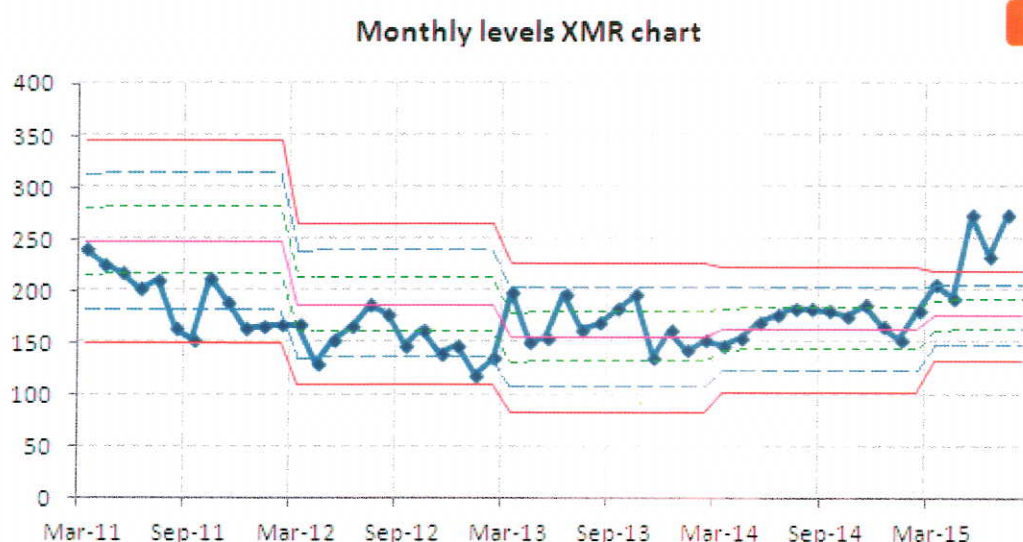


We are writing to summarise the concerns of the Oxford Local Police Area to the concentration of licensed premises in Oxford City Centre, and Cowley Road and St Clements in East Oxford. Thames Valley Police fully supports an extension of the existing special saturation policy in the City Centre and East Oxford, with no adjustment to the boundaries.

### Evidence of cumulative impact

Below is a graph illustrating the increasing trend in violent crime across the Oxford City from 2011- 2015.

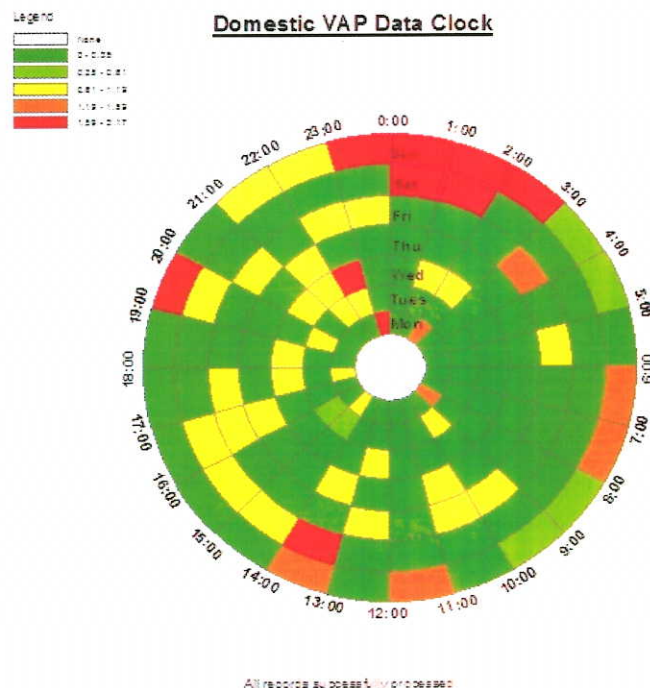
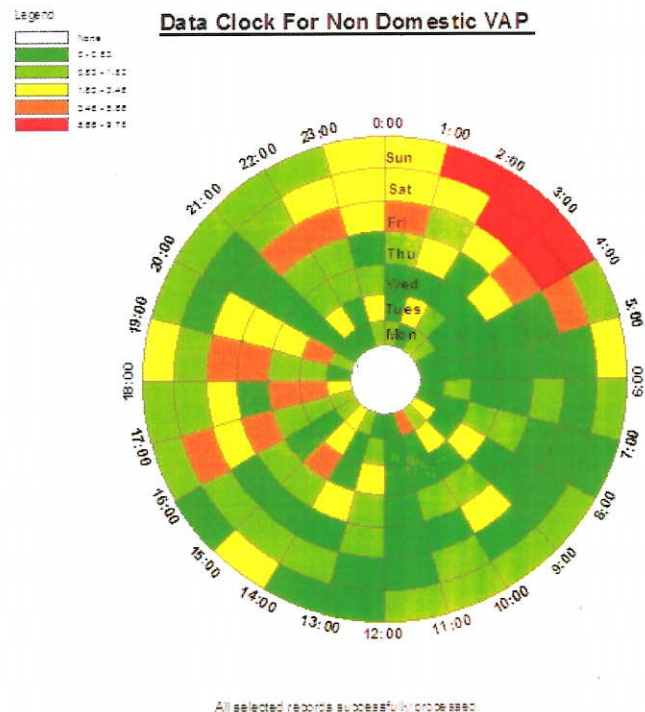


