

Re: Licence Review – Baltia Store 148-150 Huntly Grove, Peterborough

On the 21st May 2015, Trading Standards received notification from Peterborough City Council Licensing Authority of an application submitted by Cambridgeshire Constabulary to review the premises licence of Baltia Store, 148-150 Huntly Grove, Peterborough.

In March 2015, an application to transfer the premises licence relating to Jip Convenience Store 148-150 Huntly Grove was received from the applicant Mr Marwan Jalal JABARI and stating the designated premises supervisor as Gitana Siatkiene. Following a visit to the shop by the Police in April, it had been renamed Baltia Store.

Ms Gitana Siatkiene previously owned the Euro Shop 135 Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough with her partner Mr Saade Jalal Jabar.

On the 11th October 2012, Mr Jabar pleaded guilty to 4 out of 5 counts on indictment in relation to the fraudulent evasion of Excise Duty relating to 3 seizures and was given a 2 year custodial sentence. In relation to these 3 seizures, on all occasions the goods were found concealed within Euro Shop, their home address and personal vehicles. The seizures made in Euro Shop were witnessed by Trading Standards and Ms Siatkiene was present on each occasion.

In August 2013, Ms Siatkiene applied for a new premises licence for the Euro Shop. This application was strongly objected by Trading Standards. On the 4th October 2013, a hearing took place where it was explained to the Licensing Sub-Committee the history of illicit alcohol and tobacco with Ms Siatkiene and her partner Mr Jabar. The Sub-Committee refused to grant the licence for the premises.

Further intelligence of the sale and supply of illicit alcohol and tobacco was received from July 2014. This led to several seizures by HM Revenue and Customs between July-November 2014. These illicit products were found concealed within Euro Shop, their home address and personal vehicles.

On the 10th May 2015, Trading Standards assisted HM Revenue & Customs and the Police in executing a warrant at Baltia Store. Both Ms Siatkiene and Mr Jabar were present when we arrived.

A seizure of 9.1 litres (13 bottles) of non-duty-paid spirits were found concealed under food items in the freezer, 140 assorted non UK duty-paid cigarettes were concealed in a tin on a shelf behind cat food and 28 packets of flavoured non-tobacco molasses were concealed behind the counter. They were seized from Ms Siatkiene, the shop manager.

Mr Jabar's vehicle that was parked outside the shop contained 46,020 cigarettes, 16.212kg of hand rolling tobacco and 2.81 spirits all non UK duty-paid.

The total amount of goods seized from Mr Jabar between July – November 2014 and including 10th May 2015 are 658,800 cigarettes, 44.5 kgs hand rolling tobacco, 55.3 litres spirits and 9 litres wine. Total evaded revenue **£213,464.00**. Investigations are continuing in the HMRC case consisting of 6 separate offences.

Trading Standards take a serious view on the sale of illicit goods realising the implications upon the licencing principle of preventing crime and disorder. We are not confident in the management of the business as they have previously and continued to gain financially through crime.

Under the guidelines under S182 of the Licensing Act 2003, Trading Standards fully support Cambridgeshire Constabulary with their recommendation for the revocation of the licence for Baltia Stores. Further illegal activity of illicit alcohol and tobacco has shown that the business is not promoting the crime prevention licensing objective.

Turvey Philippa

From: Clark Graeme
Sent: 16 June 2015 15:49
To: Licensing
Cc: Grahame Robinson; Dolby Darren
Subject: Review Application - Baltia - Huntley Grove
Attachments: Baltia Off License Review 19 05 15.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Afternoon,

I refer to the attached Review Application and submit the following representation on behalf of the Eastern Neighbourhood Delivery Team (NDT).

The NDT is fully supportive of the review of the licence for the Baltia off Licence, 148 – 150 Huntly Grove, Peterborough. The NDT strongly supports the need to revoke the licence based on the fact that the crime and disorder objective within the licence has being breached.

Crime and disorder is an issue the NDT works in partnership to tackle and it believes issues such as what have been uncovered at this location should, on this occasion, be dealt with by taking robust action in respect of the licence.

Regards,

Graeme Clark
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For more information about the Safer Peterborough Partnership visit www.saferpeterborough.org.uk

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