

General Purposes and Licensing Committee

18 November 2023

Question from a Member of the Public for Written Reply

1. From Ruby Vanston (Stamp Out Spiking)

What measures are currently in place to safeguard against spiking within your current licensed venues?

Reply:

Currently spiking is not a significant issue in the London Borough of Bromley (LBB) but is reported on occasion and can be a transient issue for some venues.

The responsibility for any spiking prevention measures lies with the Premises Licence Holder and the Designated Premises Supervisor at the venue. It is for them to manage emerging issues within their establishment/s. The London Borough of Bromley do not apply standard conditions around spiking to premises licenses as the legal guidance is clear, that all conditions applied must be premises specific. At this time, we are not dealing with any premises for this specific issue.

Matters relating to this type of "assault" lie with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), they would be the lead Responsible Authority. The London Borough of Bromley Licensing Team work closely with our Police Licensing colleagues and the relevant premises when matters like this are reported.

A report would result in a visit from the teams with advice and guidance given. In Bromley we have worked with the Police to ensure our Town Centre venues have all received the WAVE (sexual harassment and assault) training package either online or in person.

This supports the ASK ANGELA (A4A) campaign, which has been running in LBB for some time, which include badges for staff and posters for display within the venues. There have been several undercover operations where the A4A system has been tested, the results of which are then discussed with the individual venues to ensure the systems are working within their premises.

When spiking is reported to the MPS & LBB, Licensing officers give bespoke support and advice to both the victim and the venue management. If there is a pattern of incidents in an area, rather than a specific premises, LBB and MPS would raise awareness of the matter with licensees through the Pub Watch scheme that is in place for our town centres.