

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

AGENDA



Thursday 13th March 2025

at 10.00 am

**in Committee Room C,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE:

Councillors Clayton, Dodds and Nelson

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
3. **MINUTES**
No items
4. **ITEMS FOR DECISION**
 - 4.1 Application for the review of a premises licence – Belle Vue Booze, 10 Sydenham Road, Hartlepool - *Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)*
5. **ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

CIVIC CENTRE EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire alarm or a bomb alarm, please leave by the nearest emergency exit as directed by Council Officers. A Fire Alarm is a continuous ringing. A Bomb Alarm is a continuous tone. The Assembly Point for everyone is Victory Square by the Cenotaph. If the meeting has to be evacuated, please proceed to the Assembly Point so that you can be safely accounted for.

LICENSING ACT 2003

Procedure for Review Hearings



Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a representative of the Democratic Services Section shall establish the identity of those present, who they represent and who intends, or wishes to speak.

1. The Chair's opening comments, including introduction of Members of sub-committee and officers present. Explanation of the decision to be considered.
2. The Assistant Director (Regulatory Services) outlines the application, any relevant representations and relevancy to Licensing Policy and statutory guidance.
3. Members ask any questions of the Assistant Director (Regulatory Services).
4. Applicant for Review presents their case (either personally or via legal representation) and introduces witnesses where appropriate.
5. Questions by Members to applicant and/or applicant's witnesses.
6. Representations by responsible bodies and/or interested parties and witnesses introduced where appropriate.
7. Questions by Members to responsible bodies/interested parties and/or their witnesses.
8. Licence/Club Certificate holder presents their case (either personally or via legal representation) and introduces witnesses where appropriate.
9. Parties may question and clarify issues raised with the consent of the Chair.
10. If required, applicant/responsible bodies/interested parties to be given opportunity to sum up.
11. If required, the Licence /Club Certificate holder to be given opportunity to sum up.
12. Members to have the opportunity to clarify any points raised. The Chair shall ask whether all parties are satisfied they have said all they wish to.
13. Members to go into closed session to deliberate.
14. Chair informs parties of their decision, with reasons.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

13th March 2025



Report of: Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)

Subject: APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE – BELLE VUE BOOZE, 10 SYDENHAM ROAD, HARTLEPOOL, TS25 1QB

1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITY

Hartlepool will be a place:

- where those who are vulnerable will be safe and protected from harm.

2 PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To consider an application for the review of a premises licence in respect of Belle Vue Booze, 10 Sydenham Road, Hartlepool. A Summary of the application is outlined below:

2.2 Party requesting review: Trading Standards

2.3 The current premises licence holder is: Belle Vue Booze Ltd
10 Sydenham Road
Hartlepool
TS25 1QB

2.4 The premise licence is held by a Belle Vue Booze Ltd, this is a limited liability company. The limited liability company has one appointed Director with significant control and that is Mr. Hadi Azagh. Mr. Azagh is also the Designated Premises Supervisor.

2.5 A copy of the licence is attached as **Appendix 1**.

2.6 A copy of the review application is attached as **Appendix 2**.

2.7 Google streetview images of the property are attached as **Appendix 3**.

2.8 The application for review refers to the following licensing objective:

- Prevention of Crime & Disorder

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Trading Standards have requested a review of the Premises Licence of Belle Vue Booze, Hartlepool as they state the premises licence holder is supplying illicit tobacco for sale, and failed to comply with the conditions attached the premises licence.

3.2 The Belle Vue Booze current premises licence authorises the off sale of alcohol between 10:00 – 22:00 Monday to Sunday.

3.3 The application for the review has been advertised in the prescribed manner.

3.4 Intelligence was first received by the Trading Standards team in February 2023 that illicit tobacco was being supplied from Belle Vue Booze.

3.5 On the 23rd August 2023 following receipt of further intelligence that the premises CCTV was not working and Illicit tobacco was being sold from Belle Vue Booze a test purchase was made. A packet of Lambert & Butler Silver in non-standardised packaging was purchased.

3.6 A visit to the premises was conducted the same day where an inspection identified that there was a sleeve of counterfeit Lambert & Butler found in a carrier bag in the store room. Ten packets of Manchester Reds, a packet of JPS Red Superkings and six packets of Lambert & Butler silver in the cigarette gantry. The premises was also found to be in breach of the terms of its licence by exposing single high strength lagers and ciders for sale. The high strength lagers and ciders were removed from sale. Mr Azagh was given a Formal Warning in relation to these matters.

3.7 In September 2024, further intelligence was received alleging that illicit tobacco was again being sold from the premises. A successful test purchase was made in October 2024.

3.8 An inspection was completed at the premises on 23rd October 2024. No illicit tobacco was found at the time but high strength lagers and ciders were again found to be being offered for sale that were in breach of the premises' licence. The member of staff working in the premises was advised of this and they were removed from sale.

3.9 A further test purchase was made on 25th October 2024. The test purchaser again managed to buy a packet of counterfeit Lambert & Butler Silver cigarettes from the same member of staff.

- 3.10 Mr Azagh was interviewed and claimed that the matter of the single cans of high strength lager and cider was due to an error in his understanding. Mr Azagh stated that he wasn't in the country at the time of the test purchases. He confirmed that he wasn't sure who was working at the time of the sales.
- 3.11 Trading Standards have provided written statements and evidence to support the review application, attached as **Appendix 4**.
- 3.12 Cleveland Police have provided a Statement supporting the review and this is attached as **Appendix 5**.
- 3.13 Hartlepool Borough Council Public Health Department have provided a representation and it is attached as **Appendix 6**.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 An application for the review of a licence is made under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003.
- 4.2 *The application* must relate to at least one of the Act's 'licensing objectives' which are: -

- i) The prevention of crime and disorder;
- ii) Public safety;
- iii) The prevention of public nuisance; and
- iv) The protection of children from harm

- 4.3 The application for review relates to allegations that the premises Licence holder is allowing the sale of illicit tobacco from the premises.

- 4.4 Statutory guidance that accompanies the Licensing Act 2003 states: -

Para 11.28 'Where reviews arise and the licensing authority determines that the crime prevention objective is being undermined through the premises being used to further crimes, it is expected that revocation of the licence – even in the first instance – should be seriously considered.'

- 4.5 Having considered the evidence detailed in this report and any further information provided, or representations made, at the licensing hearing, the steps available to the Licensing Sub-committee are: -

- To take no action;
- To modify the conditions on the licence;
- To remove or amend licensable activities currently authorised by the licence and/or the times that they may take place;
- To suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;
- To revoke the licence.

5. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/ IMPLICATIONS

Risk Implications	None
Financial Considerations	Appeal by the Licence holder
Legal Considerations	Appeal by the Licence holder
Equality and Diversity Considerations	None
Staff Considerations	None
Asset Management Considerations	None
Environmental, Sustainability and Climate Change Considerations	None

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That Members consider the representations made and determine what action, if any, should be taken.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

None

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003>
- 8.2 Hartlepool Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy
https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20023/licences_and_permits/228/alcohol_entertainment_and_late_night_refreshment/2

9. CONTACT OFFICERS

Rachael Readman
 Trading Standards and Licensing Manager
Rachael.readman@hartlepool.gov.uk

Sylvia Pinkney
 Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)
Sylvia.pinkney@hartlepool.gov.uk

THE LICENSING ACT 2003
PREMISES LICENCE (PART A)



Premises licence number

HART/PS/575

Part 1 - Premises details

Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference, or description

10 Sydenham Road

Post Town Hartlepool

Post Code TS25 1QB

Telephone number

Where the licence is time limited the dates

N/A

Licensable activities authorised by the licence. Any entertainment authorised by this licence is limited to indoors only, unless stated otherwise.

Alcohol Sales (Off Sales)

This licence does not authorise the provision of adult entertainment.

The time the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities.

Monday – Sunday 10:00 – 22:00

The opening hours of the premises

Monday – Sunday 1000 – 22:00

Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and / or off supplies

Off Sales Only

Name, (registered) address, telephone number and email (where relevant) of holder of premises licence

Belle Vue Booze Ltd
10 Sydenham Road
Hartlepool
TS25 1QB

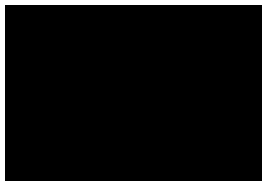


Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable)

13630941

Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol

Hadi Azagh



Personal licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorizes for the supply of alcohol



Date licence granted: 25th August 2023

ANNEX 1 – Mandatory Conditions

1. No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence-
 - (a) at a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, or
 - (b) at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended

Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

2.
 - (1) The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder shall ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.
 - (2) The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.
 - (3) The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either-
 - (a) a holographic mark, or
 - (b) an ultraviolet feature.

3.
 - (1) A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.
 - (2) For the purposes of the condition set out in paragraph 1—
 - “duty” is to be construed in accordance with the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979;
 - “permitted price” is the price found by applying the formula—
$$P = D + (D \times V)$$
 - (b) where—
 - (I) P is the permitted price,
 - (II) D is the rate of duty chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the duty were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol, and
 - (III) V is the rate of value added tax chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the value added tax were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol;

“relevant person” means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a premises licence—

- (c)
 - (i) the holder of the premises licence,

- (ii) the designated premises supervisor (if any) in respect of such a licence, or
 - (iii) the personal licence holder who makes or authorises a supply of alcohol under such a licence;
- “relevant person” means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is
- (d) in force a club premises certificate, any member or officer of the club present on the premises in a capacity which enables the member or officer to prevent the supply in question; and
 - (e) “valued added tax” means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994.

- Where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 would
- (3) (apart from this paragraph) not be a whole number of pennies, the price given by that sub-paragraph shall be taken to be the price actually given by that sub-paragraph rounded up to the nearest penny.
 - (4) (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 on a day (“the first day”) would be different from the permitted price on the next day (“the second day”) as a result of a change to the rate of duty or value added tax.
- (2) The permitted price which would apply on the first day applies to sales or supplies of alcohol which take place before the expiry of the period of 14 days beginning on the second day.

