



MERSEYSIDE
POLICE

Chief Superintendent Jon Ward
Merseyside Police
Manor Road Police Station, Manor Road, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 1DA
Tel: 0151-777-2000 Fax: 0151-777-2010
Email: Jon.Ward@merseyside.pnn.police.uk

LICENSING

25 JUN 2008

Mrs Margaret O'Donnell
Licensing Manager
Department of Regeneration
Wirral MBC
Wallasey Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
Wirral CH44 8ED

Our Ref. JW/JA

Your ref.

Date: 20th June 2008

Dear Mrs. O'Donnell

LICENSING ACT 2003 – CUMULATIVE IMPACT – HOYLAKE

I write in response to your letter dated 6th June 2008 regarding the wish of Hoylake residents for Hoylake to be designated an area of Cumulative Impact. The residents state that the cumulative impact of bars is having a negative effect on the Licensing Objectives namely Crime and Disorder, Public Nuisance, Public Safety and the Protection of Children from Harm.

In order to best evaluate the request it would clearly be advantageous for the Council to have available Police Figures in respect of crimes and anti-social behaviour. Those figures are attached by way of a bar chart and include the figures for all crime in Hoylake over the past four years. The figures are for the specific beat in the area requested for cumulative impact and include two years prior to and two years after the staging of the Open Golf. By way of completeness I have included all crime however, clearly the most relevant figures are those for violence and anti-social behaviour. It should be noted that the figures for 2004 for anti-social behaviour are inaccurate as a result of changes in recording systems. This accounts for the apparent low figure for that year.

The actual recorded figures in relation to violence and anti-social behaviour are as follows :-

	<u>Violence</u>	<u>Anti Social Behaviour</u>
Apr 04-05	56	108
Apr 05-06	43	193
Apr 06-07	48	228
Apr 07-08	34	227



MERSEYSIDE
POLICE

**total
policing**

war on crime
care for victims

www.merseyside.police.uk

Violence figures include all assaults from a S39 (common assault) upwards. Unfortunately there is no mechanism to determine whether a particular assault is specifically linked to the night time economy. Anti-social behaviour figures relate to all aspects of anti-social behaviour and again there is no mechanism to determine whether the specific incidents relate to the night time economy or other factors such as youth disorder.

It can be seen that in general terms the figures in relation to violence are decreasing while the figures for anti-social behaviour are reasonably constant. They do not appear to support the view that problems in Hoylake are on the increase. Clearly the figures produced can only be those that are reported to the Police and it is accepted that there is a degree of under reporting on a National scale. The residents of Hoylake suggest high levels of public nuisance most of which is not reported and therefore this cannot be supported or discounted by Police figures.

From a Policing perspective the Wirral Area is currently divided into 8 neighbourhoods namely Wallasey A1, Moreton A2, Hoylake A3, Upton A4, Birkenhead North A5, Rock Ferry A6, Bebington A7 and Heswall A8. As a comparison I attach the figures for the whole area in respect of violence and anti-social behaviour only. These figures relate to the Police year ending 31st March 2008. In respect of violent crime Hoylake has the lowest number in the whole area and in respect of anti-social behaviour Hoylake has the second lowest figure behind the Heswall Area. As an Area Commander these figures assist me to determine in which Areas I need to concentrate my resources and the number of Police Officers policing the Hoylake Area at the present time is reflective of those figures.

From a general perspective as regards licensing issues for Hoylake there are currently 10 licensed premises within the area requested for consideration of Cumulative Impact. There are a small number of fast food outlets most of whom rely on the patronage of persons leaving the licensed premises. At the present time none of the licensed premises are open beyond midnight however one of the premises in this area has submitted an application to vary their hours to 0400 hrs each night of the week. (The Police have already made representations in respect of this application). If successful in that application I have no doubt that further applications would follow.

