



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

Ref: Trading Standards Review – 653 Lincoln Road

Monday 17th November 2014

Darren Dolby
Licencing Officer
Peterborough City Council
Bayard Place
Peterborough
PE1 1FY

Dear Darren,

Re: HMRC / Trading Standards review – Millfield Off License, 653 Lincoln Road

On the 21st October 2014 Cambridgeshire Constabulary received notification of a Licencing review application submitted by Peterborough City Council Trading Standards. The review application refers to the 'Off' Licensed premises of Millfield Off License, 653 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 3HA. The Premises Licence, No: 057556, is held by Mr. Ghulam Abbas Jaferi. The designated premises supervisor is Mohammed Rahimi, who holds an Alcohol Personal Licence No: 057556 issued by Peterborough City Council. Both males reside at Eastfield Road, Peterborough, PE1 4AS.

On 5th March 2014 Trading Standards carried out a test purchase Operation on premises where information or intelligence suggested they were involved in the sale of illicit goods. Millfield Off License was tested and a sale was witnessed which involved the sale of a foreign packet of cigarettes for £5.

On 21st March 2014 a multi-agency Operation involving Trading Standards, HMRC and Cambridgeshire Constabulary took place to target premises selling illicit and/or counterfeit goods. Millfield Off License was entered following the execution of a warrant. Numerous packets of cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco of foreign origin were found following a search, secreted around the premises and in a van outside.

On 15th October 2014 - The Premises Licence holder – Ghulam Abbas Jaferi pleaded guilty at Peterborough Magistrates Court to 5 offences for supplying and possessing foreign labelled cigarettes.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary take a very serious view on the sale of illicit and/or counterfeit goods. This is a serious breach upon the licencing objective of preventing crime and disorder and in my opinion does not promote public safety. Such crime has a detrimental effect upon the immediate community and can be harmful to unwitting customers including children. Foreign cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco are not subject to the strict regulation and control measures that would benefit UK authorised sale items and in most cases have not had UK duty paid on them. Distribution and sale of illicit / counterfeit goods is linked to serious and organised crime and nationally is a drain on the economy.

The effected premises initially failed a test purchase and this alone should have set a clear and present warning to the shop owner and staff about such sales, but obviously knowing the wrongs in such activity, have continued to secrete goods about the store, to sell for their own gain. This leads me to doubt the premises staffs credibility and trustworthiness in selling alcohol fit and properly.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary support Trading Standards in submitting this review application and also ask for the Licensing Sub-Committee to seriously consider revoking the licence held by Mr Jaferi. Under the guidelines as set out under S.182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (11.27) the Home Office suggest that the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and alcohol is of such a serious nature that revocation should be considered.

Millfield Off Licence sits within the Cumulative Impact Area of Operation CAN-DO. All licensed premises within this area have been visited on numerous occasions and reminded of their obligations to the objectives under the Licensing Act 2003. Police and partners have impacted positively upon the sale of illicit and counterfeit goods such that it is regularly broadcast within the local press. All licensees should be aware that the sale of illicit or counterfeit goods is harmful to the public and associated with criminality. On this occasion the licensee has clearly shown a disregard, for his own benefit, and at the detriment to the local community and the hard work other licensees have put in to make Millfield and New England a safer place to be. The sale of illicit and/or counterfeit goods is consistently happening throughout the CAN-DO area and a clear message needs to be sent out that this sort of activity will not be tolerated.

Yours faithfully,
Grahame Robinson

Police Constable 1572
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Licensing Officer (Northern District)
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Please ask for:
Our reference:
Your reference: Review of a premises licence 070306



Peterborough City Council
Town Hall
Bridge Street
Peterborough
PE1 1HG

The Licensing Team
Peterborough City Council
1st Floor, Bayard Place
Broadway
Peterborough
PE1 1HU

30 October 2014

Dear Licensing Team

Review of a premises licence 070306

Thank you for sending us a copy of this application for the review of a premises licence. We note the offences for which the licensee was found guilty and we welcome the work by partner organisations to crack down on illicit tobacco sales.

Smoking is the primary cause of preventable morbidity and premature death, accounting for 81,400 deaths in England in 2009¹. In England, deaths from smoking are more numerous than the next six most common causes of preventable death combined, and the associated costs for smoking related diseases is also significant.

Tobacco use has a devastating impact on public health in our communities causing harm not only to smokers but also to the people around them. In England 1 in 5 adults smoke while in Peterborough 1 in 4 adults smoke. It is an objective to reduce the associated health burden upon individuals, families and the community, and we believe it is important that we strive to reduce smoking prevalence among all people living in our city.

Tobacco and alcohol are dangerous drugs and we consider national strategies, taxation policy and licensing legislation to be important contributors to reducing harm by restricting availability and safeguarding the public, including the young and vulnerable. We consider deliberate non-compliance with the law in relation to selling illegal tobacco a very serious issue and where proven we would support tough sanctions, including withdrawal of a license, towards individuals whose actions indicate insufficient regard for the public's health and wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Henrietta E. Ewart'. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

**Dr Henrietta Ewart MA(Oxon) MA(Warwick) PhD MBBS DRCOG FFPH
Interim Director of Public Health**

¹ Department of Health, 2010

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