ANNEX 2 – Conditions consistent with the Operating Schedule

- 1 From two months of the business starting a digital Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV) will be installed and maintained in good working order and be correctly time and date stamped.
 - (a) The system will incorporate sufficient built-in hard-drive capacity to suit the number of cameras installed.
 - (b) CCTV will be capable of providing pictures of evidential quality in all lighting conditions, particularly facial recognition.
 - (c) Cameras will encompass all ingress and egress to the premises, outside areas and all areas where the sale/supply of alcohol occurs.
 - (d) The system will record and retain CCTV footage for a minimum of 28 days
 - (e) The system will record at all times when the premises are open for the purposes of licensable activities.
 - (f) The system will incorporate a means of transferring images from the hard-drive to a format that can be played back on any desktop computer.
 - (g) The Digital recorder will be password protected to prevent unauthorised access, tampering, or deletion of images.
 - (h) There will be at all times, when the premises is open, a member of staff on duty with access to the CCTV system who is trained in the use of the equipment.
 - (i) Upon receipt of a request for a copy of CCTV footage from Police, Licensing Officers or any other Responsible Authority, the member of staff will produce the footage within 24 hours or less if urgently required for investigations of serious crime.
 - (j) CCTV footage must be made available to be viewed by the Police, Licensing Officers or other Responsible Authorities on request during an inspection of or visit to the Premises
- 2 An incident book must be kept at the Premises and maintained up to date (no later than 24 hours after the incident) at all times and will record the following:
 - Time date and details of all incidents/complaints of crime and disorder or anti-social behaviour
 - The incident log will be made available to police, licensing officers and other responsible authorities on reasonable request
- 3 Training in relation to Challenge 25, under age sales, sales to adults on behalf of minor (proxy sales), sales to intoxicated persons, refusals registers, incident records and all other conditions on the Premises Licence must be provided and undertaken by all members of staff (whether paid or unpaid) before he / she

makes a sale, supply or delivery of alcohol and at least every six months thereafter.

- 4 Documented training records must be completed in respect of every member of staff and must include the name of the member of staff trained, date, time and content of the training. The record must be signed by the member of staff who has received the training, the Designated Premises Supervisor/ Premises Licence Holder or external training providers.
- 5 Documented training records must be kept at the Premises and made available to the Police, Licensing Officers and all other Responsible Authorities on request or during an inspection
- 6 Staff must require ID in the form of a current ten year passport, photo card driving licence or PASS Hologram identity card from any customer who appears to be under the age of 25 and verify the customer is over the age of 18 before any sale of alcohol is made
- 7 There shall be notices at all points of sale and at all entrances and exits informing customers and reminding staff that the premises is operating a proof of age scheme which includes a "Challenge 25 policy.
- 8 A refusals log will be kept and maintained at all times up to date in accordance with company policy recording the date, time, type of product refused, reasons for every refusal to sell alcohol to a customer and the name of the member of staff refusing the sale. The refusals log will be made available to police, licensing officers and other responsible authorities on reasonable request. The Premises Licence Holder/Designated Premises Supervisor must monitor the refusals log on a monthly basis.
- 9 There shall be no sales of Lager, Beer, Cider or Perry product with an ABV of 6.5% or above.
- 10 The Premises Licence Holder/ Designated Premises Supervisor will participate in any 'Responsible Retailing' scheme and any relevant training / campaigns which the Police or Local Authority provide or recommend.
- 11 The Premises Licence Holder/Designated Premises Supervisor will participate in any local Off Licence forums held by the Local Authority.
13. A Personal Licence Holder must be present at the Premises at all times when alcohol is offered for sale. This condition must be fully complied with within 6 months of the premises licence being granted.
14. Alcohol must only be displayed in the areas identified for display of alcohol on the plan attached to the Premises Licence or such other area as agreed with the Licensing Authority subject to the display area not exceeding 10% of the display area for all goods.
- 15 The Premises will not sell or supply any single cans of beer, lager or cider
16. At least one litter bin must be placed outside of the Premises.

17. All members of staff will monitor the customers in the premises and those leaving the premises to ensure no undue nuisance is caused to local residents. Notices shall be displayed in a prominent position asking for customers to respect the needs of the local residents.

ANNEX 3 – Conditions attached after a hearing by the Licensing Authority

ANNEX 4 - Plans

YOU ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS YOUR LEGAL OBLIGATION TO ATTACH THE CURRENT 'PLAN' TO THIS PREMISES LICENCE AND KEEP THIS LICENCE (OR A CERTIFIED COPY) IN A SECURE PLACE AT THE LICENSED PREMISES.

IT IS AN OFFENCE NOT TO PRODUCE YOUR PREMISES LICENCE (INCLUDING THE PLAN) UPON REQUEST BY A POLICE OFFICER, LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICER OR AUTHORISED PERSON.

Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003



PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form.
If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary.
You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

I Daniel Briggs

(Insert name of applicant)

apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 / apply for the review of a club premises certificate under section 87 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in Part 1 below (delete as applicable)

Part 1 – Premises or club premises details

Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description

Belle Vue Booze
10 Sydenham Road

Post town Hartlepool

Post code (if known) TS25 1QB

Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)

Hadi Azagh

Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known)

HART/PS/575

Part 2 - Applicant details /

I am

Please tick ✓ yes

1) an individual, body or business which is not a responsible authority (please read guidance note 1, and complete (A) or (B) below)

☐

2) a responsible authority (please complete (C) below)

☒

3) a member of the club to which this application relates (please complete (A) below)

☐

(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT (fill in as applicable)

Please tick ✓ yes

Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms ☐ Other title
(for example, Rev)

Surname

First names

I am 18 years old or over

Please tick ✓ yes
☐

**Current postal
address if
different from
premises
address**

Post town

Post Code

Daytime contact telephone number

**E-mail address
(optional)**

(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT

Name and address

Telephone number (if any)

E-mail address (optional)

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address Mr Daniel Briggs Senior Trading Standards Officer Public Protection Civic Centre Hartlepool TS24 8AY
Telephone number (if any) [REDACTED]
E-mail address (optional) [REDACTED]

This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| | Please tick one or more boxes ✓ |
| 1) the prevention of crime and disorder | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2) public safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3) the prevention of public nuisance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4) the protection of children from harm | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 2)

I am requesting the review on behalf of Hartlepool Borough Council's Trading Standards department, a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003. I believe the current trading practices at the *Bellevue Booze Store* are contradicting the 'Prevention of Crime and Disorder' Licensing Objective.

On 7th February 2023 intelligence was received alleging that the premises were selling counterfeit cigarettes to members of the public from under the counter. A test purchase attempt was made at the premises but only genuine cigarettes were sold.

On 23rd August 2023 intelligence was received which provided that the premises does not have the right person working there as a DPS, that they continue to sell illicit tobacco and are storing most of the stock at Siciliano Express, 133 Stockton Road, Hartlepool.

A call was received from a Cleveland Police Neighbourhoods Sergeant later the same day stating that officers from his team had been to the premises to request CCTV footage whilst investigating an incident to be told that it wasn't working.

As a result, a second test purchase attempt was made from the premises and a packet of Lambert & Butler Silver in non-standardised packaging was

purchased.

A visit to the premises was conducted the same day where an inspection identified that there was a sleeve of counterfeit Lambert & Butler found in a carrier bag in the store room, the member of staff working in the premises was asked if there were any more on the premises but she stated there wasn't. I then found 10 packets of Manchester Reds, a packet of JPS Red Superkings and six packets of Lambert & Butler silver in the cigarette gantry.

The premises was also found to be in breach of the terms of its licence by exposing single high strength lagers and ciders for sale. When advised about this though, the offending products were removed from sale.

Mr Azagh was spoken to and stated that he was in Manchester but due to return later that day, when he did so he was arrested to allow searches of the associated premises to be conducted. Nothing was found in the linked premises. In interview, Mr Azagh stated the counterfeit and illicit cigarettes were bought from a man in a van after he was assured they were OK to sell as they were bought from a duty free outlet. Mr Azagh did not do any checks on the validity of these claims.

In relation to the CCTV not being operational, Mr Azagh stated that this was working but due to the fact that he had lost his phone which had the link to the APP on it, he could not provide the police with what they were asking for at the time but he had taken steps to sort this with his supplier.

Due to the low amounts found and this being an isolated incident, Mr Azagh was offered a final warning and the matter closed.

In September 2024, further intelligence was received claiming that illicit tobacco was again being sold from the premises. A test purchase was requested from an external supplier and was conducted on Saturday 19th October 2024.

Following the successful attempt of counterfeit Lambert & Butler Silver cigarettes that breach the Trade Marks Act 1994 and the Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products Regulations 2015, an additional inspection was completed at the premises on 23rd October 2024. No illicit tobacco was found at the time but high strength lagers and ciders were again found to be being offered for sale that were in breach of the premises' licence. The member of staff working in the premises was advised of this and they were removed from sale.

A second test purchase attempt was arranged and eventually conducted on Friday 25th October 2024. The test purchaser again managed to buy a packet of counterfeit Lambert & Butler Silver cigarettes from the same member of staff.

Mr Azagh was interviewed under the provisions of the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 on 6th December 2024. In his interview, he claimed that the matter of the single cans of high strength lager and cider was due to an error in his understanding as he claimed Maxine Bee, Licensing Officer with Hartlepool Borough Council, had told him this was a six month requirement. Mr Azagh eventually confirmed this is not detailed anywhere in his licence

conditions, a fact which was confirmed by Mrs Bee in a follow up telephone call prior to the interview.

Mr Azagh stated that he wasn't in the country at the time of the test purchases as he had gone to Iran for a month. He confirmed that he wasn't totally sure who was working at the time of the sales. He agreed he had no control of the premises during this time and doesn't know who the person selling the illicit tobacco is from the description of the test purchaser.

When discussing the conditions of his premises licence Mr Azagh confirmed the following:

Annex 2(1)(c) – He was not fully complying with the CCTV requirement as he did not have a camera that covered the till area to record transactions taking place.

Mr Azagh was unable to comply with the request for CCTV footage requested on 25th November due to the fact he did not have a camera covering the till area.

Annex 2(3) and (4) – while he stated he had provided training to staff and this was properly documented. A follow up inspection conducted on 10th December found that the documented training and records was found to be minimal. Mr Azagh has been put in contact with an external training company to compile a bespoke training package for him and his staff at his cost.

