

**Please reply to:** Charlotte Palmer

**E-mail:** Charlotte.palmer@enfield.gov.uk

**Phone:** 0208 379 3965

**Textphone:**

**Fax:**

**My Ref:** WK/218059962

**Your Ref:**

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Star Pubs & Bars Limited  
3-4 Broadway Park  
South Gyle Broadway  
Edinburgh  
EH12 9JZ

Dear Sir/Madam

**Poker in an Alcohol Licensed Premises  
Hop Poles Public House, 320 Baker Street, Enfield, EN1 3LH**

I write to you as the Premises Licence Holder of the above-named premises.

Enfield's Licensing Authority have received an allegation that poker is being offered in your premises on Wednesday nights and continues until 05:30 with loud noise coming from people arguing. It is also alleged that alcohol is being served throughout these events. This is beyond the licensed hours.

Although this is only an allegation at this stage I want to advise you that offering licensable activities without the appropriate authorisation is a criminal offence, which on conviction is punishable by an unlimited maximum fine, up to six months imprisonment or both. Such activity could also lead to a review of the premises licence.

In relation to the poker please be aware that there is a maximum value to both the amount that can be staked and the prize that can be offered when playing poker in a pub:

- The maximum stake per player is £5 per game, and the combined stakes for your premises must not exceed £100 per day.
- The maximum prize is £100 per game.
- This maximum includes money, payments in-kind, vouchers, goods, donated items, goody-bags, buy-ins at other poker tournaments and other items which have a value.
- Additionally, you cannot charge a participation fee including, for example, by having entrants pay a compulsory charge for a meal.

**Sarah Cary**  
**Executive Director Place**  
Enfield Council  
Civic Centre, Silver Street  
Enfield EN1 3XY

[www.enfield.gov.uk](http://www.enfield.gov.uk)

- It is irrelevant whether the charge is said to be voluntary or compulsory. In addition the gaming cannot be linked to gaming in other premises. (I have attached a copy of the Gambling Commission's quick guide which explains the requirements more fully.)

The Gambling Commission has also issued a Code of Practice which explains what a pub is required to do in order to be able to offer poker. In a pub the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) is the person responsible for ensuring compliance. The records of poker activity that are required by the Code should be available for inspection.

Failure to comply in full with the limits on stakes and prizes and the code of practice may lead us to remove the exemption which permits poker in your pub (i.e. avoiding the commission of a criminal offence) under the Gambling Act 2005. As the exemption is ultimately reliant on your alcohol licence it may also result in us reviewing that licence.

Please confirm in writing (within 14 days) that you will ensure your premises complies in full with all the requirements set out in this letter.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Police Licensing Officer, The DPS, and the Gambling Commission.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Palmer  
Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer

**IMPORTANT** – Enfield residents should register for an online Enfield Connected account. Enfield Connected puts many Council services in one place, speeds up your payments and saves you time – to set up your account today go to [www.enfield.gov.uk/connected](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/connected)