

**Cleary, Julia**

---

**From:** adrian manion [redacted]  
**Sent:** 14 August 2014 21:48  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Lymestone Vaults, Newcastle Under Lyme

Dear Sirs

I have just read about the licensing panel review that has been convened for the Lymestone Vaults pub, and some of the issues that are being put forward, including the forced installation of an ID scanner and the attempts to remove John , the current licensee (DPS).

I have no idea what these ID scanners are, so can only assume they are not regularly used in other licensed premises, well at least not the ones I frequent. And that is probably a worth while point- I don't go to pubs which attract / encourage / condone under-age customers. From my experience, the Lymestone Vaults most certainly does not "attract / encourage / condone under-age customers". I am aware of the codes of practice that surround the use of Test Purchase operations, where an underage person deliberately tries to purchase alcohol. From what I have gathered, the only indicator that the premises has sold to someone under 18 was on Test Purchases. I don't live in Newcastle Under Lyme any more (I'm just over the border in Crewe) so while I am not a regular of the pub; on all occasions I have been in, the clientele most certainly was not what you would call in the late teen or even early 20s age group. So, perhaps the only time anyone under 18 has actually bought alcohol here, was a test purchaser. Not really the same league as certain other pubs in Newcastle / Staffordshire where underage drinking is not only occurring, but well known as the place to go when you're 16 or 17.

The second part of the review agenda alarms me somewhat. I have known the landlord of the Vaults for a considerable number of years, both professionally and personally. He has held a number of responsible positions in both retail and the licensed trade, and I can say with 100% certainty, that he has the upmost regard for legal compliance in all he does. While not in a formal capacity, my qualifications, training and current employment have meant that I have been privileged to be a "go to" resource for John, in terms of food safety legislation, health and safety, staff welfare, data protection and the like. John has never been one to try and keep under the radar or try to muddle by under any sort of mis-understanding. He has always sought to proactively ensure legal compliance in all his areas of responsibly at work.

If John or a member of his staff, wherever he has worked, make and error, then he always learns from it, tightens up procedures, conducts more and better training and coaching, and works WITH not against the enforcement authorities.

The suggestion that the removal of the current DPS will somehow prevent under-age drinking in Newcastle is an illogical argument. What will you get? A new DPS without the same degree of commitment to "doing the right thing to the best of their ability".

I implore you, do not use the Lymestone Vaults or the current DPS to set some sort of example to the licensed trade in Newcastle under Lyme.

Well done to the Vaults for being part of a diverse drinking / socialising scene in Newcastle. The town should be proud of your presence here.

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this formal representation to be included in the review consideration as I understand there is a short deadline for this due to delays in the Limestone Vaults being advised on Licensing Panel review process.

Mr A Manion BSc(hons) PG Dip,MCIEH

**Robinson, Lynne**

---

**From:** Alex Moores <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 13:22  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Fwd: Limestone Vaults

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Alex Moores <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** 13 August 2014 13:20:50 BST  
**To:** "licensing@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk" <licensing@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Limestone Vaults

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing to express my concern about the possible use of ID scanners in the named pub above.

I find it incredulous that you're threatening to install an ID scanner in the friendliest, most relaxed and loveliest pub in the town.

To say it's an over the top response is an understatement. Have you ever actually frequented this drinking establishment? If you have then you will know what kind of crowd drink in there, it's not the 'neck shots to get as drunk as possible' crowd, it's an older crowd looking to have a few drinks of a night, away from the raucous end of town.

So a few underage people got served, they've learnt from their mistakes, it's not the end of the world and it doesn't require this heavy handed response.

This pub is the type of establishment you should be encouraging/promoting. Newcastle isn't exactly flourishing at the moment but with a little help and support of places like Limestone it could. The introduction of ID scanners will detract from this lovely, unique pub, please think about the potential consequences from introducing such things.

Yours sincerely

Alexandra Moores, Newcastle resident

Sent from my iPhone



**Robinson, Lynne**

---

**From:** Andrew Gilford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 19:49  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Lymestone Brewery review

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that The Lymestone Vaults is under license review due to the use of underage test purchasers and thus the active encouragement for the pub to cause a criminal act in the sale of alcohol to underage patrons.

