

Application for Review of a Premises Licence

UK Mini Market, 38 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 7AE

Representation on behalf of the licensing authority acting as a responsible authority

My name is Dave Etheridge. I am a Principal Licensing Officer for Worcestershire Regulatory Services and have been in my current role for nearly nine years. I have been working in the field of licensing and enforcement since 2004.

I am aware that Worcestershire Trading Standards have made application for a review of the premises licence issued to Mrs Sozan Qadir Taha in respect of:

UK Mini Market
38 Worcester Road
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B61 7AE

I submit this representation for consideration by the Licensing Sub-Committee when determining the review application. The representation is submitted on behalf of the licensing authority (Bromsgrove District Council) in their capacity as a responsible authority.

Initial Multi-Agency Visit to the Premises

On 22nd September 2021, I took part in a multi-agency visit to UK Mini Market, 38 Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 7AE.

I was invited to take part in the visit by officers from Worcestershire Trading Standards who were looking to visit the premises to follow up on an earlier visit where illicit tobacco products had been found on the premises. The multi-agency visit also involved officers from Worcestershire Trading Standards, West Mercia Police, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and Bromsgrove District Council's Housing Team.

I used the opportunity of this multi-agency visit to check that those running the premises were complying with the conditions attached to the licence when it was issued the previous month on 20th August 2021.

My checks highlighted a number of licence conditions that it appeared were not being complied with. As a result of my findings during the visit on 22nd September 2021, I wrote a letter to the holder of the premises licence, Mrs Sozan Qadir Taha, which was sent to the address she had provided when the licence was applied for in July 2021. The letter enclosed a report detailing the issues I had found during the visit and setting out the actions that were required as a result. A copy of my letter and enclosure is attached with this representation.

Second Multi-Agency Visit to the Premises

On 10th February 2022 I took part in a further multi-agency visit to the premises. Others present at this visit were officers from Worcestershire Trading Standards, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and Bromsgrove District Council's Housing Team.

During this visit there was a female member of staff working in the shop who advised me that she worked at the premises five days per week during the daytime and that she had commenced her employment at the premises in early January 2022.

I explained that I was present to check that the issues identified in the visit in September 2021 had been rectified. Unfortunately a number of the issues remained and I will detail these below.

Licence Conditions Relating to CCTV

The member of staff present at the time of the visit was not able to demonstrate that the CCTV system provided storage capacity to store a minimum of 31 days footage.

The member of staff was only able to provide footage recorded in the preceding five minutes and was not able to operate the system to show footage recorded earlier that day or on any other dates in the preceding 31 days.

It was clear that the member of staff had not received sufficient training in order to ensure rapid data retrieval and downloads of footage can be provided to the Police & the Local Authority Officer upon reasonable request in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

I also inspected the records available of CCTV logs. There were only three entries in the CCTV log-book dated 1st October 2021, 1st November 2021 and 21st November 2021. It therefore would appear that the requirement to complete a weekly CCTV log is not being complied with.

Licence Condition Requiring to Use of an Incident Book

The incident book kept on the premises remained completely blank. This may suggest that the requirement to record relevant incidents in an incident book is not being complied with but equally could be because no relevant incidents have occurred at the premises that required recording.

Licence Condition Requiring Use of a Register of Refusals

The register of refusals maintained on the premises did have a number of entries dated between 1st October 2021 and 20th December 2021. There were no entries recorded after this date.

The member of staff on duty at the time of the visit told me that she had on previous occasions since she started working in the shop in January 2022 had cause to refuse the sale of alcohol to people she suspected of being under the age of 18 and who could not prove they were 18 or over. The member of staff told me she had forgotten that she was supposed to record such refusals in the refusals register.

Licence Condition Requiring Staff Training

There were no completed records to demonstrate staff had been trained as required. The female member of staff present during our visit said that she had been given verbal training when she started working at the premises but confirmed she had not completed any written training sheets.

Licence Condition Requiring Signage at the Exits of the Premises

The signage required to ask customers to leave the premises and area quickly and quietly was still being displayed at the shop counter rather than at the public exit from the premises.

Conclusions

It was clear from my findings during the second multi-agency visit I attended on 10th February 2022, that very little progress had been made by the holders of the premises licence to secure that the conditions attached to the premises licence were being complied with. This was despite having been provided with a clear report detailing the issues that needed their attention and direction as to the actions they needed to take.

This, coupled with the information I have read in the review application submitted by Worcestershire Trading Standards, gives me very little confidence in the ability of the premises licence holder and their employees to uphold the four licensing objectives appropriately at the premises.

For that reason it is my belief that the Licensing Sub-Committee should give very serious consideration to using their powers to revoke the premises licence.

Dave Etheridge
Principal Licensing Officer
Worcestershire Regulatory Services (on behalf of Bromsgrove District Council)