

Ref: AS/lr



John Hutson,
Chief Executive, JD Wetherspoon plc

cc. Cllr Danny Gibson,
Chair of the Stirling Licensing Board

Sent by email

5 August 2020

Dear Chief Executive,

Lack of social distancing: The Crossed Peels, Stirling

I have been contacted by a number of my constituents with concerning reports of a continual lack of social distancing being enforced in The Crossed Peels, a JD Wetherspoon pub in Stirling. This has included: large groups of people congregating in sections of the pub (and beer garden) not observing a safe social distance from each other, toilet facilities going for long periods of time without being checked by staff, and tables being too close together.

I have been told by a member of staff that they do not feel that there are enough staff members on shift in order to properly manage peak busy times, and that there are on occasion too many customers on the premises, making it difficult to keep everyone safe.

The vast majority of pubs and restaurants in the Stirling area have responded to the pandemic situation properly, providing assurances to customers by enforcing proper social distancing and other measures to minimise the risk of transmission of Coronavirus.

You may be aware that the First Minister has today announced the reintroduction of lockdown restrictions in Aberdeen city following a cluster of Covid-19 cases emerging in the area. You may also be aware that a number of the new cases emerging in the area have been linked to a pub.

The Crossed Peels is a significant destination for people looking to socialise in Stirling city centre, so I would urge you to look into this matter urgently and assess what more can be done to keep customers and staff at The Crossed Peels safe.

I copy in Councillor Danny Gibson, Chair of the Licensing Board, for his information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alyn Smith".

Alyn Smith MP

Member of the Westminster Parliament for Stirling Constituency
SNP Shadow Foreign Secretary