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Ref – FV Application – Bistro on the Beach, Solent Promenade, Southbourne Coast Road, Bournemouth

I am writing to object, on behalf of the Chief Officer of Police, to the recent application for a Variation of Premises Licence at *Bistro on the Beach Solent Promenade, Southbourne Coast Road, Bournemouth*, to provide a 'temporary minimal bar' and off sales from this and the takeaway facility to people on the beach 'directly in front of the premises'.

The applicant states that 'a manager will observe the areas where alcohol is consumed' and that 'they will take reasonable steps to ensure patrons using the outside area do so in a quiet and orderly fashion'; however there are no assurances as to how the operator proposes to maintain such control over its customers who can purchase alcohol for consumption in what is an expansive public environment that is not demarcated in any way.

The premises is situated in an attractive part of the promenade and beach, which naturally appeals to a wide demographic of beach users. There is further concern that alcohol could be accessible to children, disappointingly the applicant has omitted to detail any controls that would be in place to mitigate the risk of proxy sales.

As with any licensed premises, the operator has a duty of care towards their customers, and this is of particular significance due to the location of this premises. Given the national statistic that 1 in 8 coastal deaths in the UK involves alcohol, it is of concern that the applicant has not detailed any measures that would be in place to safeguard their customers.

It is therefore the opinion of Dorset Police that to grant the licence for the provision of off sales of alcohol would undermine the Licensing Objectives to Prevent Crime and Disorder, Public Safety and Public Nuisance.

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