The Lymestone Vaults is the type of establishment that the Borough Council should be encouraging. It supports local producers, offers a quiet social environment which the town is often lacking. I compare this to other areas of the town where underage drinking is rife and violence is seen both inside the pubs and outside most weekends. I would suggest you just walk around the pubs in town on a usual Friday night to see where the Police are hovering, where tensions are high and where the underage teenagers are focused.

This is most certainly not the Lymestone Vaults. In fact this is the one pub where an older clientele wish to avoid such loutish, teenage, often violent atmospheres are happy to frequent.

I understand that a mistake has happened in the past with underage drinkers. I assume that, due to the more relaxed and older clientele of the pub that some younger drinkers have slipped through. However, the landlord is obviously trying to do the right thing and wants to offer a decent environment for the town.

I currently do not currently understand a situation in a town where a decent pub, such as the Lymestone Vaults, is, as I see it, being persecuted instead of encouraged.

I do hope you review you decision

Regards,

Andrew Gilford

Sent from my iPad



## Cleary, Julia

---

**From:** Cath Zamur <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 15 August 2014 15:31  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** The Limestone Vaults

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that The Limestone Vaults is under license review due to the use of underage test purchasers and thus the active encouragement for the pub to cause a criminal act in the sale of alcohol to underage patrons.

The Limestone Vaults is the type of establishment that the Borough Council should be encouraging. It supports local producers, offers a quiet social environment which the town is often lacking. I compare this to other areas of the town where underage drinking is rife and violence is seen both inside the pubs and outside most weekends. I would suggest you just walk around the pubs in town on a usual Friday night to see where the Police are hovering, where tensions are high and where the underage teenagers are focused.

This is most certainly not the Limestone Vaults. In fact this is the pub where us which wish to avoid such loutish, teenage, often violent atmospheres are happy to frequent.

I understand that a mistake has happened in the past with underage drinkers. I assume that, due to the more relaxed and older clientele of the pub that some younger drinkers have slipped through. However, the landlord is obviously trying to do the right thing and wants to offer a decent environment for the town.

I currently do not currently understand a situation in a town where a decent pub, such as the Limestone Vaults, is, as I see it, being persecuted instead of encouraged whilst I must still inform friends and colleagues that are new to Newcastle to avoid certain areas at night to the levels of violence.

I would therefore suggest that you become aware of where the real problems are in Newcastle and concentrated your resources in making these more accessible to decent citizens, such as the 99.99% which visit the Limestone Vaults.

Regards,

C.zamur





## Robinson, Lynne

---

**From:** Darren Hughes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 19:05  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Lymestone Vaults Licence Review

Dear Sir/Madam,

It has come to my attention that The Lymestone Vaults is under license review due to the use of underage test purchasers and thus the active encouragement for the pub to cause a criminal act in the sale of alcohol to underage patrons.

I am a resident of Newcastle-under-Lyme and a regular at the Lymestone Vaults. It is the type of establishment that the Borough Council should be encouraging. It supports local producers, offers a quiet social environment which the town is often lacking. I compare this to other areas of the town where underage drinking is rife and violence is seen both inside the pubs and outside most weekends. There has never been any trouble in the Lymestone Vaults, it is always a pleasant atmosphere.

I understand that a mistake has happened in the past with underage drinkers, but I feel that the Lymestone Vaults is being unfairly targeted as an easy target compared to other establishments in the town where this is rife, it is due to the more relaxed and older clientele of the pub that test purchasers have slipped through. This is not an excuse, however, the landlord is obviously trying to do the right thing and wants to offer a decent environment for the town.

I agree that more needs to be done to prevent underage drinking but persecuting decent pubs like the Lymestone Vaults will not stop it, all it will do is kill it as a business. I have seen ID scanners in action in Watford and while I don't agree with them as an invasion of privacy, I can understand their use for nightclubs and bars. It will just kill establishments like the Lymestone Vaults though, as a lot of the older clientele either don't have or carry ID with them, and nor should they have to.

I would therefore suggest that you become aware of where the real problems are in Newcastle-under-Lyme and concentrated your resources in making these more accessible to decent citizens, such as the 99.99% which visit the Lymestone Vaults.