Annex 2(9) and (15) – The single cans of high strength lager and cider were found on sale on two separate occasions which was a misunderstanding on Mr Azagh's part. This has now been clarified and they are no longer being sold on the premises.

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 3)

To support my application supporting evidence will be provided by myself, Josh Maitland Senior Trading Standards Officer and Maxine Bee Licensing Officer.

tick ✓ yes

Have you made an application for review relating to the premises before

Please

☐

If yes please state the date of that application

Day	Month	Year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you have made representations before relating to the premises please state what they were and when you made them

tick ✓ yes

Please

- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate
- I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected

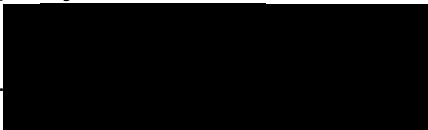
☐☐

IT IS AN OFFENCE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003, TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION. THOSE WHO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT MAY BE LIABLE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO A FINE OF ANY AMOUNT.

Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 4)

Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent (please read guidance note 5). **If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

Signature



Date 16th January 2025

Capacity **Senior Trading Standards Officer**

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 6)

Post town

Post Code

Telephone number (if any)

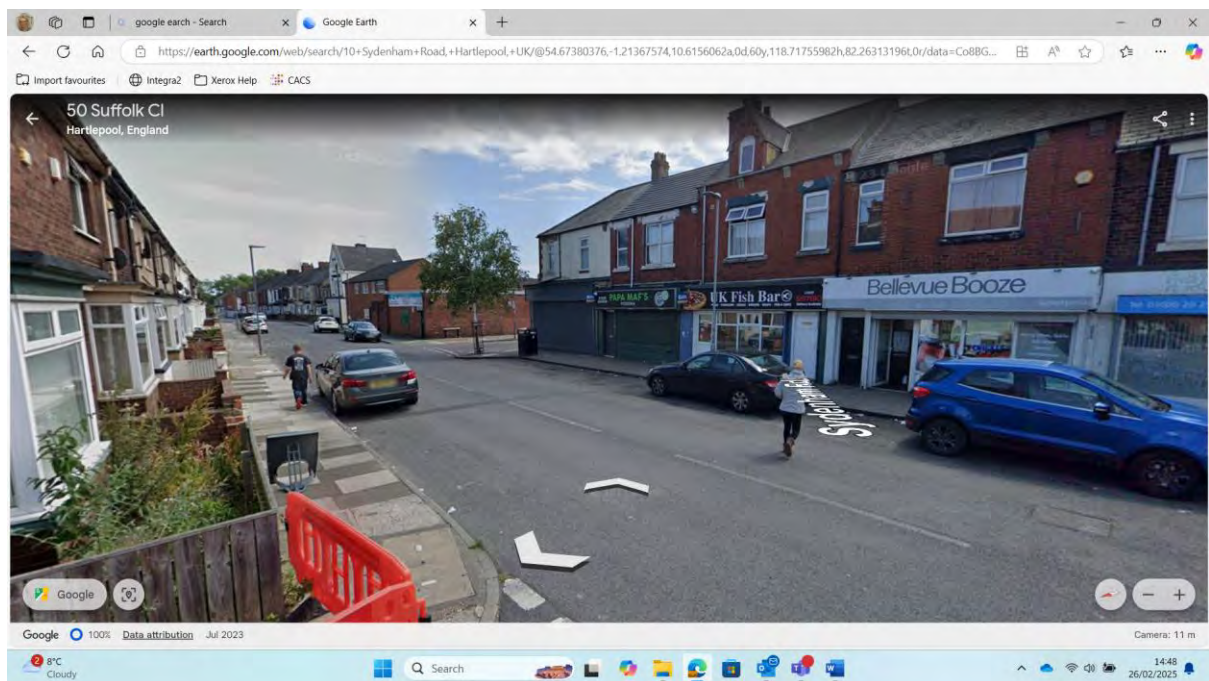
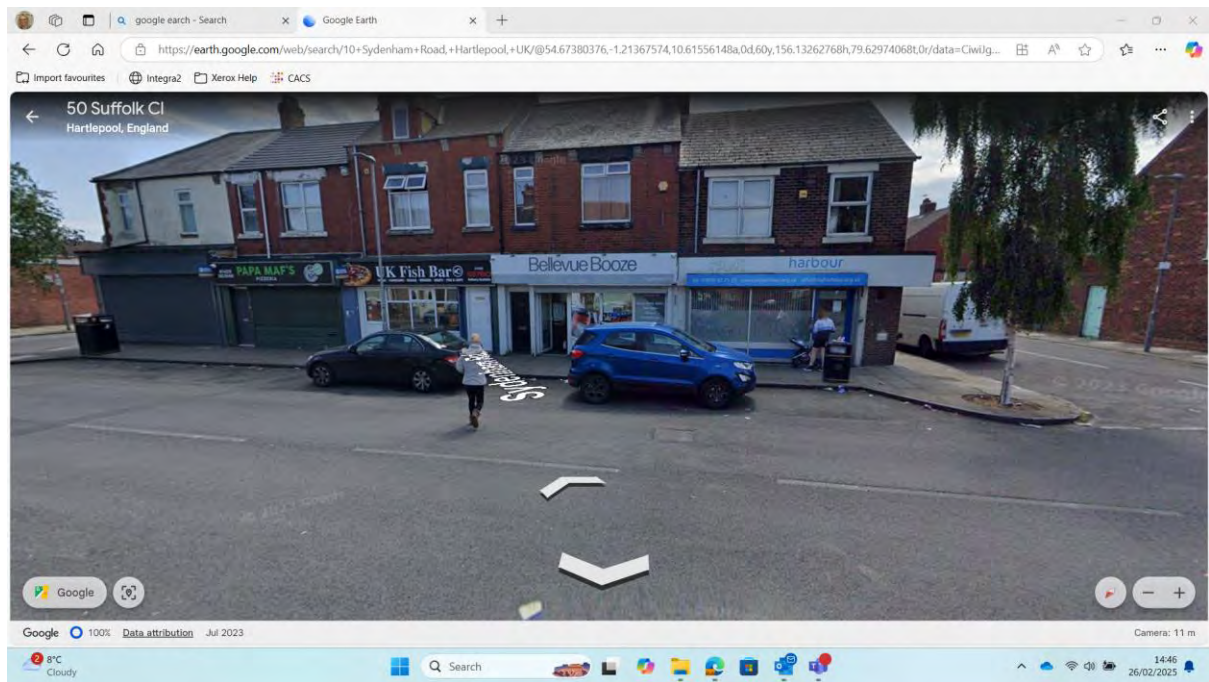
If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional)

Notes for Guidance

1. A responsible authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.
2. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
3. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
4. The application form must be signed.
5. An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
6. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.

**The Licensing Team
Hartlepool Borough Council
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY**

Appendix 3 – Streetview Images (Belle Vue Booze)



STATEMENT OF WITNESS

*(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2;
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)*

Statement of **Daniel Briggs**
(Full name)

Age of witness (if over 18 enter "over 18") **Over 18**

Occupation of witness **Senior Trading Standards Officer**

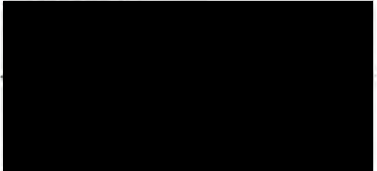
This statement (consisting of **12** pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the:18th..... day of:February..... 2025 Signed 

I am a Senior Trading Standards Officer employed by Hartlepool Borough Council Trading Standards, Public Protection, Development, Neighborhoods and Regulatory Services Department, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY.

On 23rd August 2023 I received a telephone call from a police officer stating that they had had been to Bellevue Booze, 10 Sydenham Road, Hartlepool, TS251QB to request a viewing of their CCTV to allow the investigation of an incident outside the premises, but were told that the system wasn't working so they couldn't have the footage. This is a breach of the premises' licence.

On 24th August 2023, I received a call from a member of the public alleging that the same premises was engaging in the sale of counterfeit and illicit tobacco. The complainant stated that the staff were storing the illegal cigarettes in the gantry with the genuine cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco. They also provided that they had another retail premises close by, namely Siciliano Express, 133 Stockton Road, Hartlepool, TS251SL where the majority of the stock was kept.

Signed 

The allegation that this premises was selling counterfeit cigarettes coincides with a complaint received on 7th February 2023 after a test purchasing operation carried out by an external company on behalf of the tobacco industry. In this instance, a packet of Lambert & Butler Silver in the non-standardised packaging was obtained from a female employee working in the shop. After receiving this information my colleague, Josh Maitland, went in to the premises to attempt a test purchase of counterfeit cigarettes and alcohol. He managed to purchase Lambert & Butler cigarettes and a bottle of Glen's vodka, both of which were confirmed genuine.

Due to the information from the police officer and the most recent recorded complaint regarding illicit tobacco, a test purchase attempt by my colleague Josh Maitland was conducted on 24th August 2023. In this attempt Mr Maitland managed to buy a packet of 20 Manchester Red cigarettes which have no legal market in the UK along with a crate of Fosters lager. Mr Maitland informed me that when he was sold the cigarettes, the member of staff got them out of the cigarette gantry.

Following the test purchase, I then conducted an inspection of Bellevue Booze with my Licensing colleague Maxine Bee and PCSO Graeme Handley from Cleveland Police at 1210hours.

Upon entering, I spoke with a female member of staff who identified herself as Alison CRANNAGE and explained the reason for the visit and that we have evidence of the shop selling counterfeit cigarettes and that they were currently selling alcohol without a proper licence in place. Ms CRANNAGE was asked who the manager was and where he was so I could speak to him. She advised his name was Hadi and he was

Signed

on his way to the cash and carry in Manchester. I now know his full name to be Hadi AZAGH.

I then started the inspection and at 1218 I found a sleeve of 200 Lambert & Butler Silver in non-standardised packaging in the stockroom towards the rear of the premises. Due to the colour of the packets and the type of external packaging, I knew the items to be counterfeit so they were duly seized.

I then asked Ms CRANNAGE if there were any more counterfeit cigarettes on the premises to which she replied no.

