

**Response from Mr Greenfield to the representation from the
Director of Public Health**

Subject: The Hop & Rye - Public Health

Dear Franco,

I have received a copy of your email from the Director of Public Health, Medway Council requested by the police.

I feel that on 2 of the points which I am going to make clear, Barbara Murray - Public Health Project Officer has made a misrepresentation of the information she has given in the report. I have spoken to her verbally over these.

The first point was "the police evidence also states the premises licence holder had, previously to this incident, been warned by Trading Standards concerning a similar incident and offered guidance and advice, which, again, appears to have been disregarded. This shows a wilful neglect of the safety of both staff and customers at the public house". I would like to say I have spoken with Mr Ian Gilmore - Senior Trading Standards Officer on numerous occasions via phone and email, which he said he would be willing to attend the hearing on the 22nd December by request from the panel which he would confirm this is not the case. When I asked Barbara Murray where she had obtained her information from and if she had spoken with trading standards, her reply was she had tried to contact Ian Gilmore by phone and email to no avail. All I can think is the information came from PC Hunt which at the last meeting he said Trading Standards had visited the premises on numerous occasions but, not for the reasons which have been suggested.

The second point in the report " The Director of Public Health believes the types of action shown by the premises licence holder at this public house had the real potential of increasing wider community transmission of the virus, which in turn may have led to an increased risk of fatalities associated with Covid 19 in Medway". I feel that 6 elderly gentleman in a gathering in a locked in premises, surely couldn't be the case, which I would like to add I'm not condoning it. I would like to reiterate what I have put in my defence letter, that I drove past a car wash establishment on Frindsbury Hill, Strood, I pulled over and viewed business operations, which there was 10 car cleaners in and out of cars with no masks on, touching the interior of the general public's vehicles and monies exchanging hands, which I hazard to guess how many cars had gone through this establishment in one day and also how many car cleaning establishments are based in the Medway? Surely this is a real potential of increasing wider community transmission of the virus? I suggested this to Barbara Murray which she replied basically "this is irrelevant to this case".

I would like to conclude all I request is the true facts to be presented to the panel and to have a fair hearing. I would like to once again stress I do not condone the incident but to put it into prospective of what is going on in the Medway. I would like a copy of this email to be part of my defence.

Kind regards,

Mark