Regards,

Darren Hughes



## Robinson, Lynne

---

**From:** Gemma Bloor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 13:24  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** RE: License Review

Dear whomever it may concern,

I was saddened to hear about the proposed ID scanner going into the premises at the Limestone Vaults. When the vaults opened I started to go out socialising in Newcastle as there was now a place to go for people that didn't want to hang around drug takers, intoxicated children and aggressive youths. Having been in the wrong place at the wrong time years ago and hit with a flying bottle i simply dont entertain anywhere now with any ounce of rough frequenters and I know there are many other decent tax paying people who feel the same as me. If it wasnt for the limestone vaults i would not socialise in this city as there seems to be a lack of good places to go. And by that i mean the people that frequent there and not the place.

Its unfortunate that Limestone fell foul to a lady who looked older than she was but i can see nowadays how this can easily be done however. I know of many teenagers from my area who visit newcastle every friday night who are not 21 and yet these pubs with their droves of underage children never seem to get problems.

Adding a scanner will lose trade in that pub as people of the right age simply don't walk around with ID for fear of losing it. I for one will not walk around with my driving license unless I really have to and 100% not my passport. This means that a large percentage of visitors to that pub will turn up without ID and if they havent got social access to information (facebook etc) they simply wont know to take it. Business is hard nowadays and losing any trade means potential to shut.

I plead that you take another look at potential other ways of enforcing your punishments to this pub. Not only for the pub, visitors and owners but also for the town itself. Newcastle town centre was for many a place that they had started to visit again. This will start to put nails in the coffin of night life for the generation you should be attracting to the town. The ones who dont cause trouble, the ones who dont start fights and need ambulances for intoxication, the ones who dont vandalism the city and abuse taxi drivers, the ones who HAVE MONEY. You will force those people back into nantwich and stafford again and more and more of the crowd you are wanting to stop. Vicious circle.

Thank you for your time.

Gemma Bloor



## Robinson, Lynne

---

**From:** Harry Bradford [mailto:hb@limestonevaults.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 12:49  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Limestone Vaults

Dear Sir or Madam

My name is Harry Bradford and I am a resident of Newcastle-under-Lyme and have been for 24 years. I am contacting you in regards to the license renewal and discipline of the Limestone Vaults.

As an individual who has visited friends and cities nationwide the only two cities in which bars actually utilise the ID scanners are Liverpool and Manchester. Aspiration aside Newcastle-under-Lyme is neither. Its High Street is failing. It is a paved walkway of boarded up units and charity shops akin to Cannock. And, yet there are glimmers of hope for this town and one of them (The Limestone Vaults) is under constant scrutiny.

In case you weren't aware the Vaults is an award winning, local and charity supporting, local employing, local produce sourcing and tourism award winning establishment. This is exactly the sort of business you should be encouraging and not entrapping with your overzealous police team. If my High Street were to be clutching on the precipice for survival I certainly wouldn't be hammering at its fingers.

There are numerous things you could be doing in the town to fix its problems and yet you seem to be focusing on crushing and relentlessly pounding a small independent business into submission. The company is new and has made mistakes, this is apparent. The arguing of such techniques used by the police is further debate for another day.

I believe any further debate would be myself merely reiterating my points or stating common sense, which I don't believe I need to do (please prove me right).

You have the responsibility and power to support something good. Please do this and give the people of your town something worth celebrating.

Yours sincerely  
Harry Bradford



**Robinson, Lynne**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 20:40  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** The limestone vaults

To whom it may concern,  
I have learnt today of the proposal to install an ID scanner in the limestone vaults in order to prevent underage drinking.

Whilst I appreciate that underage drinking is an issue that should be taken seriously, I do feel that in this instance the installation of a scanner is a) disproportionate to the offence and b) inappropriate for a real ale pub with a predominantly older clientele.

The vaults is a valuable addition to a high street in decline and this proposal would seriously affect its future potential, putting jobs at risk and leading to another empty unit.

Surely there are better ways to monitor the pub going forward and I urge you to consider them.