Based on the information gained from the complainant and Mr Maitland, I knew this to be false so checked the cigarette gantry. I then found 10 packets of Manchester Red behind the genuine JPS Reds and six packets of counterfeit Lambert & Butler behind the genuine JPS Red Superkings, both were duly seized.

I took a number of pictures of the cigarettes that were seized and the location of those found in the gantry, I now produce them as exhibits DB/BVB/1 to DB/BVB/6.

Mrs Bee noticed that the premises were also selling single cans of high strength lager and cider which is listed as something the premises was not supposed to be doing according to their licence.

Ms CRANNAGE stated she wasn't going to stay working in the shop so the decision was made to lock it up and for PCSO Handley to take the keys were back to the

Signed ...

...

police station for them to be collected by Mr AZAGH on his return from Manchester. Ms CRANNAGE and all officers left the premises at 1300 hours.

Upon returning to the police station, after discussing the intelligence and what was found that morning, the decision was made to have Mr AZAGH arrested to allow S18 Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Search Warrants to be authorised while he was in custody for his home address and the second business premises to be searched.

Mr AZAGH attended the police station at around 1630 the same day to collect his keys and was duly arrested.

At 1750 the approach was made to Mr AZAGH's home address at 75 Dent Street, Hartlepool, TS268AX. The officers from Cleveland police tried to unlock the door with Mr AZAGH's keys but they wouldn't work so tried the handle to find the door was already unlocked. We entered the house to find that there was nothing in the house, including furniture of any type, that would suggest someone was living there so left soon after. The police officers tried to lock the front door as we left but the keys would not work in the lock.

We then travelled to back to Bellevue Booze as the keys for Siciliano Express were kept in the till. Using Mr AZAGH's keys, we gained access to the property at 1805 found the keys in the stated place and locked the premises back up at 1812 hours.

We then went to Siciliano Express and gained entry to the premises at 1820 hours. This is a former take away that had remnants of that mode of business including,

Signed

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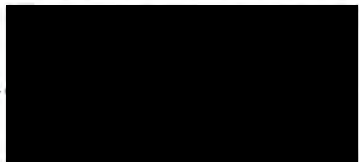
pizza boxes, a till and fridges. There were no cigarettes in the premises. We left at 1830 and secured the premises.

Following this, Mrs Bee and I travelled to Middlesbrough police station's custody suite to prepare for the interview of Mr AZAGH.

Mr AZAGH was eventually interviewed under the provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its associated Codes of Practice. To summarise the interview, Mr AZAGH stated that a man in a van came to his shop to sell the cigarettes that had been legally obtained from an airport and had already had the duty paid on them, he stated the male sold them to him cheap because he wanted him as a new customer. Mr AZAGH stated he would no longer sell counterfeit cigarettes in his premises now he knew this was illegal and would only buy them from legitimate sources.

Mrs Bee then put questions to Mr AZAGH in relation to his licence. Mr AZAGH stated that he had nothing to hide so was going to be completely open and honest before admitting to the fact that he thought he had a licence but also that his premises had been selling alcohol for three years without the proper licence being in place. This was due to a mistake rather than being deliberate but steps had now been taken to sort this out. Mr AZAGH admitted that he was selling the single cans of high strength lager and cider but now he knew this was an issue was also going to stop this.

A follow up inspection was carried out at Bellevue Booze on 27th September 2023 with Mrs Bee. During the inspection we again found that the premises didn't have the

Signed .. 

Challenge 25 posters on display, was continuing to sell cans of lager and cider individually as well as high strength cans over 6.5%ABV. There were no illicit or counterfeit cigarettes found however. The member of staff was advised that the single cans and high strength lager and cider needed to be removed from sale which was done immediately.

I took a number of pictures of the single cans and bottles in the fridge during this follow up inspection. I now produce them as exhibits DB/BVB/7 to DB/BVB/11.

As a result of the low amounts of counterfeit goods seized from the premises, Mr Azagh was sent a written warning in relation to the counterfeit cigarettes on 29th September 2023. I now produce a copy of the warning as exhibit DB/BVB/12.

On 9th September 2024, further information was received stating that Mr AZAGH was again selling counterfeit cigarettes from Bellevue Booze despite the previous warning that he was given.

As a result of the information, a covert test purchase was arranged with an external service provider. This was conducted on Saturday 19th October 2024.

Once I was made aware of the successful attempt I conducted an inspection of Bellevue Booze to see if there was any illicit tobacco on the premises on 23rd October 2024 but did not find anything untoward. I did however identify that there were again single cans of high strength lager and cider in the fridge. As a result, I advised the member of staff that they need to be removed from sale as this was not

Signed .



permitted by the licence. A second attempt was then requested upon returning to the office.

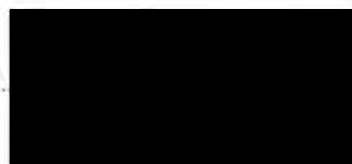
The second test purchase attempt was carried out on the evening of 25th October 2024 and was again successful.

I spoke with Mr AZAGH on 27th October 2024 to advise that I had been to the premises and found that there were issues with the coverage of the CCTV cameras and informed him of the two sales of counterfeit cigarettes from the premises so would need to do another interview with him at the Civic Centre. We arranged the interview for 1400 hours on 6th December 2024.

On 25th November 2024, I received further intelligence which indicated that Bellevue Booze was continuing to sell counterfeit cigarettes. As a result, I visited the premises with my Licensing colleague Matthew Davies to hand deliver a request for CCTV footage that covered the till area from 1700 hours on Friday 15th November 2024 to 2100 hours on Sunday 24th November. I now produce a copy of the letter as exhibit DB/BVB/13.

While at the premises, Mr Davies and I checked the cameras to ensure there was plenty of coverage of the till area as required by the licence but saw that there was only one camera that covered the general area rather than the counter to see what is being sold.

Signed .

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the person.

Mr AZAGH was interviewed under the provisions of the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its associated Codes of Practice as arranged on 6th December 2024. Two CDs were used, the working copy of which was identified as HA/BVB/INT1 and can be produced if required.

In summary, Mr AZAGH stated that he thought the requirement to not sell single cans of high strength lager and cider was only in place for six months which meant the previous times of him being told to remove them from sale no longer applied. Upon questioning, he agreed that this was not written anywhere in his licence and it was a mistake on his part.

In relation to the request for the CCTV footage, Mr AZAGH advised that he did not know how to download the footage to send to me and that he was going to get someone to come and sort this for him. This meant he was unable to comply with the request from 25th November. The placement of the camera covering the till was also discussed due to the fact that while it covered the entire till area, it was not close enough to show what was being sold during each transaction meaning an extra camera could be required covering the counter.

In relation to the premises selling illicit tobacco, he stated that this is not something that has happened since the last time. Mr AZAGH was advised of the two successful test purchases but couldn't really identify the member of staff from the description of the operative. Mr AZAGH also added that he wasn't in the country at the time of the operations as he had went to Iran with his son for a month to get him a brain scan to assist in the diagnosis of ADHD.

Signed

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the witness.

He also admitted that he didn't have any control over who was working in the premises at the time as he didn't know which of the three staff were working which shifts.

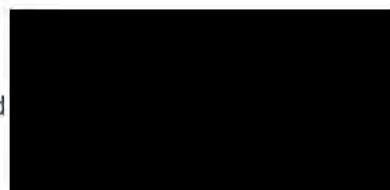
When discussing the training requirements on his licence, Mr AZAGH stated he had documented training that all staff had been given. Mr AZAGH invited me to his premises to allow me to view the training and records he has.

On 10th December 2024 I attended Bellevue Booze to look at the training Mr AZAGH provides to his staff and the records that are signed by staff to acknowledge they have received the training. There was no content concerning underage sales and so on, only a piece of paper with some signatures to say the training had been provided. I now produce pictures of what was witnessed as exhibit DB/BVB/14 and DB/BVB/16.

Upon returning to the office, I contacted SMB Training to ask if they would be able to provide a training package for Mr AZAGH to share with his staff. They said this is something they could do so I shared the information with Mr AZAGH to allow him to make contact and arrange the training himself.

On 5th February 2025, the Licensing Team received an anonymous letter alleging that Bellevue Booze was taking the money for the sale of illicit tobacco in the premises then providing the cigarettes from the back of a car parked outside afterwards. I now produce a copy of the letter as exhibit DB/BVB/16.

Signed

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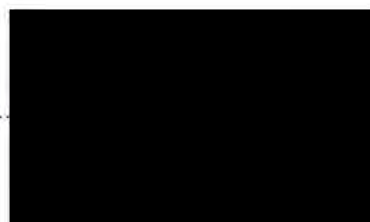
As a result of the letter, on 6th February 2025, I sent Mr AZAGH an email detailing that we have had another complaint and requested that he send me CCTV footage from 1330 to 1500hours on 20th January 2025.

Mr AZAGH contacted me on 7th February 2025 to invite me down to the premises to view the footage on his phone to see anything I needed. I asked if he was able to download what was requested but he said he couldn't but that I could watch it on his phone then make copies of it using my phone. I advised this is not the correct way of doing it so would need some way of gaining access to view and download the footage if necessary. We made an appointment for 10th February.

I visited the premises as arranged on 10th February and met with Mr AZAGH. He again stated that he didn't know how to download the footage and made the offer for me to sit in my car and watch it on his phone which I declined as it would need to be properly downloaded as evidence if anything was found. I then proceeded to download the app used on his phone to gain access the recordings but we could not get the system to work. I therefore agreed to go back the following day once I had the opportunity to find the instructions to work the system.

I went back on 11th February as agreed, but despite having the instructions, we were unable to give my phone access to the system. Something he has done for the staff working in the shop. Mr AZAGH then stated he would get the installer of the CCTV to come to the Civic Centre to give me access to his system on my phone the following day.

Signed ..

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

On the afternoon of 12th February I emailed Mr AZAGH to remind him that he hadn't been in touch with me as arranged the day before. I did not get a response within the working day.

When I logged on the on 13th February I saw that Mr AZAGH had responded to say that by the time the technician was finished work, he had to go and get his children and that he would get what I need to me the following day.

