



Mr Raymond Fairchild
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Please ask for: David Draffan

Date 14 January 2016

Dear Mr Fairchild

I am in receipt of your letter which you sent to the Chief Executive Tracy Lee asking the following questions:

- What reason or justification is there for closing the Hoe in its entirety, such as was the case for the MTV Crashes' event?
- How a decision to close the Hoe is arrived at, that is, is it a delegated officer decision or is it a decision of the entire Council or one of its committees?
- Whether any direct financial benefit is gained by the Council as a result of such closure.

Please find the answers to your questions below:

- **What reason or justification is there for closing the Hoe in its entirety, such as was the case for the MTV Crashes' event?**

Plymouth City Council holds a premises' licence to hold events where licensable activities take place on Plymouth Hoe. Through general consultation and dialogue with the enforcement agencies, such as the police and fire service, we were asked how we were going to control numbers attending the event in line with the Licensing Act to ensure public safety. It was anticipated, due to the nature of the event, that there would be a large attendance. An open event would have meant we would have not been able to control numbers or ensure we had the correct number of staff or welfare facilities on site to meet the licence or legislation.

Our risk assessment evidenced that the only safe way to control numbers was therefore to fence off the Hoe based on a safe capacity calculated in line with crowd dynamics and the number of exits needed to facilitate access and egress in an emergency.

In short the rational and justification to close the Hoe off was:

- Comply with the premises' licence to ensure public safety
- Ensure public safety by controlling numbers through limiting access to the site and ticketing the event

- Ensure that there were the correct number of entrances/exits to meet access and egress requirements
- Ensure that there were the correct staff and welfare facilities on site to ensure public safety.

Whilst The Hoe was closed to the public during the main event days, access to the war memorials were available to the public if they notified a member of staff that they wished to do so. This is something we will publicise better for future events.

- **How a decision to close the Hoe is arrived at, that is, is it a delegated officer decision or is it a decision of the entire Council or one of its committees?**

The decision to hold the MTV Crashes Event and therefore close the Hoe for 3 days was a Cabinet Approved decision. This decision is available on the web from this link <http://modgov/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=65643> .

- Whether any direct financial benefit is gained by the Council as a result of such closure.

Plymouth City Council did not receive any direct financial gain from the MTV Crashes' event. We do not actively encourage commercial activity on the Plymouth Hoe and we only pursue cost recovery. However, Plymouth did receive substantial benefit estimated to be £3.465 million from the MTV Crashes' event. A breakdown of the estimate is given in the attached Impact Report. Plymouth received substantial benefit from being advertised on a worldwide stage as a visitor destination and a place to invest.



MTV report August
18th 2015.doc

In developing this and other events, the Council will seek to minimise the disruption caused to the public and in particular access to the Hoe and War Memorial. Please be reassured that the Council is committed to working closely with stakeholders and local residents.

I hope we have fully answered your questions, if however you have any queries please feel free to contact me and I will endeavour to resolve them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DJ Draffan".

David Draffan
Assistant Director for Economic Development