Regards,

Kate Bateson

Sent from my HTC





## Robinson, Lynne

---

**From:** Michael Blakemore [mailto:Michael.Blakemore@plusdanehousing.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 19:36  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Limestone Vaults

Dear Sirs

I have noticed that the licence for the Limestone vaults in Newcastle has been put under review and I would like to add comment in support of this establishment.

I have frequented this pub on many occasions and to me it's one of the best run pubs in Newcastle it has no loud music no TV's showing sport and more to the point NO TROUBLE. I was told that they failed two test purchases and read that they were issued a three day closure order as a result, and as far as I am aware they haven't failed a third so surely they have been punished for said offence so I'm confused why they are being reviewed.

I have been in other pubs that have scanners and they seem to be more young club type bars nothing like the Limestone Vaults and their clientele. I have seen the manager working and he seems totally committed and on the ball as far as ensuring the place is a safe place for his customers and his staff are very vigilant with regard to checking ID's so I believe removing him would be counter productive.

My daughter has been asked for ID at the Limestone Vaults and at the time was 29 and she was shocked as nowhere else in town asked her for it.

Surely the local police and borough council should be working in partnership with local businesses to make our town centres nice places for everyone to enjoy.

This pub is a gem and something Newcastle should be proud of.

Kind regards.

Michael Blakemore

Plus Dane Housing Group Limited is a Neighbourhood Investor.

Plus Dane Housing Group Limited is an industrial and provident society registered at FCA 29480R and registered with The Homes and Communities Agency, The Social Housing Regulator L4355

Registered office 13-15 Rodney Street, Liverpool, L1 9EF.

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed. This communication represents the originator's personal views and opinions, which do not necessarily reflect those of Plus Dane Housing Group Limited. If you are not the original recipient or the person responsible for delivering the email to the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this in error, and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this email is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please immediately notify [service.desk@neighbourhoodinvestor.com](mailto:service.desk@neighbourhoodinvestor.com)

The Plus Dane Housing Group Limited uses sophisticated scanning technology to check all outgoing messages but cannot guarantee the absence of viruses. Please check all attachments before opening them.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

This message has been scanned for malware by Websense. [www.websense.com](http://www.websense.com)



**Robinson, Lynne**

---

**From:** paul [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 16:09  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Limestone Brewery

Dear Sir/Madam,

I recently became aware of the intention to review the license of Limestone Brewery. I really hope a solution is found that does not negatively effect the unique and people focussed offer their business brings to the region.

Thanks  
Paul



**Cleary, Julia**

---

**From:** peter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 August 2014 18:18  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Limestone vaults

Hello

I am sending this e-mail to protest against the punitive measures being proposed against the Limestone vaults in pepper street Newcastle.

I recognise that the pub failed against two test purchases but they were penalised for that failure by an enforced closure notice. I consider it grossly unfair and contrary to natural justice to then impose further penalties for the same event. In Fridays and Saturdays there are always door staff present, who scrutinise persons trying to enter the pub also i often see bar staff requesting proof of age from persons requesting drinks. I cannot see how having a fixed scanner will materially improve on the existing systems. Also as a member of the public I have reservations about data being held "off site". Such data would be subject to the data protection act, how would I as a member of the public be reassured concerning the security and appropriate use of such data? As concerns the owners, DPS and staff, they have worked hard to create a safe and inviting environment where people who just want to have a quiet drink with friends can go without any loud music or any expectation of trouble. Rather be penalised further or removed, they should be congratulated on their achievements. I would be grateful if you could consider my comments when carrying out the review.

Thank You



Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing in relation to the recent closure notice served upon the Limestone Vaults, in Pepper Street, that occurred from Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> March at 12pm to Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm. It has recently been brought to my attention that the licencing authority wishes the pub to install a digital id scanner (at their expense) to combat the recent failed sting operations undertaken by youth officers acting with Staffordshire police; This reparative action has recently been undertaken by Mr Reid (the manager of Revolution in Hassell Street) but there are some key differences I wish to point out to you. Revolution is a huge company with over 70 bars up and down the country; they have money and resources that Limestone Vaults simply does not have access to in its single venue. Revolution is more of a nightclub offering cheap Alcopops to the youth of today, whilst they listen to Dubstep and other such music. If you have ever attended the vaults you would be greeted by the ambient background and friendly staff who meet the needs of the client base; most of whom are looking for an old fashioned boozier to enjoy locally produced real ale in a selection of varieties.