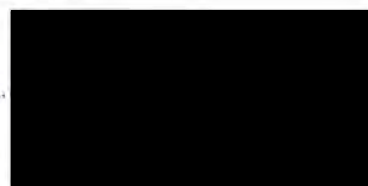
Mr AZAGH also sent a second email shortly after stating I had access to the footage via his footage via his phone to sit and watch it in his shop.

Mr AZAGH then sent a third email shortly after stating that I needed to be responsible, in this I think he meant reasonable, with him as he did his best by giving me his phone to look at.

I then received an email stating that they were trying to get the footage to me by 1200 hours that day.

I responded to the last email he sent the day before advising him that it is a requirement of his licence, that both he and his staff are able to view, download and provide footage to allow investigators to review remotely when the need arises. I continued that this is not currently happening so the blame cannot be shifted in any way to a Local Authority officer who has made a reasonable request to him and that I had explained, taking his phone to view footage and record anything of relevance in my car is not the correct way to handle potential evidence.


Signed .

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

I then advised I would go to the premises to collect the evidence when it was ready. After receiving an email from Mr AZAGH asking me to call him, I did this and was advised the footage was ready to collect from his premises.

On 14th February, I collected the memory stick from Bellevue Booze.

I reviewed the footage on the memory stick on 17th February and found no evidence to support the allegations made in the letter sent to Licensing on 5th February that was previously produced as DB/BVB/16.

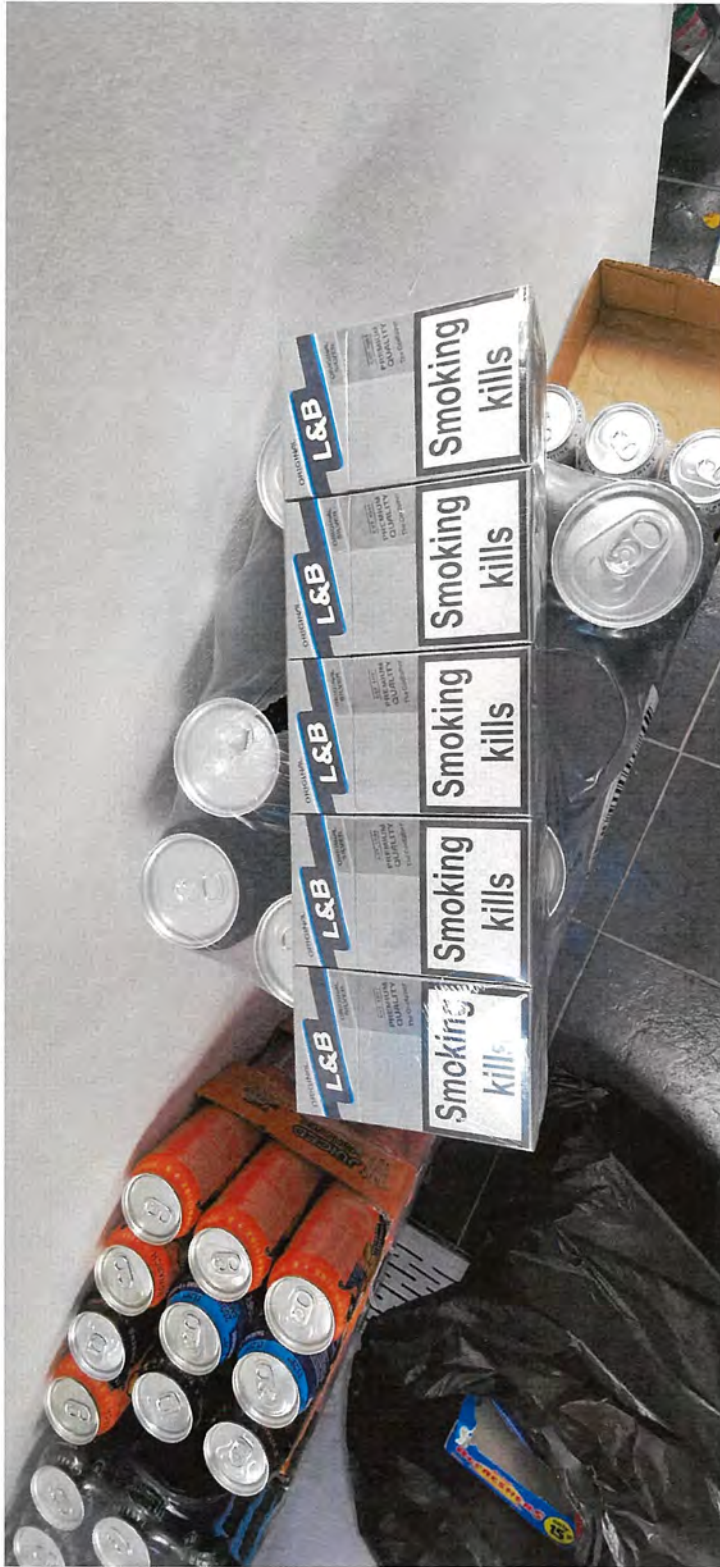


Signed



Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit
" 08/BVB/1 "

Signed:



Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit

" 08/08/2 "

Signed



Item referred to in my statement as exhibit "05/08/14"

Signed [Redacted]



Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit
" *AB/BS/5* "

Signed: [REDACTED]



Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit

" 08/08/06 "

Signed:





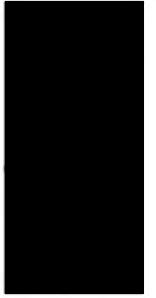
Item referred to in my statement as exhibit 16/15/17

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Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit
" 05/6/5/8 "

Signed:





Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit

08/08/19

Signed



Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit “
DS/BV 5/10

Signed: .





Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit
" 05/BVS/11 "

Signed:



**DEVELOPMENT, NEIGHBOURHOODS & REGULATORY SERVICES
PUBLIC PROTECTION**

Contact Officer: Daniel Briggs

Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY
01429 266522



29th September 2023

Mr Hadi Azagh
Belle Vue Booze

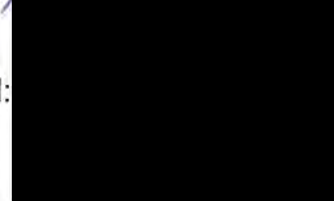


Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit

" 08/10/12 "

Dear Mr Azagh

Signed:



Trade Marks Act 1994
Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

Further to our visit to Belle Vue Booze on 24th August 2023 which resulted in the seizure of counterfeit and non-duty paid cigarettes. The investigation is now complete.

The decision has been made to offer you a warning in relation to the goods that were seized due to the low amounts found in the store at the time of the visit. Should any further instances occur when you have bought and sold infringing goods from a "man in a van", this correspondence will be taken in to consideration when deciding how to proceed against you.

Supplying counterfeit goods using any means, including in person from a retail environment, is an offence contrary to the Trade Marks Act 1994 and could result in an unlimited fine &/or up to ten years imprisonment if you are investigated and prosecuted.

If information is received alleging similar incidents in the future, search warrants will be applied for and executed at any properties related to you including your home and business premises. Any suspect items found will be seized and persons suspected of possessing or supplying them could be arrested and face prosecution.

Counterfeiting is deemed a "lifestyle offence" alongside other offences such as drug trafficking and money laundering. The courts can confiscate possessions which cannot be proven to have been earned legitimately. This has resulted in people having their homes, vehicles and possessions confiscated and sold to compensate for the amount gained through illegal activities such as counterfeiting.

If you would like to discuss any of the matters in this letter in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Daniel Briggs
Senior Trading Standards Officer

**DEVELOPMENT, NEIGHBOURHOODS & REGULATORY SERVICES
PUBLIC PROTECTION**

Contact Officer: Daniel Briggs

Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY
01429 266522



25th November 2024

Mr Hadi Azagh
Belle Vue Booze

Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit

" 05/11/24 "

Signed;

Dear Mr Azagh

Trade Marks Act 1994

Further to my letter dated 29th September 2023 (copy included), I have received further intelligence stating that Belle Vue Booze is again selling illicit tobacco.

I am now investigating this matter formally and require you to provide me with CCTV footage of the till area to cover the following timescale:

- 1700 on Friday 15th November 2024 to 2100 on 24th November 2024

Due to the amount of data requested, if it would be easier to provide access to the recordings via a web portal to allow remote viewing I am more than happy to discuss this with you.

As per condition 1 of the Licence Conditions found in the Annex to your part A licence, it is a requirement that you have the footage recorded and make it available to me, as a responsible authority, upon request.

Following the review of the footage, it is likely a recorded interview under the provisions of the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and its associated Codes of Practice will be required.

Prior to your response I must inform you: You do not have to say anything in response to this letter, but it may harm your defence if you do not mention either in response to this letter or in interview something which you may later rely on in court. Any reply you do make in response to this letter may be used in evidence should it be considered necessary to institute legal proceedings.

If you would like to discuss any of the matters in this letter in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Briggs
Senior Trading Standards Officer

Licence Conditions.

TRAINING BOOK
FOR STAFF

NAME: & DATE

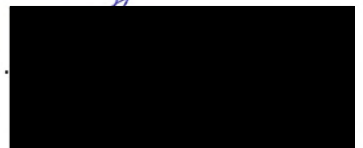
GO THROUGH LICENCE
CONDITIONS AND MAKE SURE
STAFF ARE AWARE.

EVERY 6 MTH.

Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit

" 08/08/14 "

Signed:



TRAINING REGISTER

DATE

NAME

Signature

1st Oct 23 Alson Gannaga

4th Oct 23 ZANA Karimi

14th Oct 23 HADI AZAGH

4th Oct 23
~~NIMA~~ GHADRI NIMA

12. Aug 24 ZANA KARIMI

14. Aug 24 HADI AZAGH

14. Aug 24 NIMA GHADRI

Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit

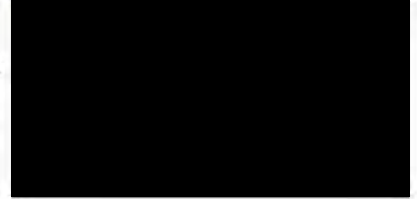
“ QB/1518/15 ”

Signed:

The licencing team
Hartlepool borough council
Civic centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY
03/02/25
Dear Sirs

Item referred to in my
statement as exhibit
" DS/BVB/16 "

Signed:



I would like to inform that Bellevue Booze, 10 Sydenham Road, Hartlepool, TS25 1QB shop are Saling illegal cigarettes and tobacco from owners car boot they are doing this job from different, different cars. If you ask them to provide their CCTV on 20th January around 2 till 2.30pm you can look at this.

