

Annex A

1. This direction responds to a serious and imminent threat to public health

Restrictions on gatherings have been implemented in Bolton due to rising coronavirus infection rates. Gatherings between different households are of particular concern and are increasing transmission rates. The number of outbreaks in the hospitality sector is increasing.

Bolton has been experiencing an increase in the number and rate of new cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) over the past month such that the local authority is now on the government's watchlist. This indicates that the rate of increase in new cases of COVID-19 in Bolton is amongst the highest in England. Local data suggests that the majority of new cases of COVID-19 are occurring in the community, that is, within people's own households, rather than in communal establishments, such as residential care or nursing homes. We also know that an increasing proportion of new cases of COVID-19 are in younger people.

These two factors combined mean that hospitality settings have the potential to be a particularly potent source of transmission for COVID-19 if these premises are not managed in a way that is compliant with the current regulations.

2. This direction is necessary for the purpose of preventing, protecting against, controlling or providing a public health response to the incidence or spread of infection by coronavirus in the Authority's area

The premises to which this direction relates has failed to implement appropriate social distancing controls, and failed to manage large queues outside the premises to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

During visits to the premises on 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 17th, 18th and 19th of August 2020, Council Officers witnessed evidence of large crowds of 20-30 people congregated and queuing outside the premises. There were no management controls to ensure social distancing between groups and a lack of understanding of risks related to Covid-19. Insufficient staff and measures were in place on site to safely manage the premises and there was a failure to ensure social distancing. Despite repeated visits to the premises and both written and verbal advice to rectify these issues, appropriate action has not been taken.

3. The prohibitions, requirements or restrictions imposed by this direction are a proportionate means of achieving that purpose.

Consideration has been given to restricting numbers at the venue or preventing queues from forming however due to the lack of appropriate controls at the premises, and the lack of understanding of risk and covid secure arrangements demonstrated by premises management, closure of the premises is required to protect public health and limit the spread of coronavirus.