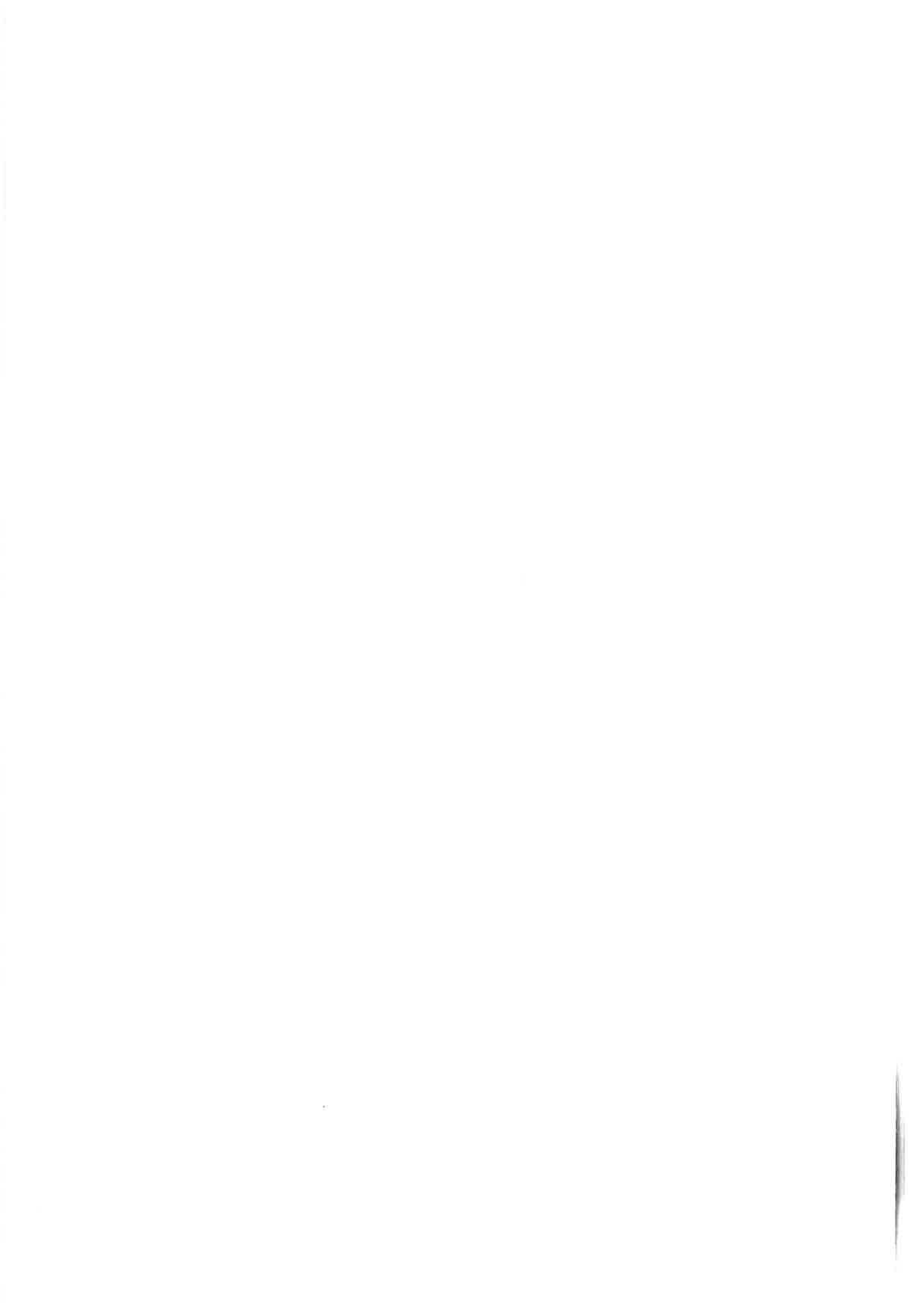


APPENDIX 5





NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Northern Area Command
Area Command Headquarters
Middle Engine Lane
Wallsend
Tyne & Wear
NE28 9NT

Tel : 101

9th May 2022.

