2017 0340hrs Abbotsbury Rd – GBH W/I, victim very drunk
- 17/06/2018 0131hrs Abbotsbury Rd – Poss Knife, threatening, suspect drunk
- 16/03/2017 1432hrs Abbotsbury Rd – Threats violence, knife, alcohol related
- 15/01/2017 2030hrs Abbotsbury Rd – GBH, fight in pub
- 10/06/2018 0525hrs London Rd – Threats of violence, suspect drunk
- 02/05/2018 2337hrs London Rd – GBH, victim drunk
- 26/04/2018 2300hrs London Rd – ABH
- 19/04/2018 2150hrs London Rd – MURDER, alcohol related
- 07/04/2018 0450hrs London Rd – Fight, drug related.
- 14/02/2018 2114hrs London Rd – Threat of violence, suspect drunk
- 28/01/2018 0841hrs London Rd – Drunk & Disorder, knife
- 08/09/2017 2155hrs London Rd – Affray, suspect very drunk
- 03/09/2017 0049hrs London Rd – Racially aggravated assault, suspect drunk.
- 04/06/2017 2335hrs London Rd – ABH
- 26/05/2017 0030hrs London Rd – Racially agg harassment. Alcohol related

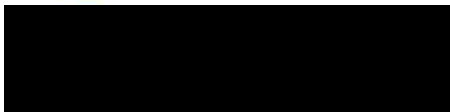
No reports of any violence at Time In RO have been recorded, although I have dealt with one complaint of loud noise from the restaurant during the early hours in January 2017, and I was passed information from Merton Council about another similar complaint in June 2017.

It is my view that if this application is granted, the huge extension of alcohol hours, accompanied with live music, will cause a proportionate rise in crime and anti-social behaviour in the local area. I do not believe that the applicant is equipped to run a late night venue responsibly, and I am certain its operation will have a negative impact on the lives of local residents.

Time in RO has been operating without a valid Premises Licence for over two years. For that reason alone, the Metropolitan Police urges the sub-committee to reject the application outright.

If the sub-committee is minded to approve the application, based on all factors mentioned above, I strongly advise that the terminal hour for all activities is set to Midnight every night of the week, and the opening hours also end at Midnight.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Licensing Officer.

Russ STEVENS PC3852SW P191701

Licensing Officer