

APPENDIX 5

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Submissions from Sandra Scrudis received 19th December 2023

Fiona Stewart

From: Sandra Scrudis [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 December 2023 21:14
To: Fiona Stewart
Subject: Durn House Ltd
Attachments: Aberdeenshire Licensing Board 2 18-12.docx

[REDACTED]

Fiona,
Further to my telephone message, our business email plus, the server, has an outage so not able to send or receive business email just now. This is my private email which I am able to use for now.
I have attached an overview which details what is happening currently and the plans for the following weeks at Durn House which I realise is causing concern right now. The annual fee will be paid before 20th.
As mentioned I am still grieving and not well with quite a few health issues, I have, however, I recognised this could not continue and have taken important decisions as detailed to improve the alcohol management at Durn House, and ensure staff and guests are looked after.
I need to put my health and my family first at the moment and do not need further stress or anxiety. My GP is looking after me and has agreed I need to step away as this is directly making an impact.
I am happy to discuss in more detail, however at this time, I am requesting some reasonable adjustments and so postponing the meeting on 20th December may be beneficial to both parties at the moment. I see no point in taking any negative action, but rather provide assistance to the incoming licence holder Chloe.
I apologise to the board for reaching this stage, but as I have tried to detail, this was not intentional, and was circumstantial with unravelling events for me and my family over past 12 months.

Sandra Scrudis
Durn

Aberdeenshire Licensing Board

FAO: Fiona

17th December 2023

Durn House Ltd – Licensing review

I refer to the request to attend a licence review on 20th December and apologise for the delay in response. It has been a very difficult couple of weeks.

Please be advised that I wish the board to consider the contents of this document before coming to any conclusions. I hope this helps to understand where we are. I am happy to discuss over the telephone if appropriate.

I am representing the business at this time, however that will change in January anyway.

We have already appointed a new General Manager who will take over licencing responsibilities from 15th January 2024 her name is Chloe Cowie.

We will also have three new personal license holders in place. By 31st January.

The current licence holder is Matthew Gillic but is unwell at the present time, but does pop in to keep things on an even keel and is guiding Chloe for training purposes at the moment.

Durn House poses no problems and is low risk. We have never had any violence, had to throw someone out or refuse to serve anyone. Our capacity is 50 guests at any time. Most of the staff have had full alcohol training some of which have worked with us for 6/7 years.

2023 has been a terrible year for business and for me and Matthew personally. I am unsure if you are aware, but my husband John Scrudis, co-owner passed away recently which has had a major impact on the business as well as me and my family.

I also have a number of health issues which include neurological problems, issues with memory difficulties as well as decision making struggles. My GP has advised I need to avoid pressure and stress.

My disabilities include:

- Epilepsy
- Acute arthritis in knees and hands
- Depression and anxiety
- folate deficiency anaemia which is serious see NHS link: [Vitamin B12 or folate deficiency anaemia - Symptoms - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vitamin-b12-deficiency-anaemia-symptoms/)

My GP can confirm the above.

As a result I am planning's to retire at the end of this year and have in fact put Durn House up for sale as a going concern. The staff are all aware and are very supportive.

In my telephone message I requested reasonable adjustments with a reschedule of the planned meeting if possible plus an appreciation of the situation which in any event is being sorted and maybe beneficial for both sides.

Kindest Regards, Sandra Scrudis, Durn House Ltd