Licensing Officer,
Licensing Department,
Killingworth Site,
Harvey Combe,
Killingworth,
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne,
NE12 6UB.

Dear Mrs S Graham,

Re: Supporting representation for the request by North Tyneside Trading Standards Department, to review the premises licence for Booze Master Food centre, 43 High Street West, Wallsend, NE28 8HX.

In respect of the grant of the above application, I have the following comments to make and wish to lodge the following supporting representation:-

On the 9th February 2022, in a joint visit, North Tyneside Council Trading Standards with Northumbria Police attended the above premises, on an intelligence lead operation. Northumbria Police and North Tyneside Trading Standards had received intelligence from the local community that cheap "tabs" (cigarettes), were being sold from the premises. With the assistance of the tobacco detection dog, a large quantity of cigarettes and tobacco was found on the premises. All these items were seized by North Tyneside Trading Standards officers.

On the 29th March 2022, Northumbria Police received a variation of DPS (Designated Premises Supervisor), for Mr [redacted] to become the DPS at the premises; he gave Flintshire county council as the issuing authority. An email was sent to Flintshire Licensing authority, to confirm Mr [redacted] had a personal licence with them, a return email confirmed he did have a licence issued by that authority. Emails attached.

On 4th April 2022, a telephone call was made By Mr Neil Kirkpatrick Licensing officer for Northumbria Police, to Mr [redacted] who was acting as the agent for Mr [redacted]. Mr Kirkpatrick informed Mr [redacted] that Northumbria Police would be objecting in exceptional circumstances, to Mr [redacted] becoming the DPS, as there was an ongoing criminal investigation. Mr [redacted] thanked Mr Kirkpatrick for the telephone call and said he would get instruction from Mr [redacted]. Mr Kirkpatrick also asked Mr [redacted], did he act for the current DPS, Mr [redacted]. Mr [redacted] said he did, as Mr [redacted] wished to remove himself as DPS as he was a tradesman in Leeds.

On the 5th April 2022 a call was received by Mr Kirkpatrick from Mr [redacted] to inform Mr Kirkpatrick that Mr [redacted] was going to seek legal advice, and Mr [redacted] is going to withdraw himself as the DPS. Mr [redacted] said he would confirm this by email.

On 6th April 2022 at 11:30 hours Mr Kirkpatrick visited 43 High Street East, Wallsend, with a Trading Standards Officer. A Mr [redacted] was present. Mr Kirkpatrick conducted a licensing check of the premises. Mr Kirkpatrick asked Mr [redacted] where the DPS was, Mr [redacted] said he did not know Mr [redacted]. Mr [redacted] could not work the CCTV system, there was no premises licence on display and it could not be found in the shop. No records were found of an incident register or refusals book. After going through the whole licence conditions, the only one that was being adhered to was a sign being displayed about the challenge 25 policy.

On the 6th April 2022 at 14:29 hours, the representation to Mr [redacted] becoming DPS was sent by email to Mr [redacted], Mr [redacted] and North Tyneside council Licensing authority, by Mr Kirkpatrick. Mr [redacted] acknowledged receipt of the email the same day at 15:44 hours. At 17:34 hours, the same day, Mr [redacted] sent an email saying Mr [redacted] had instructed him to withdraw his application to become DPS. Emails attached. Northumbria Police representation attached.

Northumbria Police wish to support the request from North Tyneside council's Trading Standards department for the revocation of the premises licence for Booze master Food Centre, 43 High street east, Wallsend, NE28 8HX on the grounds of Crime and Disorder.

Yours sincerely,

C/Insp Paul Young 7688
Harm reduction.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Neil Kirkpatrick 5588](#)
Subject: Vary DPS - Booze Master Food Centre
Date: 29 March 2022 10:03:13
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.gif](#)
[image003.gif](#)
[image004.png](#)
[Booze Master Food Centre Vary DPS 29.03.22.pdf](#)
[Booze Master Food Centre Vary DPS Consent 29.03.22.pdf](#)

Please find attached Vary DPS + Consent for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

Robert [REDACTED]

**Business Administration Apprentice
Licensing**



Block A, Harvey Combe, Killingworth, NE12 6QQ

[North Tyneside Council](#)



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Neil Kirkpatrick 5588](mailto:Neil.Kirkpatrick.5588@northumbria.police.uk)
Subject: FW: personal licence holder
Date: 04 April 2022 11:39:08

Caution: This email originated from outside of Northumbria Police. Do NOT open any attachments, enter credentials or click any links unless you are expecting them from the sender.

