

POLICY

Bars and Venues

Ref No: **BaV-08**



Weapons Policy
April 2024

| DOCUMENT CONTROL | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Document Name | Weapons Policy |
| Document Reference | Bars and Venues Policy 08 |
| Date of Document | APRIL 2024 |
| Review Date | APRIL 2025 |
| Revision Number | Rev 01 |
| Document Owner | James Bingham |
| Adopted by | Health and Safety Committee |
| (If Adopted under Delegated approval State Name of Delegated Person) | |
| Date of Formal Adoption or Ratification | 10/04/2023 |
| Adoption Review Date | Oct 2024 |

Introduction

The legal definition of an offensive weapon is **“any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to the person or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him or by another.”**

It is an offence for any person to have in their possession in a public place a bladed or sharply pointed article; a bladed article excludes a folding pocketknife with a blade cutting edge not exceeding 3 inches.

Under the Offensive Weapons Act, 2019, the sale, importation, manufacture, supply, and possession in public is already prohibited. It amends existing legislation in respect of offensive weapons to make it a criminal offence to possess in private certain offensive weapons, such as knuckledusters, zombie knives and death stars.

There are no exceptions for ingress with an offensive weapon at the Union bars. It is a criminal offence to carry weapons in the UK, even if carried for personal protection (this includes knives). Unlike in some other European countries, it is illegal to carry CS or pepper spray (Mace) in the UK.

Further information on the classification of an offensive weapon can be found within the [Offensive Weapons Act 2019](#), likewise, the [Firearms Act 1968](#).

Expected Standards

There are 4 licensing objectives of equal importance:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

Physical Prevention Counter Measures

The Union Bars operate certain physical countermeasures which include but are not limited to the following:

- Security staff patrols.
 - Inclusive of toilet facilities and known CCTV dark spots.
- Dynamic presence of front door security.
 - Constant static presence of at least one security staff member at main entrances.
 - Phineas – reception area, 25 Gordon Street.
 - Lewis Building – entry foyer, 134-136 Gower Street.
 - Institute – within a reasonable distance of each entry point / at the top of the terrace stairs when at capacity.
- Elevated levels of housekeeping.
 - Clearing and cleaning tables, maintenance (raising service requests).
- Having panelled off toilet cisterns.
 - This will avoid premeditated placing of substances.
- Frequent staff/security toilet visits.
- ID checks in place after 19:00.

- Phineas and the Lewis Building. The Institute is exempt through their public license – however, within the entry policy, customers are expected to always retain their IDs when visiting all venues.
- Bag, pocket checks on ‘event’ nights or because of a positive search.
 - Primarily Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday at Phineas.
 - Primarily Wednesday, Saturday at the Lewis Building.
 - Upon relevant suspicion at all bars.

Disposal of Weapons Found on Customer

Malicious Use

- Customer should be taken off the floor into a well-lit, CCTV covered area and searched.
- Security should stay with the person at the search area until the police arrive.
- The weapon should be confiscated, bagged, and locked in the most local safe.
- Police are called as an emergency.
- The customer is handed over to the police.
- The weapon is handed over to the police either at the time or at their earliest convenience, where it should be secured until their receipt.
- The customer should be added to the Union venues ban list and dealt with in accordance with the Union venue bans procedure.
- The customers’ name is given to UCL security control.

Practical Use

- Customer should be taken off the floor into a well-lit, CCTV covered area and searched.
- At the duty managers’ discretion, the customer can be allowed to enter the venue, or if in doubt, asked to return without the offending item. If in doubt, refer to the malicious use section above.
- If the customer is allowed entry to the venue, the offending item should be secured in the most local safe.
- The offending item, providing it is for practical use, may be returned to the customer later, or if in doubt, handed over to the police at the earliest opportunity.

Disposal of Weapons found in the Venue.

- The weapon is removed by security and the duty manager informed.
- The weapon is secured in the most local safe.
- The police are called and informed. Contact number depends on the immediate severity of the weapon/situation - to be determined by the duty manager.
- Management to make it a priority to speak with staff and enquire with UCL with regards to the CCTV and the weapons entrance to the venue.
- Incident reports to be completed and handed over to the police, licensing officer, relevant parties.

Any weapon that is found in the Union venues, whether static or on a customer is to be logged with venue management.