He gave to underage kids as well. People paying inside of the shop but buying outside of that area. If this happens continually the little kids life will be on risk. If you could kindly take action to stop this matter ASAP.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Member of public.



STATEMENT OF WITNESS

*(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2;
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)*

Statement of **Josh Maitland**
(Full name)

Age of witness (if over 18 enter "over 18") **Over 18**

Occupation of witness **Senior Trading Standards Officer**

This statement (consisting of **3** pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 19th day of February 2025

I am the above named person and I am currently employed as a Senior Trading Standards Officer for Hartlepool Borough Council's Public Protection Department located at the Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool TS24 8AY. I have been employed in this team since March 2015 and part of it requires me to enforce the provisions of the Trade Marks Act 1994 and Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products Regulations 2015 in relation to counterfeit and incorrectly marked tobacco products. This role has afforded me the necessary skills to help determine the legality of tobacco products.

On the 9th February 2023 I was tasked with conducting a test purchase operation at Belle Vue Booze located 10 Sydenham Road, Hartlepool. The operation followed intelligence that the premises was selling counterfeit cigarettes and alcohol drinks without an active Premises Licence.

At approximately 15:45 I entered the premises and approached the service counter which was located to the right of the front door. I asked who was stood behind the counter for "Lambert and Butler" to which she replied "silver" whilst

Signed 

turning towards the tobacco gantry which was located behind her. I then asked the lady if she had “any of the cheap ones” to which she replied “No” so I confirmed that I wanted the silver ones. Whilst the lady was obtaining the cigarettes from the tobacco gantry, I observed alcoholic drinks located behind the counter which appeared to be on sale. I then asked the lady for a bottle of Glens vodka which was price marked at £13.79. The lady then supplied me with the cigarettes and alcohol, and I then paid for the items and left the shop immediately.

The lady who served me appeared to be white, five foot eight inches tall with auburn coloured hair. She appeared to be aged in her fifties.

Upon returning to the office I examined the tobacco and determined them to be genuine and also marked in accordance with the legislation.

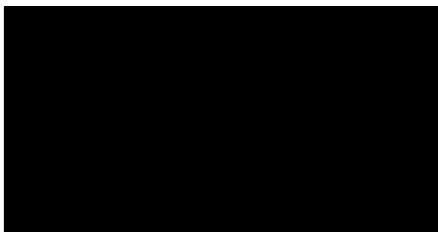
On the morning of the 24th August 2023, I was tasked with carrying out another test purchasing operation at Belle Vue Booze. The operation followed intelligence that the shop was selling illicit tobacco. I entered the shop, which appeared to have the same layout as before, and started to look around as there was other customers present. I picked up a box of Fosters lager and approached the counter to be served. One of the customers recognised me, but didn't know my job role, and started to talk to me whilst I was getting served. I continued my conversation with the customer whilst I was getting served with the lager and asked the lady who was serving for packet of “Manchester” as well. The lady turned and obtained a box of Manchester cigarettes from the tobacco gantry and gave them to me. I then paid for the items and left.

Signed 

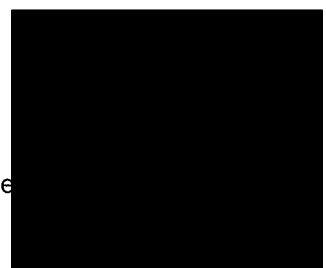
I would describe the lady who served me as having the same description as the person who served me on 9th February 2023.

The Manchester Cigarettes sold to me do not comply with the Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products Regulations 2015 and therefore cannot be legally sold by shops in the United Kingdom.

'Manchester' cigarettes also fall under the definition of what tobacco enforcement authorities refer to as 'Cheap Whites'. Cheap Whites are cigarettes that have been produced in foreign countries with the purpose of them being smuggled into the UK illegally by organised criminal gangs. Duty and VAT are not paid on them meaning they are cheap to buy which undermines smoking cessation strategies.



Signe



STATEMENT OF WITNESS

*(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2;
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)*

STATEMENT OF Mrs Maxine Bee

Age of witness: Over 18

This statement (consisting of 4 pages) **is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.**

I, Mrs Maxine Bee, Licensing Officer for Hartlepool Borough Council, witnessed the following events.

On 24th August 2023, following on from information received by HBC Trading Standards Team from Cleveland Police and an anonymous source, in relation to a complaint received regarding licensed premises, Belle Vue Booze, 10 Sydenham Road, Hartlepool TS25 1QB, stating that the CCTV was not in working order and the premises was selling illegal cigarettes and, additionally the complaint extended to another one of their properties, namely Sicililano Express, 133 Stockton Road, Hartlepool, TS25 1SL where the majority of the stock was allegedly being stored.

The Licensing Team were informed of the above and after checking the details of the premises licence, there was no Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) in place, therefore aside from breaching the licence in relation to the CCTV not working, they should also not have been selling any alcohol.

Due to the information received a successful test purchase was carried out by Senior Trading Standards Officer Mr Josh Maitland at Belle Vue Booze, 10 Sydenham Road, Hartlepool, TS25 1QB. I drove Mr Maitland to the premises to allow him to conduct the attempt where he managed to buy a packet of 20 Manchester Red cigarettes and a box of 10 cans of Fosters lager.

Following the test purchase I was asked to accompany Mr Daniel Briggs and PCSO Graeme Handley from Cleveland Police to carry out an inspection of the premises at 1210 hours.

Upon entering the premises, Mr Briggs spoke with a female member of staff who identified herself as Ms Alison Crannage and explained the reason for the visit.

Ms Crannage informed Mr Briggs that the manager Mr Hadi Azagh was on his way to a cash and carry in Manchester.

Whilst inspecting the premises I noticed alcohol on sale, in particular single cans of high strength lager and cider, despite not having an appointed DPS in place. I informed Ms Crannage that this was a breach of the licensing conditions, and that all alcohol will need to be removed from display and the sale of all alcohol must cease immediately until such time that a DPS is appointed.

Ms Crannage then rang Mr Azagh from her mobile phone and passed the phone to Mr Briggs who explained about the test purchase, the findings and what that meant moving forward, Mr Briggs then passed the phone to me and I explained to Mr Azagh that he should not be selling alcohol as he does not have an appointed Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) in place and therefore all sales of alcohol must stop immediately.

I explained even when a DPS is appointed he is not allowed to sell single cans of cider or beer with an ABV of 6.5% or over, in accordance with the licence. I also explained that his CCTV is not working, also a breach of the licence. He apologised and hadn't realised any of this and said he will submit a DPS application today and sort out the CCTV.

Mr Briggs went on to check the gantry of the premises and found more counterfeit cigarettes which he seized. I was asked by Mr Briggs to be the exhibits officer so completed a Record of Seized Property which I now produce as MB/BVB/01.

Ms Crannage stated she wasn't going to stay working in the shop, so the decision was made to lock the shop and for PCSO Handley to take the keys back to the police station for Mr Azagh to collect on his return from Manchester. Ms Crannage and all officers left the premises at 1300 hours.

Upon returning to the police station, Mr Briggs discussed the intelligence with the police and it was decided that Mr Azagh needed to be arrested to allow his home address and the other business premises to be searched.

After Mr Azagh was arrested, an approach was made to his home address of 75 Dent Street, Hartlepool, TS268AX at 1750

The police officers tried to unlock the door with Mr Azagh's keys but they wouldn't work so they tried the handle to find the door was already unlocked. We entered the house to find that there was nothing in the house, including furniture of any type, so it appeared there wasn't anyone living there so left soon after.

We then travelled back to Bellevue Booze as the keys for Siciliano Express were kept in the till. Using Mr Azagh's keys, we gained access to the property at 1805 found the keys in the till and locked the premises back up at 1812 hours.

We then went to Siciliano Express and gained entry to the premises at 1820 hours. This is a former take away that had remnants of a takeaway business within including pizza boxes, a till and fridges. There were no cigarettes in the premises so we left at 1830 and secured the premises.

Mr Briggs and I travelled to Middlesbrough police stations custody suite to prepare for the interview for Mr H Azagh.

Mr Briggs put questions to Mr Azagh in relation to the counterfeit goods etc and I questioned him about various breaches of his licence, including no appointed Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS), and selling alcohol including single cans of high strength cider/beer. Mr Azagh admitted that it was all a genuine mistake and that he will do whatever it takes to rectify the situation.

A licence was granted on 25 August 2023.

Mr Briggs and I carried out a follow up inspection at Belle Vue Booze on 27 September 2023. During the visit it was noted that there were no Challenge 25 posters on display, and the store was continuing to sell single cans of high strength cider and lager with an ABV 6.5% and above. The member of staff on duty was

informed that this was a breach of the licence, and the single cans of high strength beer and cider were removed immediately.

Mr Briggs took several pictures of the single cans and bottles in the fridge during this follow up inspection.

On the 04 October 2023 I re-visited Belle Vue Booze to double check everything was running in accordance with the licence and found that all licensing conditions were being met. Ms Crannage was working in the shop at the time and signed the Licensing Visit Observations Form.

On 27 November 2024 Mr Neil Harrison, Senior Trading Standards Officer emailed both Mr Briggs and I asking one of us to return a call from Mr Azagh. I rang Mr Azagh and we discussed various conditions on his licence, in particular the sales of singles cans of beer and confirmed the following.

The premises are prohibited from selling Lager, Beer, Cider, or Perry products with an ABV of 6.5% or higher.

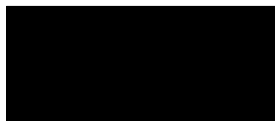
The sale or supply of single cans of beer, lager, cider or perry is not permitted from the premises.

That a CCTV camera must be installed to cover the sales counter.

I also clarified that the conditions attached to his licence are permanent and have no expiration date and that there has never been a six month expiration date on any of the licence conditions.

He said he will read over the conditions again to make sure everything is in place.

Signed:

A black rectangular box redacting the signature.