Good Morning,

I can confirm that Mr [REDACTED] does hold a personal licence with this Authority FCC2133 issued on the 25/02/22.

Regards

Lorraine

Lorraine [REDACTED]

Licensing Officer/Swyddog Trwyddedu

Community and Business | Gwarchod Cymuned a Busnes

EnvironTel/Ffôn: [REDACTED]

Fax/Facs: [REDACTED]

Email /Ebost [REDACTED]

From: Neil Kirkpatrick 5588 [<mailto:Neil.Kirkpatrick.5588@northumbria.police.uk>]

Sent: 04 April 2022 10:41

To: Licensing <licensing@northumbria.police.uk>

Subject: Re: personal licence holder

Good morning, to whom it may concern.

A Mr [REDACTED] Licence number FCC 2133, has submitted an application to become the DPS of an off licence in my area, will you please confirm if he has a personal licence with your authority.

Thank you

Kind regards

Neil K

Neil Kirkpatrick 5588
Licensing Coordinator (Partnerships)
Northern

[REDACTED] | W: www.northumbria.police.uk

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English and will respond to correspondence in the same language. Use of either language will not lead to a delay

Opinions advice, conclusions and other information in this

message that do not relate to the official business of

Flintshire County Council shall be understood as neither

given nor endorsed by it or on its behalf, and consequently

Flintshire County Council shall bear no responsibility

whatsoever in respect thereof.

Croesawn ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb i ohebiaeth yn yr un iaith. Ni fydd defnyddio'r naill iaith na'r llall yn arwain at oedi.

Deallir na fydd unrhyw safbwyntiau, na chynghorion, na

chasgliadau nac unrhyw wybodaeth arall yn y neges hon,

nad ydynt yn berthnasol i waith swyddogol

Cyngor Sir y Fflint, yn cael eu cynnig na'u cadarnhau ganddo

nac ar ei ran, ac felly ni fydd Cyngor Sir y Fflint yn derbyn

unrhyw gyfrifoldeb am y rhannau hynny o'r neges.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Neil Kirkpatrick 5588; Liquor Licensing](#)
Subject: Re: DPS objection
Date: 06 April 2022 17:34:00

Caution: This email originated from outside of Northumbria Police. Do NOT open any attachments, enter credentials or click any links unless you are expecting them from the sender.

Application for the change of DPS at Booze Master Food Centre, 43 High Street East, Wallsend, NE28 8PF

Dear Licensing Team,

I have just received a call from the applicant Mr. [REDACTED] who has instructed me to withdraw the application for the change of DPS at Booze Master Food Centre, 43 High Street East, Wallsend, NE28 8PF with immediate effect.

He has also asked me to inform you that he will be attending the meeting he has been invited to on the 14th April to explain his side of the story.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] Clarke

On Wed, 6 Apr 2022 at 15:44, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]](#)> wrote:
Dear Neil and Licensing,

Thankyou for your email.

I have informed Mr. [REDACTED] about the objection letter you have sent and what it means.

He is seeking legal advice locally and will let me know in due course what he wants to do.

I'm sorry I can't be of any further help at this stage but I will email you as soon as I hear any further news.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] Clarke

On Wed, 6 Apr 2022 at 14:28, Neil Kirkpatrick 5588
<[Neil.Kirkpatrick](#)> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr [REDACTED] Mr [REDACTED], Mr Burnett, and Liquor Licensing at North

Tyneside council.

Please find attached a representation from Northumbria Police. Sent in exceptional circumstances, to the variation of DPS, for Booze master food centre, 43 Wallsend High Street East, Wallsend, NE28 8PF.