When broken down further for the last 2 years an increase can be seen, which is displayed in the below two tables.

CITY CENTRE	Recorded crime (12month periods)		
	Last year	Current year	% change
Violence against the person	507	638	+25.8%
Assault with injury	223	277	+24.2%
Assault without injury	284	361	+27.1%

EAST OXFORD	Recorded crime (12 month periods)		
	Last year	Current year	% change
Violence against the person	171	183	+7%
Assault with injury	64	60	-6.3%%
Assault without injury	106	123	+16%

As a result of a review of Nightsafe which took place at the beginning of 2015 it was found that 41% of all offences of violence against the person could be attributed to these two areas, most of which is attributed to the hours of the night time economy as shown in the temporal clocks below.



There has been a general upward trend in violence against the person offences over the last two years where previously it had remained at a relatively stable level.

Police and partners continue to tackle this increase and the ongoing demands of the night time economies in Oxford City through Nightsafe, CCTV, street pastors, work with existing premises to name but a few. However the Special Saturation Policy remains an essential part in reducing, or preventing an increase in, the negative impact on the community. An impact which is often voiced by many residents and stakeholders that have been linked to neighbourhood action groups.

## **The City Centre and East Oxford**

East Oxford and the City centre contain the majority, if not all, the premises that would relate to the night time economy with more than 80 licensed premises and a combined capacity of over 18,000 people. After the de-regulation under the Licensing Act 2003, the number of premises with extended licenses increased and that saw more people on the streets later in to the evenings and early mornings. These are times when the majority of people in those areas are under the influence of alcohol with little transport available.

Oxford City has a young population with census data showing 32% of them being between 28 and 29 years old, many of whom will socialise in the night time economy. These figures do not take in to account approximately 32,000 full time students and the 9 million visitors that also come and stay in the City. Many of whom will also socialise in the night time economy.

We have continued to work in partnership to introduce and support a number of initiatives to reduce the levels of alcohol-related violence in the area, including a city-wide Designated Public Place Order, introduction of stronger licence conditions on premises when possible, street pastors, SOS bus, an ever-growing Pubwatch scheme and scanners, to name but a few. Through Nightsafe we run a weekly high visibility police operations, target repeat offenders, identify support the vulnerable and work to reduce incidents of violence and anti social behaviour through high profile media campaigns.

The Special Saturation Policy has been used on several occasions to stop existing premises extending their hours and to deter new premises opening up. This has seen a change of use of many premises in to restaurants, making the area more attractive to other groups. It has also prevented an increased demand on the Police and partners, who are already working to their limit to manage the existing environment.

We strongly support the continuation of the Special Saturation Policy in both the city centre and East Oxford. The policy would continue to provide the partnership with opportunities to combat the cumulative impact of a larger number of people in two areas with high concentrations of licensed premises and the resultant crime and anti-social behaviour.

Superintendent Christian Bunt



Oxford LPA Commander