The licensed premises are frequented by a number of local residents however there is evidence that persons from outside Hoylake also frequent the area. Policing is generally on a response option however on a Friday and Saturday evenings Officers are specifically deployed to monitor and Police the evening economy. Numbers of the public can vary on such evenings but generally Hoylake is beginning to clear by about 0100 hrs after which time my Officers are redeployed to the Birkenhead Area where later licences are in being.

Over the past 12 months there have been licensing issues surrounding some of these premises. On 20th December 2007 two premises in Hoylake were closed by the Police one in respect of repeated disorder and one on licensing irregularities. On 14th March 2008 three drugs warrants were executed by Police Officers from across the Force Area on three licensed premises in Hoylake. A number of persons were arrested for both drugs offences and some disorder. At a recent Pubwatch meeting in Hoylake the owners of the licensed premises claimed that business has reduced since the execution of the drugs warrants. To a certain extent this is supported by the views of Officers in that area.



MERSEYSIDE
POLICE

**total
policing**

war on crime
care for victims

www.merseyside.police.uk

Problems in licensed premises in particular as regards drugs are certainly not unique to Hoylake. It is an unfortunate aspect of today's society that we have to accept there is a problem with drugs in licensed premises throughout the Wirral and indeed on a national basis. We continue to direct resources towards combating this problem.

The Police have been aware of the feeling of Hoylake residents as regards the impact of licensed premises on their community. Sergeant Peers from Licensing attended two community meetings on 22nd January 2008 and 31st March 2008 both of which were to specifically discuss licensing issues. Both meetings were well attended by local residents and the strength of feeling was high. It was at these meetings that the subject of cumulative impact was first mooted.

In late 2007 Constable Johnson from Hoylake conducted a formal survey of residents in the Hoylake and Meols area as regards their biggest concerns from a Policing perspective. In relation to Hoylake only, excluding Meols, 73 forms were returned. The residents were asked to mark issues on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being most concern. Overall the issue of most concern was underage drinking by youths in public places scoring an average of 9. (This issue is being addressed by the neighbourhood). The question as to whether licensing hours in Hoylake were too early scored 1 and the question as to whether licensing hours were too late scored 4. Residents were also asked to name the one issue that caused them the most concern. 21 residents stated that the most concern was 'disturbance and noise from bars' and 5 residents stated that 'littering outside bars' was their main concern. It is recognised that such surveys cannot always be relied upon as they can be influenced by numerous factors.

In conclusion I would merely add that I am satisfied that the Policing resources currently directed towards Hoylake are both appropriate and sufficient to meet the demands of the community and in particular the demands placed upon us by the night time economy of the Area. Any increase in the current levels of licensed premises or indeed substantial variations to the hours with which they currently operate could result in a forced redeployment of my resources which in turn could impact on our Policing in other areas.

If we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact Inspector Vickers from the Hoylake Neighbourhood, Sergeant Peers from the Licensing Section or indeed myself.

