

Letter received

13/09/11

Mr.D.Bell,  
Principal EHO,  
Hastings Borough Council,  
Aquila House,  
Breeds Place,  
Hastings,  
East Sussex TN34 3UY.

Dear Mr. Bell,

Licensing Act 2003 - London Trader, 4-7 East Beach Street, Hastings.

Thank you for your letter, dated 30th August, together with enclosures. I note what you say and am grateful to you and your colleagues for the not inconsiderable work, carried out over a lengthy period of time, to bring this matter to a review.

With regard to paragraphs 3 and 5 of your letter under reply. I am currently not a member of HOTRA, but wholeheartedly support your application. I accept that by seeking the cloak of anonymity and by failing to attend in person, at the Licensing Sub-Committee meeting on 6th October comments made, may be diluted. On this subject matter, I would say to Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee:

I appreciate, any cause for concern about repercussions is perceived on a subjective basis. I have resided in the Old Town of Hastings for some forty years and have found its community to have always been a "melting pot" of people living "cheek by jowl" with each other. In the past, disagreements on issues within the Old Town have been resolved on a "agree to disagree" basis. More recently, such tolerance appears to have dissipated and the vehement riposte of "if you don't like it, get out" is increasingly the norm. Foremost in my mind is the review of the much supported licensed premises in George Street carried out by the Council, some years ago. A resident openly supported the Council's review and found herself harangued continuously and to such a degree, that she had no alternative but to quit her home in the Old Town. The London Trader enjoys passionate support, not only from within the Old Town, but also from the surrounding areas. I have given the matter much thought and understand the gravity of the circumstances which may flow from the review. Such cause for concern regarding repercussions is therefore, not unfounded.

My house is approximately 100 metres from the London Trader and the following problems, experienced in my home, emanate from this establishment:

- extremely loud and continuous thumping, or thundering, or vibrating, or thundering base beat;
- recordings of songs, played so loud, that the lyrics are clearly audible;
- amplified sound of live bands, usually on a Sunday afternoon to evening;
- amplified voice of the DJ, or announcements made, so loud, that the voice, or announcement is clearly audible;

regardless of the hour, from late at night to the early hours of the following morning, sometimes from an afternoon to the early hours of the following morning, night on night over the weekends, pervading living areas of my home, impinging into my life, resulting in scant sleep and over the spring and summer months necessitating the closure of windows causing extreme discomfort;

- use of the tables at the frontage of the London Trader, by its clientele, after 11pm at night, drinking, singing, dancing, shouting, screaming and generally anti-social behaviour en masse, on the pavement adjoining the frontage of this establishment, to the kerb of the A259, by its clientele, resulting in a "no go area".

I accept that with so many licensed premises in the immediate vicinity, there would be an element of noise during the evenings, but to have to endure unremitting noise nuisance, after 11pm at night is also unacceptable.

The above-mentioned problems took place on the following dates:

February 2011	11th, 12th, 25th, 26th;
March 2011	4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th, 25th, 26th, 27th;
April 2011	16th, 17th, 22nd, 24th, 25th;
May 2011	1st, 2nd, 7th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st, 29th, 30th;
June 2011	3rd, 4th;
August 2011	3rd, 28th, 29th;
September 2011	2nd, 3rd, 4th, 10th,

The above list of dates is not exhaustive and I would confirm that all completed diaries will be forwarded onto you by 3rd October. Thank you Mr. Bell, for the valued assistance, which you have provided.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Bell  
Hastings Borough Council  
Environmental Protection Team  
Aquila House  
Breeds Place  
Hastings  
East Sussex  
TN34 3UY