It would be uncommon for underage youths to go to the vaults and try to order a pint of stout when they are so concerned with drinking white lightning on the parks and causing public nuisance, something that the police could be focusing on rather than the single minded chastisement of pub owners.

In relation to the installment of the digital scanner; if the pub were to install the SCAN NET system (safer nightclubbing at night network) which can recognise 3,500 forms of ID from around the world, and utilises complex mathematical algorithms and schematics they could tell instantly whether the ID has been tampered with and if it is legitimate. Large night clubs in Ibiza, London and Manchester along with border control around the world use scanners like this; this hardly seems necessary for a small venue in Newcastle.

Given the fact that these machines can pick up more than enough data for identity theft, I am troubled that all these ID scanning schemes are being run by the private sector, where data breaches are soaring. Furthermore, abuse by door staff towards people they don't like could get someone unfairly banned from all venues in the town. Such rogues could similarly abuse the system to ascertain details of where a vulnerable young lady may live; this individual would then have access to her home address, phone number and other personal details. How do you suppose we combat this? This could lead to a violation of the data protection act as well as becoming an infringement on people's privacy.

Part of the Mandatory Code of Practice for Alcohol Retailers requires premises to an age verification policy, which came into effect on 1st October 2010. As a minimum, premises must have a policy that requires people who appear to be under the age of 18 to be asked for identification before being served alcohol.

It is interesting that the only violations in the serving of minors in the pub are to those 'agents' you employ to carry out sting operations. One of these 'minors' appeared to be, by all accounts, closer to thirty than thirteen. How can any premises be expected to adhere to the challenge 25 rule when the minors you employ have may have tattoos and piercings for which they should be at least 18 under U.K. statute, also making them legal to consume alcohol. You have deliberately greased the stairs so that public houses stumble only to attach a fine and impose ludicrous security measures at the patron's expense.

Since January last year 18 venues in the vicinity of the town center and a further 11 in the Leek area have been caught selling alcohol to minors. My concern is that the young lady who performed the sting on the vaults will be sent into other establishments.

In a recent interview Sergeant Dave Wright commented that; Officers will be working with licensees in Newcastle to prevent underage sales and providing free training for bar staff working in pubs and clubs; I am astounded that this has not occurred sooner, the support should be an on-going process rather than them being marched in front of the firing squad when incidents like this occur. Why can the manager of the premises for example Mr Cameron of the Vaults be aware of the sting operation in the manner that teachers are aware of a fire drill in school, the burden of care would then be with the individual serving the youth to ensure the statutory requirements are met. If they fail then the discipline can be an internal matter in conjunction with the police and licensing board and not a way to impose ludicrous measures to reduce the workload of the local constabulary.

This is in no way a criticism of the licencing board or the local police I just believe that forcing the Limestone Vaults to install a digital scanner is a ludicrous and costly actions that would discourage the regular clientele from going out. It is not the intention of any of the staff to serve alcohol to minors, in truth no one wants children in the place, it's a local pub not a crèche. So I can only hope you can impose a different sanction.

Thank you for your time.

J. Burton LLB (Hons) MA.



**Cleary, Julia**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 13:42  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Lymestone Vaults

Dear Sir or Madam

It has come to my attention that The Lymestone Vaults is under license review due to the use of underage test purchasers and thus the active encouragement for the pub to cause a criminal act in the sale of alcohol to underage patrons.

The Lymestone Vaults is the type of establishment that the Borough Council should be encouraging. It supports local producers, offers a quiet social environment which the town is often lacking and is the kind of place that you can go to enjoy an evening out or just a quick pint without fear of running into loutish teenagers drinking large quantities of cheap lager.

I understand that a mistake has happened in the past with underage drinkers. I assume that, due to the more relaxed and older clientele of the pub that some younger drinkers have slipped through. However, the landlord is obviously trying to do the right thing and wants to offer a decent environment for the town.

