



Northamptonshire County Council

During the licensing meeting held on 9th December 2011 at Irthlingborough the issue of the Lava Ignite Night club incident was discussed and it was agreed that a spot check inspection program should be put into place for clubs in the Kettering/Corby area. A number of premises were chosen. Cocoon in Kettering being one of these.

The premises was contacted and a date of 22nd December was agreed on for the inspection to take place.

On the date of the inspection myself and Steve Beale From Northamptonshire Police and Rita Braham from Kettering Borough Council attended the premises. Mr Gabriel Ribeiro representing the club was also present.

During the inspection the premises fire risk assessment was requested and was produced. The main point of interest and focus was to be the 'occupancy factor' within the premises. This is the number of persons the fire risk assessment for the premises states will be allowed into the premises and importantly is the number of persons that can safely be evacuated from the premises in an emergency. The document stated that this figure should not exceed 300. However whilst discussing the document with Mr Ribeiro he openly stated that he regularly had 400-450 persons in the premises. This was of a concern as the occupancy figure as stated in the fire risk assessment should have been calculated correctly based primarily on floor space factors and exit numbers and dimensions. A concern was voiced to Mr Ribeiro that by exceeding the stated numbers that he may be putting at risk staff and customers within the premises and it was strongly suggested that he check the figure in his assessment with the person who conducted the assessment and that the figures in the assessment should be adhered to.

These concerns and comments were put into a letter to Mr Ribeiro dated 22nd December 2011 a copy of which is attached to this email.

Contact was made with Mr Ribeiro and he had stated that he had had a conversation with his risk assessor who apparently informed Mr Ribeiro that he saw no problem with an increase in the occupancy figure of 300 up to 450. On the 24th Jan 2012 an email was sent to Mr Ribeiro requesting a meeting with him and his risk assessor in February to discuss the assessment and specifically the occupancy figure asking for an explanation as to what had changed in the club that subsequently allowed the figure to increase from 300 to 450.



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Mr Ribeiro called in February to say that his risk assessor worked abroad in the army and would be unavailable, an alternative date for a meeting was requested. No record of this conversation was made.

Subsequent efforts at this point to contact Mr Ribeiro were to no avail.

Contact was made via email with Mr Ribeiro on 2nd May 2012 requesting a meeting to discuss his risk assessment, Mr Ribeiro replied via e mail a few days later on the 8th stating a date and time of the 9th May that could not be agreed on due to prior working commitments in the department, and after this date he stated he was out of the country. A reply to this was sent stating an attempt to contact him in a number of weeks would be made but also requesting he make contact on his return. The question was also asked if the club operated in his absence and that he instruct his staff in the numbers of persons allowed in the premises as stated in his fire risk assessment.

He replied on the 18th May that the club would operate as normal in his absence and that the door staff were fully aware of the occupancy figure stated in the fire risk assessment.

A phone conversation was had with Mr Ribeiro where he stated that he would get another fire risk assessment conducted on the club and that he would abide by the findings in that assessment, a record of this conversation was not made.

No subsequent contact with Mr Ribeiro has been had, the last attempted contact was via email in July giving some suggested meeting dates but as yet there has been no reply.

Information has been received that another assessment had been conducted on the club by a third party company however due to lack of contact with Mr Ribeiro this has not been confirmed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Glandfield', written over a horizontal line.

Julian Glandfield

Fire Protection Officer