Foyles Bed & Breakfast  
3 East Beach Street  
Hastings  
TN34 3AR

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Dear Mr Bell,

Re: London Trader Public House Noise Complaint

In 2007 I and my partner purchased Foyles Bed and Breakfast. The property consists of five bedrooms and a restaurant and is a terraced property. It is a grade two listed building, originally built in the 1780's. Three of our five rooms face the seafront and all of the rooms are single glazed. The building adjoining our business is the Public House The London Trader. Over a long period of time we have had a huge number of complaints from our guests who have stayed in our seafront bedrooms. These complaints relate solely to the London Trader Public House. The complaints consist of very loud music by bands or discos well past 01:00am. The music is always booming and vibrates through our building and into our guest's rooms. In the main our guests are young families and elderly couples that retire to bed at an early hour, which they are entitled to do. However due to the loud music going on so late, with the doors of the pub left open, our customers leave our premises after only one night, despite booking originally for three or more nights, which is devastating to our finances. There have also been serious complaints with regard to the behaviour of the London Traders clientele. After significant alcohol consumption their language is appalling and fights often break out between men and women, spilling onto the streets and outside our premises. Our guests have been forced to call the police several times due to the noise and violence during the early hours of the morning. Our front windows have even been smashed on two separate occasions, which obviously frightened our guests and we had to pay for the repairs. It is mainly Friday and Saturday nights that cause problems, however during the summer even Sunday afternoons are terrible. The pubs customers spill out onto the pavement and outside our premises, intimidating our customers and using our chairs and tables. We have often had to close early on certain Sunday afternoons and take our furniture inside, which again threatens our finances. We fear that if no action is taken and the loud music and disorder continue, our business will fail. We have tried on many occasions in the past to discuss our concerns with the management of the London Trader but have had no success. We hope now with your assistance, that we can resolve this problem.

Yours Sincerely,



Neil Moser

**Sent:** 01 September 2011 10:41  
**To:** David Bell  
**Subject:** License review of the London Trader

Dear Mr Bell,

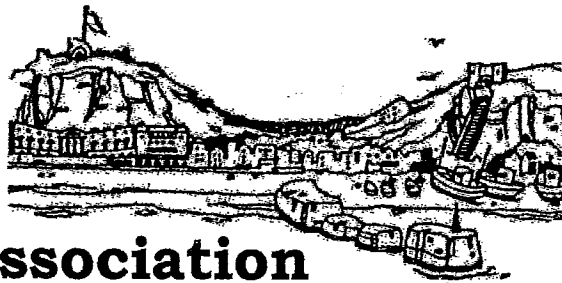
I hereby wanted to express my support of your review of the license of the London Trader. It has been an utter nightmare having to listen to the excessively loud music played by them in and out of hours. It very much feels as if they are free to do as they please without fear of repercussions and they are openly flaunting licensing laws. This matter really needs to be addressed urgently.

Thank you very much for dealing with it.

Kind regards,

**PS: Due to the fact that I fear repercussion, I hereby would like to request that my name and address be deleted from the committee papers. Thank you.**

# Hastings Old Town



## Residents' Association

East Hill House 13 Tackleway Hastings TN34 3DE

10/9/11

*President:*  
Michael Foster DL MP

*Chairman:*  
Dick Edwards

*Please reply to:*

**Bob Brown HBC**  
**Licensing Manager**  
**Hastings Town Hall**  
**Queens Road**  
**Hastings TN34 1QR**

Dear Mr Brown

*Re The London Trader*

There have been concerns expressed by members over the past few months about the way this pub is being operated. These concerns are mainly around the Environmental impact.

There is exceedingly loud music which can be heard a long way away but especially affects those people who live nearest. Not only is music played very loud but the doors and windows are almost always open. Once upon a time the music would only happen for a part of the weekends. Of late it has been happening on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The result is that local people have no quiet period at the weekend. It would seem desirable for music to be limited to just one session per week, and that the doors and windows have to remain shut whilst any performance is taking place.

Any review at this point in the calendar needs to have an impact for at least 12 months unless the problem is to be repeated next summer.

Members are also concerned about the growing disorder either in or just outside the London Trader. The presence of the Police on so many occasions is worrying. Violent behaviour fuelled by alcohol has become an issue. The 2003 Licensing Act sets out 4 objectives. One of these is clearly being breached. With the forthcoming reductions in funding for the Police residents are rightly anxious that all Old Town licensed premises are operated properly. Police resources should not be expended solving problems created by the licensed trade.

I hope that the Hastings Licensing Committee can find effective ways to stop the problem at the London Trader before it spreads elsewhere.

Yours Sincerely