

Ref: Best Deli 381 Lincoln Road / TS Review

Wednesday 09th July 2014

Darren Dolby
Licensing Officer
Peterborough City Council
Bayard Place
Peterborough
PE1 1FZ



Dear Darren,

Re: Trading Standards review application – Best Deli, 381 Lincoln Road

On 11th June 2014 Cambridgeshire Constabulary received notification from Peterborough City Council Licensing Authority of an application submitted by Trading Standards to review the premises license of Best 381 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 2PF. The premises License (reference 068010) is held by Mansor Azher of 547 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 2PB, and who is the designated premises supervisor.

The review application refers to incidents of concern following Test Purchase and a joint Operation in company with Cambridgeshire Constabulary and HMRC involving the Sale of illicit cigarettes. A number of premises were impacted upon and a considerable amount of illicit tobacco was seized from numerous premises, including that of Best Deli. Prosecution was instigated against other premises whilst Mr Azher was offered an official caution by Trading Standards for being found with a smaller amount of illicit cigarettes.

The sale of illicit cigarettes within the Operation Can-do area, which comes under a cumulative impact zone, is prolific. Positive action is being taken by the authorities against identified offenders and a clear message is being sent out that the evasion of duty and the risk of harming the local / wider community is not acceptable. In refusing a caution for the sale of illicit cigarettes, which I consider reasonable given the circumstances, Mr Azher is clearly demonstrating that he is not a fit and proper person to be responsible for the sale of alcohol.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary take a very serious view on the sale of illicit goods realising the serious implications upon the licensing principle of preventing crime and disorder and promoting public safety. Such crime has a detrimental effect upon the community and can be harmful to unwitting customers. This type of crime may be linked to serious and organised crime.

Under the guidelines as set out under S.182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (11.26) Cambridgeshire Constabulary fully support our partners, HMRC and Trading Standards, as a responsible authorities, and there recommendations for the full revocation of the license for Best Deli for the sale of smuggled tobacco.

Yours faithfully,

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