Date: 21 February 2025



TRADING STANDARDS

Regulatory Services
Hartlepool Borough Council
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY
01429 523362

Item referred to in my statement
as exhibit "B/BK 101"

Signed: [Redacted]

RECORD OF SEIZED PROPERTY

Name and address of premises Searched: BELLE VUE BOOZE
10 SYDENHAM ROAD

Date of search: 24/8/23 Time of Search: Start: 12.15 Finish:

Lead Officer: DANIEL BRIGGS Exhibits Officer: MAXINE BEE

Other officers present: PCSO T751, MAXINE BEE, DANIEL BRIGGS

Other persons present (if known): Alison Gannage

Reason for seizure: ILLEGALLY SELLING ALCOHOL + COUNTERFEIT CIGARETTES

Authority for making seizure: Statutory Power

If force used provide details:

Property Seized

Description of evidence/exhibit	Where found	Exhibit number	Seal Number
1 x SLEEVE OF L&B	STORE ROOM	MB001	N04848859
CIGARETTES (10)	INSIDE BUCK BAG		
10 x MANCHESTER	BEHIND COUNTER	MB002	N04848860
CIGARETTES (PACKETS)			
6 x PACKETS OF L&B		MB003	N04848764
CIGARETTES			

Name of person receiving record: Alison Gannage

Signature of person receiving record: [Redacted]

Relationship to premises: Employee

Date record supplied: 24/8/23

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Criminal Procedure Rules 2015, r. 16.2
Criminal Justice Act 1967, S.9

STATEMENT OF SASKIA LANE

Age of witness: Over 18

This statement consisting of 1 page is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Location: Belle Vue Booze, 10 Sydenham Road, TS25 1QB

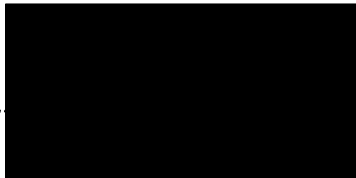
1. At 15:22 on Saturday 19th of October I visited the above shop. I entered the shop and approached the counter which is located to the right of the entrance door.
2. A male who I describe as Asian, late twenties, around 5 foot 11, dark hair with a large well groomed black beard, wearing black tracksuit bottoms and a camouflage puffer jacket was standing behind the counter.
3. I asked the male if they sold cheap cigarettes. The male responded "Yes we do" to which I requested the brand Lambert and Butler.
4. The male asked how many packets I want to which I responded requesting one packet. The male went behind the counter and picked up the packet of Lambert and Butler cigarettes.
5. The male requested £5.50 for the cigarettes. I handed over a £20 note and was given £14.50 in change.
6. Once in possession of the cigarettes and change, I vacated the store at approximately 15:24.

I returned to my colleague in the vehicle we were traveling in and once I got back into the vehicle, I placed the packet of Lambert and Butler cigarettes in a bag, bearing the reference U0106384

At the conclusion of the test purchases, I placed the evidence bag in secure storage at Next Level Security Services Ltd premises.

I now produce in evidence as exhibit reference SL/01/191024.

Signed: Date: 19.10.24



STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Criminal Procedure Rules 2015, r. 16.2
Criminal Justice Act 1967, S.9

STATEMENT OF SASKIA LANE

Age of witness: Over 18

This statement consisting of 1 page is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

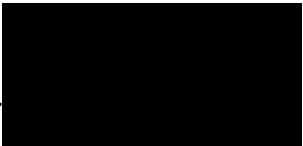
Location: Belle Vue Booze, 10 Sydenham Road, TS25 1QB

1. At approximately 20:07 on Friday the 25th of October 2024 I visited the above shop. I entered the shop and headed towards the counter which is located to the right of the entrance door.
2. A male described as Asian, late twenties, around 5 foot 11, dark hair which was combed to one side and a large dark beard wearing a black denim hooded jacket was standing behind the counter. This was the same male from the previous positive test purchase on the 19.10.24
3. I asked the male if they sold cheap cigarettes to which the male laughed and said "You want cheapies?"
4. I responded asking for Lambert and Butler and the male requested £5.50. I handed over a £10 note and was given the cigarettes and £4.50 in change.
5. At approximately 20:10 I left the shop in possession of the Lambert and Butler cigarettes.

I returned to my colleague in the vehicle we were traveling in and once I got back into the vehicle, I placed the packet of Lambert and Butler cigarettes in a bag, bearing the reference U0106375

At the conclusion of the test purchases, I placed the evidence bag in secure storage at Next Level Security Services Ltd premises.

I now produce in evidence as exhibit reference SL/01/251024

Signed:  Date: 25.10.24

RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG 11(1)

WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Justice Act 1967, S9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, S 5B; and the Criminal Procedure Rules 2015, Rule 16.2)

Statement of **Andrew Powell**

Age if under 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') **'over 18'**

Occupation: Enforcement Consultant

This statement (consisting of: 2 pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything in it which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:

Date: **14th February 2023**

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

I am a retired police officer with over 30 years policing experience. For over 18 years of my police service, I was a Detective in the Criminal investigation Department.

On retirement I held the rank of Detective Constable.

During the course of my police service, I carried out many investigations relating to dishonesty and fraud including the investigation of Intellectual Property Right Crime and as such I have investigated offences under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and the Trademarks Act 1994.

I hold an IQ Level 3 award for Professional Investigators. I have completed an INTACT, Open-Source research and investigation course and I have attended and completed a course in Surveillance to an IQ level 4 intermediate award level.

I am now an Enforcement Consultant with W R Investigations Limited, a company which provides investigation and consultancy services to Intellectual Property rights owners, their agents and law enforcement agencies to tackle the growing problem of counterfeiting and piracy.

At 13:55 hours on Wednesday 18th January 2023, I attended at a shop premise known as the Belle Vue Booze, 10, Sydenham Road, Hartlepool.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

2006/07(1) MG 11(T)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of

A. P. ...

The shop was open for business and there was a male of Asian origins within the confines of the shop sat behind the counter at the right of the premise.

I requested to purchase 20 Lambert and Butler cigarettes. The male bent down and went under the counter, he stood back up and handed me a packet of Lambert and Butler Branded cigarettes. A price of £5.00p was agreed. I handed the male 1 x £5 Bank of England note.

I placed the product in an exhibit bag and sealed it. I now produce that packet of cigarettes. Signed exhibit label AP5 Exhibit bag number MPSC38907091. The exhibit was later placed into a locked and secure store.

I understand that my duty is to the court by giving my objective and unbiased opinion.

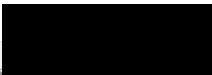
I have complied and will continue to comply with that duty. I understand that this duty overrides any obligation to the party from whom I have received instructions.

I understand that this duty includes an obligation to inform all parties and the court if my opinion changes from that contained in this statement.

Signature

2003(1)

Signature witnessed by:

RESTRICTED (when complete)			
WITNESS STATEMENT			
Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B			
URN			
Statement of: Glyn Eric Bavin			
Age if under 18: 0-18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")		Occupation: Police service	
This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.			
Signature			Date: 11.02.2025
Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded <input type="checkbox"/> (supply witness details on rear)			

I am a serving police officer with Cleveland Police. I am currently stationed with the Licensing Support Unit at Middlesbrough Police HQ, a role which I have carried out for the past five years.

My role within the Licensing Support Unit is that of Licensing Supervisor. I supervise the Police Alcohol Licensing Officers for the four districts of the Force. The Licensing Support Unit aims to work in partnership with licensing authorities, other responsible authorities and stakeholders to ensure the proactive promotion of the licensing objectives within the Force's area.

This statement is in relation to a review brought by Hartlepool borough council (trading standards) against Belle Vue Booze 10 Sydenham Road TS25 1QB, the premise is a convenience store which sells food and beverages.

The premise licence states that the store is for supply of alcohol for consumption off the premise, between the hours of 08:00 and 23:00 hours. Name and registered address of premise licence holder is Mr Hadi Azagh Belle Vue Booze 10 Sydenham Road TS25 1QB.

Continuation statement of:

Any premises with a licence has certain obligations with regards to both the four licensing objectives and the conditions laid down in their premise licence. This includes abiding by the allocated hours it is allowed to carry out licensable activity and following the conditions, both the mandatory one and those put forward by themselves or agreed with responsible authorities which are set out in annex 2 of the licence. Both sets of conditions are legally binding and should be adhered to.

The owners and management of the premise should also be aware of what is happening in their premise and should do everything in their power to assure that illegal activity is not happening from their premise and uphold the licensing objectives.

Guidance from the Home Office under Section 182 of The Licensing Act 2003 paragraph 11.27states:

“There is certain criminal activity that may arise in connection with licensed premises which should be treated particularly seriously”.

One of those activities identified is using the premises for the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and alcohol.

The trade in illicit tobacco and alcohol is linked to international organised crime groups who have the ability to manufacture both the product and packaging. The Police view the supply of illicit tobacco and alcohol is so serious that anyone who engages in this sort of criminal activity cannot be viewed as sufficiently responsible to uphold the 4 Licensing Objectives. It is for this reason that the Police believe that the crime and disorder objective is being undermined.

Continuation statement of:

Information received from trading standards that over a period of 2 years the premise was selling illegal tobacco and displaying and selling high strength alcohol. The local authority also found that the CCTV system was not working and even though footage had been requested by the police CCTV footage could not be supplied on request. All of these are a clear breach of the premises licensing conditions and clearly undermines the licensing objectives. These are all issues the local authorities have addressed and discovered. It would be fair to assume that these have not been isolated incidents and that these issues have been ongoing at the premise but have just not been dealt with.

The premises license holder has demonstrated that he is clearly putting profit over the safety of the public which is the main licensing objective for the premise license holder it demonstrates that he is not a responsible person to hold a premise license.

Cleveland Police cannot condone illegal activity being allowed to take place from a licensed premises and cannot condone irresponsible licensee's working outside the remit of their premises licence and not abiding by the conditions of that licence when other premises are working hard to do just that.