For the sake of the town I have lived in all my life please do not ruin one of the few places that the more mature patron can actually go to for a quiet drink by introducing ID scanners and focus attention on the pubs where they sell as much as they can for as little as they can. I feel sure the Police are called to these premises and their vicinity much more frequently than they are to The Lymestone Vaults.

Kind regards

Richard P. Farrell

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]



**Robinson, Lynne**

---

**From:** ryan smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 13:37  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Stop replacing pen and paper.

Dear Newcastle Licensing,

I'm writing in response to the implementation of IDscan software in The Lymstone Vault.

Are you serious? Firstly lets consider practically why the system wouldn't work, ever tried to get served on a busy saturday night?...ever wanted to wait an extra 2 minutes per person whilst everyone's card gets scanned (when the machine works!) on top of that? With the security you want to impose you will ruin the dynamic of the bar at the cost of the customers experience.

That's a minor thing though in consideration to how ethical moronic the system is!

Nothing good happens when you give access to databases of people to private companies, databases of essentially a fraud care package that can easily be hacked as all the data is stored online. All this risk can be avoided when you use the system that's been working fine for years of checking people for ID. You're replacing pen and paper...and it won't work, technology breaks and can be inaccurate as you remember there are no scholarly articles proving its effectiveness!

The bar staff need my photo ID with my date of birth on it, they do not need to know whether my documents are valid, my address (With a map), a fresh picture taken, how it is linked to my other documentation, criminal records checks, etc etc

Just because it is popular in Australia it doesn't mean it is needed here, just as having the drinking age of 21 is deemed necessary in America.

The old system works when you do it right, and doesn't put customers at risk. Don't be so bloody stupid.



## Robinson, Lynne

---

**From:** Simon Pool [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 16:15  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Limestone Vaults Licence Review

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that The Limestone Vaults is under license review due to the underhand use of underage test purchasers and thus the active encouragement for the pub to cause a criminal act in the sale of alcohol to underage patrons.

I am a resident of the Borough and the Limestone Vaults is the type of establishment that the Borough Council should be encouraging. It supports local producers, offers a quiet social environment which the town is often lacking. I compare this to other areas of the town where underage drinking is rife and violence is seen both inside the pubs and outside most weekends. The Police frequent and monitor, where tensions are high and where the underage teenagers are focused.

This is most certainly not the Limestone Vaults; this is the pub where people frequent who wish to avoid such loutish, teenage, often violent atmospheres.

I understand that a mistake has happened in the past with underage drinkers. I assume that, due to the more relaxed and older clientele of the pub that some younger drinkers have slipped through. However, the landlord is obviously trying to do the right thing and wants to offer a decent environment for the town.

I currently do not understand a situation in a town where a decent pub, such as the Limestone Vaults, is, as I see it, being persecuted instead of encouraged, whilst I must still inform friends and colleagues that are new to Newcastle to avoid certain areas at night due to the levels of possible violence.

I would therefore suggest that you become aware of where the real problems are in Newcastle and concentrated your resources in making these more accessible to decent citizens, such as the high majority which visit the Limestone Vaults.

Regards,

Simon Pool  
Director

Astec Assistive Technology Solutions Ltd.

01782 792 222

: sent from a mobile device

---

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.  
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

---



## Robinson, Lynne

---

**From:** Sue Mulroy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 17:19  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Limestone Vaults

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that The Limestone Vaults is under license review due to the use of underage test purchasers and thus the active encouragement for the pub to cause a criminal act in the sale of alcohol to underage patrons.

I am a resident of Newcastle and a frequent visitor to the town.

The Limestone Vaults is the type of establishment that the Borough Council should be encouraging. It supports local producers, offers a quiet social environment which the town is often lacking. I compare this to other areas of the town where underage drinking is rife and violence is seen both inside the pubs and outside most weekends. I would suggest you just walk around the pubs in town on a usual Friday night to see where the Police are hovering, where tensions are high and where the underage teenagers are focused.

This is most certainly not the Limestone Vaults. In fact this is the pub where us which wish to avoid such loutish, teenage, often violent atmospheres are happy to frequent.