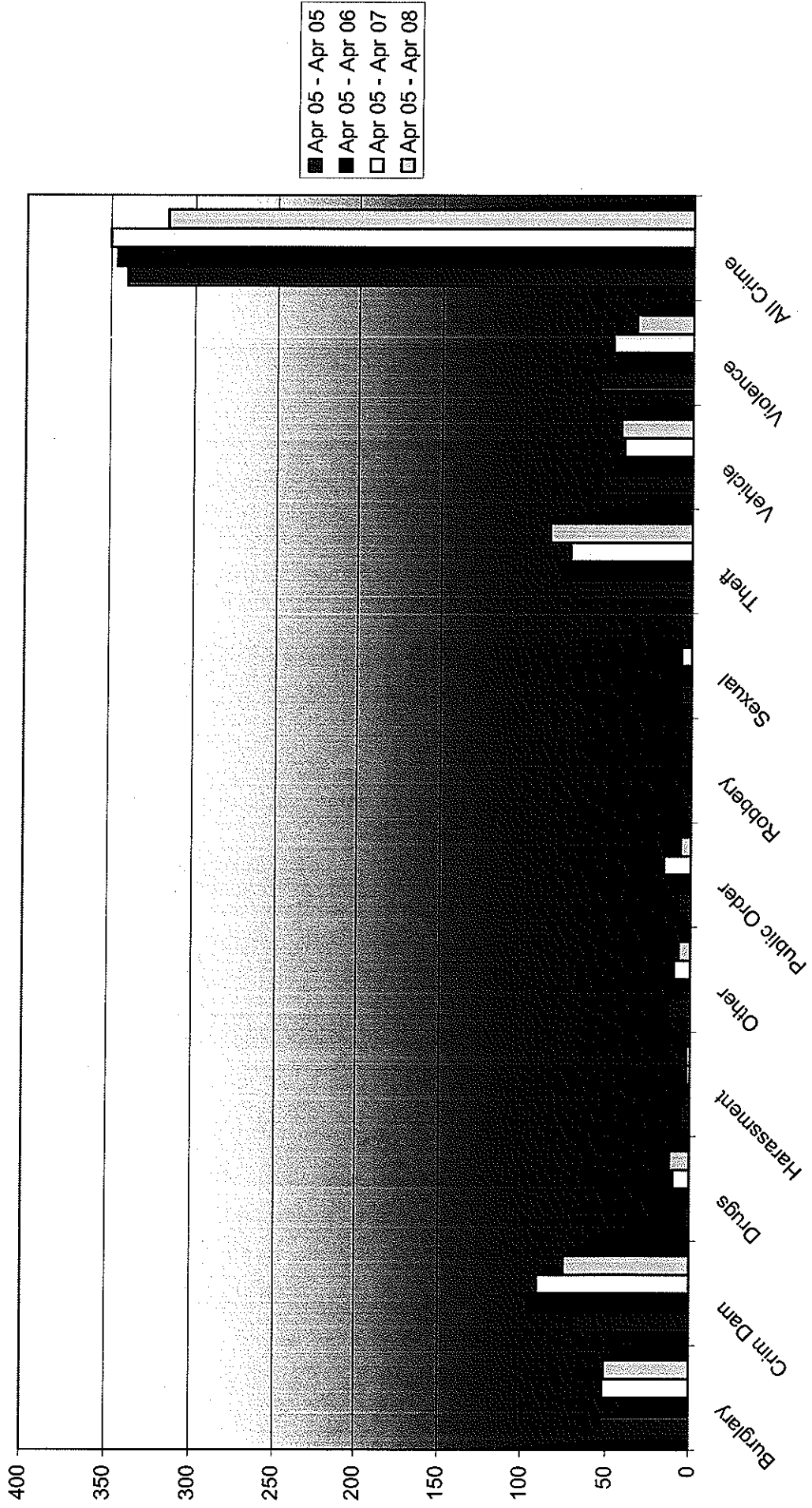
Yours sincerely



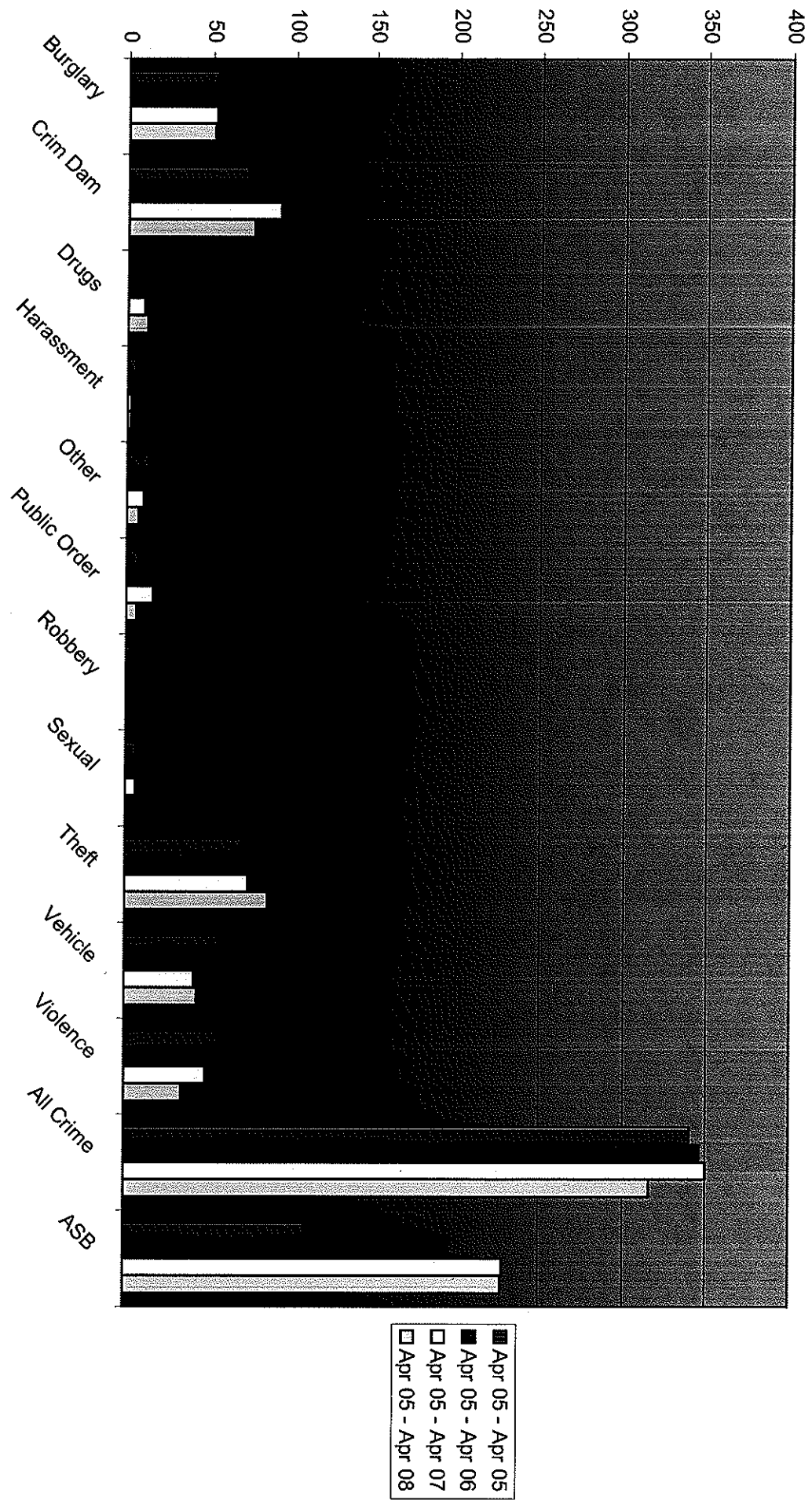
**JON WARD
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT
WIRRAL AREA COMMANDER**

**cc: Mr Steve Maddox – Chief Executive, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Mr Alan Stennard – Direction of Regeneration, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council**

A315 crime (4yr comparison)



A315 Crime & ASB last 4 yrs.



	Crimes reported	Target	Difference	% Diff
A1	909	988		
A2	479	606		
A3	160	187		
A4	310	366		
A5	761	895		
A6	961	1276		
A7	395	520		
A8	184	214		
TOTAL	4159	5056		

GALLERIES

powered by information development

Please note: this report uses the NICL category "Anti-Social Behaviour", which does not match the ASB PI definition. The PI has a narrower definition than the NICL category.

ASB Incidents in BCU A - Wirral - April 2007 to March 2008

	Last Year	This Year	Difference	Percentage Difference
A1	4759	4492	-267	-6%
A2	3219	2602	-617	-19%
A3	1256	995	-261	-21%
A4	2592	2234	-358	-14%
A5	4455	3522	-933	-21%
A6	4777	3678	-1099	-23%
A7	2932	2759	-173	-6%
A8	1253	883	-370	-30%
Total	25243	21165	-4078	-16%