Public Health
On behalf of
Craig Blundred (Director of Public Health)
Civic Centre,
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY



PREMISES OR CLUB PREMISES DETAILS

Belle Vue Booze
10 Sydenham Road
Hartlepool
TS25 1QB

This representation relates to the following licensing objective(s)

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | The prevention of crime and disorder | x |
| 2. | Public safety | x |

GROUNDINGS FOR REPRESENTATIONS

Public Health have received the application made under the Licensing Act 2003 for licenses to be reviewed at Belle Vue Booze, Hartlepool. The requests to review have come from Trading Standards due to the sale of counterfeit cigarettes and high strength lagers and ciders.

The Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council supports the licencing review recommended by Trading Standards Dept, Hartlepool Borough Council due to the suggested contradiction of licensing objectives, namely prevention of crime and disorder by selling counterfeit cigarettes and high strength lagers and ciders.

Public Health submit representations to this application for the following reasons;

Smoking is the leading cause of death and illness in the UK and a key contributor to avoidable health inequalities in Hartlepool. In 2019, the government published its green paper on preventative health; Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s. Here, it announced an ambition for England to become 'smokefree' by 2030 – achieved when adult smoking prevalence falls to 5% or less. There are still over 6 million adult smokers in England and every year around 74,000 people die in England from smoking, with many more living with debilitating smoking- related illnesses. Smoking increases your risk of developing more than 50 serious health conditions.

Hartlepool's prevalence of smoking for those aged 18 and above continues to fall, however Hartlepool has remained much worse at 13.5% compared to the England average of 11.6%. In 2020/21 Hartlepool had the 8th highest smoking rate for those aged 15 and above in England, and the highest in the North East.

Illegal tobacco has all the harmful properties of legal tobacco but is also completely unregulated and is often sold much cheaper than legal tobacco. The sale of cheap or illegal tobacco makes it easier for children and young people to start smoking and get addicted at a young age. Often, illegal cigarettes are not fire safe. Unlike legal cigarettes, they do not extinguish by themselves if left unattended which makes them much more likely to cause a fire.

To support the government ambition of being smokefree by 2030, the aim is to deter people from smoking, therefore England have developed one of the highest tobacco taxation regimes in the world. These high duty rates, making tobacco less affordable, have helped in the reduction of smoking prevalence in the UK.

Illicit tobacco, however, undermines these efforts. The illicit trade involves a range of tobacco products that are sold illegally, often to underaged users, without paying taxes (VAT and excise duty). It provides a cheap and unregulated supply of tobacco to those who might otherwise be deterred by cost.

Illicit tobacco trade undercuts law-abiding businesses. It funds other organised crime with its proceeds and increases the burden on honest taxpayers. HMRC estimated the illicit market in tobacco duty and related VAT at £2.8 billion in 2021 to 2022. Its impacts are disproportionately felt by the most disadvantaged in our communities, with over half of all smokers of illicit tobacco coming from the most deprived socioeconomic groups.

Our Tobacco Control strategy sets out our collective approach to reduce the prevalence of smoking and its effects on our communities in Hartlepool. The vision and priorities were developed with partners and informed by a needs assessment and include;

- Supporting smokers to stop and stay stopped and to reduce harm – which recognises vapes can support smokers to stop and vaping is less harmful than smoking, but not risk free.
- Reduce access to illicit tobacco/vapes and work with Licensing/Trading Standards to ensure ongoing compliance monitoring around all tobacco regulations as well as age of sale, proxy purchasing and point of sale displays.

Illegal tobacco also has serious consequences for health, crime and the local community.

It is important to raise awareness of the real dangers of illegal tobacco:

- Alongside the known health associated risks with smoking, including; cancers, coronary heart disease, heart attack, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and pneumonia, illegal tobacco is likely to contain unknown compositions and is therefore unlikely to meet UK safety standards.
- is linked to low-level and large-scale organised crime, nationally and internationally illegal tobacco goes hand-in-hand with drugs and alcohol, child exploitation, money laundering and even terrorism

More specifically, we know that smoking attributable hospital admission rates for Hartlepool, are higher than that of England and the North East (See figure 1).



Figure 1: Smoking attributable hospital admission rate 2019/20

Taking the above into consideration, we support the application by trading standards for the review of the licence due to the Public Health Concerns around the availability of illicit tobacco and the potential risk to young people.

Alcohol use is a national concern for public health as it can lead to several physical and psychological conditions, such as liver disease, high blood pressure, depression and anxiety. It is estimated 358,000 hospital admissions were attributed to alcohol use, 6% higher than the previous year. Estimates show that social and economic alcohol related harms amount to around £21.5 billion a year. Higher levels of alcohol use are often associated with higher levels of deprivation. More than half of Hartlepool, 52%, is within the most deprived quintile in England. Several of these areas of highest deprivation are areas where a significant proportion of the substance misuse caseload are located.

The Licensing Act 2003 (The Act) was implemented on the 24th of November 2005 across England and Wales. The Act allowed more flexible and longer opening hours for licensed premises. Within the UK, extensions of the hours of alcohol sales have been associated with increased per capita consumption of beer, increases in the number of alcohol-related diagnoses in hospitals, and increases in violent crime. Research has shown increases in alcohol-related overnight attendances to accident and emergency departments and alcohol-

related admission rates were associated with the 2005 implementation of the 2003 Act (Durnford, Perkins & Perry, 2008). This was supported by Newton et al (2007) who reported that overnight alcohol related emergency attendances to increase significantly (as consequence of injury and assault) after the introduction of new alcohol licensing legislation. If reproduced over longer time periods and across the UK, the additional burden on emergency care could be substantial.

Excessive alcohol consumption has a substantial impact on public health services. A key element determining alcohol availability is alcohol outlet density. A national small-area level ecological study (Maheswaran et al; 2018) investigated the relationship between on-trade and off-trade outlets and hospital admission rates. This found that higher densities of on-trade outlets (pubs, bars and nightclubs; restaurants licensed to sell alcohol; other on-trade outlets) and convenience stores were associated with higher admission rate ratios for acute and chronic wholly attributable conditions.

Regarding the sale of single, high strength cans of alcohol, 'Street drinkers' often consume high strength alcohol. The definition of high strength varies, but for the purposes of 'Reducing the Strength' schemes have tended to refer to products from around 6.5 per cent abv upwards. The Reducing Strength Scheme refers to initiatives designed to tackle the problems associated with street drinking by removing from sale low price high-strength alcohol products through voluntary agreements with local retailers.

There are a wide range of beers available around the 8 to 9 per cent abv mark – as well as a number of high-strength white ciders – and a single 500ml can of high strength lager can contain over four units of alcohol, more than the daily lower risk drinking guidelines for both men and women. A recent ruling by the Portman Group Independent Complaints found that 500ml cans of 9 per cent abv Tennents Super 'encouraged immoderate consumption', as a single can contained more than the government guidelines and contents are encouraged to be consumed by one person in one setting. The product was therefore found to breach Rule 3.2 of the Portman Group Code, which states that 'a drink, its packaging or promotion should not encourage illegal, irresponsible or immoderate consumption, such as binge drinking, drunkenness or drink-driving.' The Portman Group operates the Code of Practice on the Naming, Packaging and Promotion of Alcoholic Drinks and the Code of Practice on Alcohol Sponsorship.

Hartlepool has the 18th highest alcohol related liver disease mortality rate in England and has been consistently worse than the England average for the last 6 years. This is also reflected in Hartlepool's alcohol related mortality rate which has fallen from a peak of 23.8 per 100,000 population in 2014-16 but is still statistically significantly worse than the England average. Hartlepool is also in the top 10 in the country for alcohol-specific hospital admissions with 1,171 per 100,000 of the population (2019/20), which is significantly (statistically) higher than the England average.

Alcohol is the second most popular problem substance for individuals accessing our alcohol treatment service within Hartlepool, for both adults and children/young people (around 40% in 2021/22). The level of unmet need for alcohol use is around 75%, meaning three out of four problematic alcohol users are not currently seeking support or treatment.

More specifically regarding the location of the applicant's premises, we can see that Foggy Furze hospital admission rates for alcohol attributable conditions are significantly higher than the England average (See figure 2).

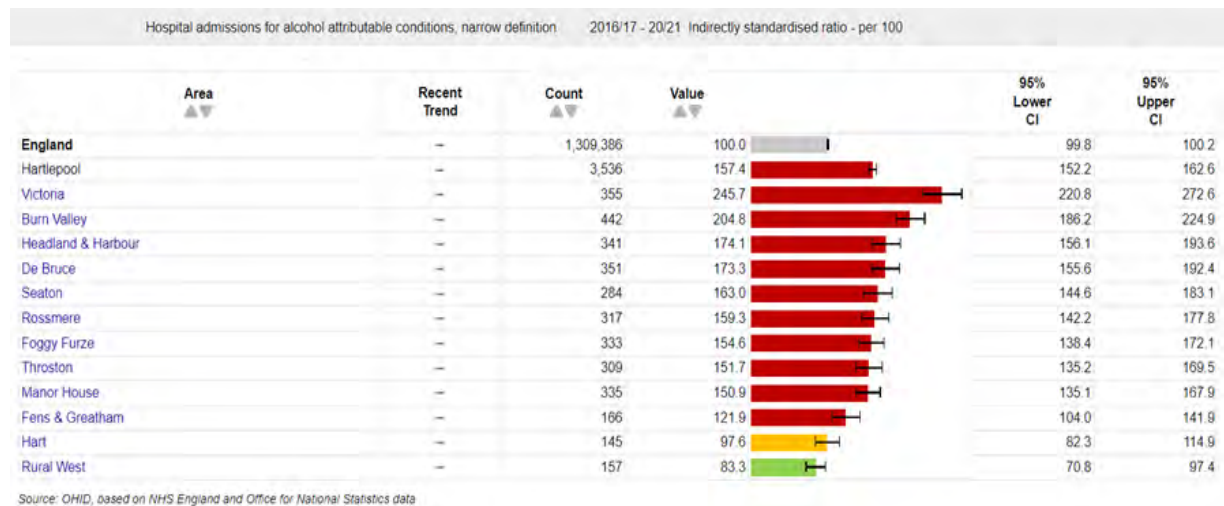


Figure 2: Hospital admissions for alcohol attributable conditions 2016/17-21

Because of the challenges and potential harm outlined in this paper, Public Health support the review of the license of this premise.

Craig Blundred Director of Public Health
Hartlepool Borough Council

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