I understand that a mistake has happened in the past with underage drinkers. I assume that, due to the more relaxed and older clientele of the pub that some younger drinkers have slipped through. However, the landlord is obviously trying to do the right thing and wants to offer a decent environment for the town.

I currently do not currently understand a situation in a town where a decent pub, such as the Limestone Vaults, is, as I see it, being persecuted instead of encouraged whilst I must still inform friends and colleagues that are new to Newcastle to avoid certain areas at night to the levels of violence.

I would therefore suggest that you become aware of where the real problems are in Newcastle and concentrated your resources in making these more accessible to decent citizens, such as the 99.99% which visit the Limestone Vaults.

Regards,

Sue Mulroy  
Sent from my iPad





## Robinson, Lynne

---

**From:** The Bevington Family [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 19:48  
**To:** licensing  
**Cc:** pcc@staffordshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk; mark.thomas@ennsol.co.uk; Wallace, Robert  
**Subject:** Limestone Vaults, Newcastle.

Dear All,

This letter is being sent FAO the licencing review panel, following instructions issued by them, to the owners of the Vaults.

I am writing in support of the owners of the Limestone Vaults who I consider to be extremely comptient very socially responsible & incredibly law abiding members of the community of Stone, Clayton & Newcastle.

I frequent Limestone vaults when possible, Brad Viv & their team make it a very attractive environment to socialise & I can't ever remeber an occassion when I witnessed any form of anti-social behaviour or any attempt to serve or permit under age drinking.

The Vaults has ensured high quality beer is served in Newcastle, most is brewed by Limestone in Stone, so both facilities employ numbers of local residents & contribute significant revenue through local & national taxation.

It seems that measures being suggested (as detailed below) go beyond the norm, in enforcing age-based drinking legislation.

The responsible attitude shown by the staff contributes to safe & responsible drinking & discourages anti-social behaviour, which reduces drink related anti-social behaviour! An issue which uses up so many (expensive) police resources.

I know as an active CAMRA member and acquaintance of the late Bob Jones, that he would have supported the methods & practices which Viv & Brad aspire to in their roles as CAMRA members, "Publican's and Brewery owners". Surely their example is breathing life into a trade which if not balanced will continue to encourage a binge drinking culture founded on mega-pubs serving poor quality alcoholic products.

Please re-consider applying further draconian measures which are more likely to drive the business into the ground, rather than encourage other pubs to follow their shining example of being a social enterprise for local poeple!

Andrew Beington.  
Gnosall  
[REDACTED]

*Hi Everyone. Today after several weeks of trying to speak to someone in the Licensing Team at the BC I have managed to track down a very friendly and helpful lady. It seems that it is the responsibility of the police to explain the review process, but as this has not happened we have been in the dark and are now running out of time. We are being taken to license review because of our failure to spot the underage test purchasers; and the*

*review panel are being asked to enforce the use of an ID scanner and to remove John as our DPS. We feel that this is an over the top response as we are working very hard with our staff and our customers to spot and prevent underage sales and we do not believe that having an ID scanner will help with this.*

*Now this is where you our customers come in....*

*We have been asking for comments via the pub, but I have been told today that you can comment directly to the review panel, BUT time is running out.*

*Please help us prevent the installation of an ID scanner by supporting us.*

*Email your comments to [licensing@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk) BEFORE 5PM ON SUNDAY*

**Robinson, Lynne**

---

**From:** Tim Greenwood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2014 12:26  
**To:** licensing  
**Subject:** Licensing review Limestone Vaults

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that The Limestone Vaults is under license review due to the use of underage test purchasers and thus the active encouragement for the pub to cause a criminal act in the sale of alcohol to underage patrons.

I am a previous resident of Newcastle but still a frequent visitor to the town.

The Limestone Vaults is the type of establishment that the Borough Council should be encouraging. It supports local producers, offers a quiet social environment which the town is often lacking. I compare this to other areas of the town where underage drinking is rife and violence is seen both inside the pubs and outside most weekends. I would suggest you just walk around the pubs in town on a usual Friday night to see where the Police are hovering, where tensions are high and where the underage teenagers are focused.

