

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Licensing Standards Officers Report

Licensing Board Review Hearing: 8 November 2011

Premises: WDLBPREM 0251- Village Store

Address: 66 Whitecrook Street, Clydebank G81 1QS

Premises Licence Holder: Mrs Shaneen Majeed

Designated Premises Manager: Mrs Meet Kaur Gurwala

Licensed Hours: 10am to 8pm. Monday to Sunday.

Introduction/Background

This report is provided under section 38 (4) (a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 following a request for a review of the premises licence from Strathclyde Police. The content of this report is restricted to the compliance history of the above premises in terms of the above legislation and its associated regulations plus any relevant information from within the Regulatory Services section.

Premises History

21/07/09 Premises Licence granted to Mr Zafar Mahmood

16/02/10 Compliance notice issued for non-payment of annual fees. (Payment received thereafter)

25/02/10 Licence transferred to Mrs Shaneen Majeed, the current licence holder.

04/0811 Application received to transfer licence to Mr Gurwal Singh Sagar, current Designated Premises Manager (DPM). This application is pending until after the outcome of this review hearing.

30/09/11 Variation granted to name Meet Kaur Gurwala as the new DPM.

The premises have been visited 6 times by Licensing Standards Officers since the licence was granted. With the exception of a visit to secure compliance in relation to the non-payment of annual fees, all of these visits have been advisory in nature. It should be noted that the compliance notice in relation to the annual fees was served on the previous licence holder.

Current Issues

On Friday 19 August 2011, a test purchase operation was conducted at the premises and a shop assistant, Goldy Singh Gurwara sold to the test purchase operative. Following this, a request to review the licence was submitted by Strathclyde Police. When the premises were tested a second time on the 23 September 2011, the sale was refused.

An inspection was carried out on Wednesday 19 October 2011 to assess the premises compliance in advance of the review hearing to which this report relates. The premises were found to be fully compliant with all compliance matters.

Matters Relating to Age Related Sales

The premises reports that it only accepts Passports and Photo-card Driving Licences, and this is supplemented by a Challenge 25 Policy. There is signage on display in the premises relating to this policy.

All staff members working within the premises at the time of the incident are trained to Personal licence level, with two out of the three persons employed in this premises holding personal licences.

The premises have recently started operating a refusals register, which reports that refusals are regularly getting carried out on the premises. Further to this, CCTV, which is in operation, shows footage of the licensed area and a reasonable view outside of the premises.

Officers Comments

The Board should note that the member of staff involved in the sale of alcohol to the test purchase operative, Mr Goldy Singh Gurwara, has since had his employment terminated at the shop as a result of this failing. Mr Gurwara was trained to Personal Licence level however he did not hold a personal licence at this time.

When I spoke to Mr Gurwara following the incident, he stated that he had confused the individual who was carrying out the test purchase operation for an older person due to the fact that she exited the car she was travelling in from the driver's side. Footage which confirms this to be the case was viewed during the inspection on Wednesday 19 October 2011. However the board should note that the car which was being used was a three door hatchback, which explains why the young person appeared to have alighted from the driver's seat.

The husband of the current DPM, Mr Gurwal Singh Sagar, also reported that on the evening of 12/10/11 he refused a customer a large quantity of alcohol as he believed this individual to be acting as an agent for some young persons who were seen to approach the individual. There is an entry within the refusals book relating to this and following this issue being reported to the Police, an intelligence log against the person attempting to purchase has been raised by the Police using details supplied by the premises.

It should also be noted that the CCTV is set up in such a manner to allow ease of viewing to all areas, notably the outside areas in order to monitor for tell tale signs relating to under-aged or agent purchase sales.

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Peter Clyde

Licensing Standards Officer

Date : 19 October 2011

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