This is most certainly not the Limestone Vaults. In fact this is the pub where us which wish to avoid such loutish, teenage, often violent atmospheres are happy to frequent.

I understand that a mistake has happened in the past with underage drinkers. I assume that, due to the more relaxed and older clientele of the pub that some younger drinkers have slipped through. However, the landlord is obviously trying to do the right thing and wants to offer a decent environment for the town.

I currently do not currently understand a situation in a town where a decent pub, such as the Limestone Vaults, is, as I see it, being persecuted instead of encouraged whilst I must still inform friends and colleagues that are new to Newcastle to avoid certain areas at night to the levels of violence.

I would therefore suggest that you become aware of where the real problems are in Newcastle and concentrated your resources in making these more accessible to decent citizens, such as the 99.99% which visit the Limestone Vaults.

Regards,

Tim Greenwood

--

---

**Tim Greenwood**  
Head of Sales Power & Environmental Markets  
Head of Training & Education

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**European Energy Exchange AG**  
Augustusplatz 9 | 04109 Leipzig | Germany

[www.eex.com](http://www.eex.com)



Executive Board : Peter Reitz (CEO), Steffen Köhler, Dr. Thomas Siegl, Iris Weidinger  
Chairman of the Supervisory Board: Dr. Jürgen Kroneberg  
Commercial Register Number: Leipzig HRB 18409

Follow us on [Twitter](#) / [LinkedIn](#) / [XING](#)

## Limestone Vaults Licensing Review

I understand that the Limestone Vaults are shortly due to receive a licensing review due to failure to spot underage test purchasers during operations conducted by the police. I would like to put my personal thoughts forward on this case and pledge my support for the Limestone Vaults.

I have been a regular at this establishment since it's opening, visiting usually once a week. During those visits I have occasionally witnessed the bar staff asking drinkers for ID but on NO occasion have I witnessed bar staff selling alcohol to people who I consider to be underage, nor have I seen people that I consider to be underage drinking in the pub. Quite often, it seems to me, that at 54 I am the youngest person in the establishment. One visit to the Vaults will show you that this is not a 'troublesome' pub; its main clientele is middle-aged people. I have even had the pleasure of seeing the Mayor drinking in there. On a Saturday you will find families in the pub having a bite to eat knowing that their policy on swearing is clear to all who visit, a credit to the pub attitudes.

I also understand that the position of John as the DPS is under some threat. I have got to know John over the last year and a half and it is clear to me that John is responsible for many of the high standards operated by the pub. Last week I heard John say to a new member of staff "Time to lean? Time to clean". Perhaps you may wish to consider such a simple mantra when you next visit your local and observe the actions of their bar staff. I have heard John guiding the staff to achieve a seamless customer service and I know that the 'tone' of the pub belongs to John and his hard work.

As a Trustee of the Burgesses of Newcastle-under-Lyme I am proud to have the Limestone Vaults in my town, representing my town, supporting my town, supporting activities in the town centre, supporting local industries. This is the type of business of which we all should be proud; it is award winning (awarded Gold for 'Tourism Pub of the Year' in the Enjoy Staffordshire Tourism Awards 2013) and original. Remember that the word Lyme in Limestone is named after our town.

People from outside of Newcastle-under-Lyme travel to come to this public house bringing with them revenue for our town. If we make visiting this pub onerous, for example by means of an ID scanner, this will send a wrong message to visitors and could well destroy this wonderful benefit to our town centre.

I implore you to visit the pub, unannounced, unofficially and see for yourself how it operates, watch the professionalism of the staff, see the cleanliness, even sample the food during the daytime, then ask yourself which pub in Newcastle has higher standards.

Please consider the public houses in the town centre and which you would choose to enter. Does the Limestone really deserve to be singled out for the restrictions that could be imposed upon it when others with known more serious problems do not have these restrictions?

Please consider very carefully before you take any actions against the Limestone Vaults. This is not an establishment that is trying to break the law, it is working very hard to uphold the law but has made a simple error for which it has already made amends. We should be supporting and nurturing this establishment and not taking actions that may destroy it.

Thank you for reading my letter of support for the Limestone Vaults, John, his staff and Brad and Viv at the brewery.

Ian Bailey