My contact details are below, if you wish to discuss this matter.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Neil K

Neil Kirkpatrick 5588
Licensing Coordinator (Partnerships)
Northern

 | W: www.northumbria.police.uk

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'Our vision is to deliver an outstanding police service; working with communities to prevent crime and disorder and protect the most vulnerable people from harm.'

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NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Northern Area Command
Area Command Headquarters
Middle Engine Lane
Wallsend
Tyne & Wear
NE28 9NT

Tel : 101

16th May 2022.

Licensing Officer,
Licensing Department,
Killingworth Site,
Harvey Combe,
Killingworth,
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne,
NE12 6UB.

Dear Mrs S Graham,

Re: Supporting representation for the request by North Tyneside Trading Standards Department, to review the premises licence for Booze Master Food centre, 43 High Street West, Wallsend, NE28 8HX.

In respect of the grant of the above application, I have the following comments to make and wish to lodge the following supporting representation:-

On the 12th May 2022, in a joint operation with North Tyneside Trading Standards and Northumbria Police, an intelligence lead operation was conducted in several off licences in Wallsend; one of them was Booze Master Food centre. During the visit Mr [redacted] was requested to provide his personal details, the officer attending checked on Mr [redacted] and found him to be an illegal immigrant working in the shop. This has been reported to Her Majesties Borders Force

Northumbria Police wish to support the request from North Tyneside council's Trading Standards department for the revocation of the premises licence for Booze master Food Centre, 43 High street east, Wallsend, NE28 8HX on the grounds of Crime and Disorder.

Yours sincerely,

C/Insp Rebecca Fenny-Menzies 7022
Harm reduction/Intelligence.





NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Northern Area Command
Area Command Headquarters
Middle Engine Lane
Wallsend
Tyne & Wear
NE28 9NT

6th April 2022.

Licensing Officer,
Licensing Department,
Killingworth Site,
Harvey Combe,
Killingworth,
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne,
NE12 6UB.

Dear Mrs S Graham,

Re: Application for a variation of Designated Premises Supervisor. Mr ,

In respect of the grant of the above application, I have the following comments to make and wish to lodge the following representation, with exceptional circumstances.

On the 9th February 2022, a joint visit was conducted at Booze Master Food centre, 43 High Street East, Wallsend, by Northumbria Police and North Tyneside Trading Standards.

A large quantity of illegal tobacco products were found on the premises, the owner of the shop was named as Mr . Until this criminal investigation is complete, Northumbria police could not support this application for the variation of the Designated premises Supervisor.

Northumbria Police wish to place an exceptional circumstance objection to the grant of this variation of Designated Premises Supervisor application, on the grounds of Crime and Disorder.

Yours sincerely,

C/Insp Paul Young 7688
Harm reduction.



RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION



North Tyneside Council

Section 1 – Application Details

I wish to make a supporting representation in regards of the following Application:
Booze Master Food Centre Ltd

Applicant's name (if known) :
Weights and Measures Authority, North Tyneside Council

Premises name and address:
Booze Master Food Centre, 43 High Street East, Wallsend, NE28 8PF

Application for a:-
Review of Premise Licence

Section 2 – Details of the Responsible Authority making a representation

Name of Responsible Authority: Licensing Authority

Tel No:

Address where you would like us to correspond with you:

Quadrant East,
The Silverlink North,
Cobalt Business Park,
North Tyneside, NE27 0BY

Please note that a full copy of your representation will be sent to the applicant and will be a public document at any hearing of this matter.

Please state under which of the licensing objective(s) your representation is being made (eg. Prevention of Crime & Disorder, Prevention of Public Nuisance, Public Safety, the Protection of Children from Harm).

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Section 3 – Objection Details

My representation is based on the following:

(You need to complete this box as fully as possible. If you do not then the Licensing Committee may not understand why you have made a representation).

You may attach supporting documents/further pages as necessary – Please number all extra pages and put your name on the top of each page.

Try to be as specific as possible and give examples (ensuring the representation relates to the licensing objective(s)).

I am the Public Protection Manager at North Tyneside Council. In this capacity I wish to raise this representation on behalf of the Licensing Authority in support of the application for a review of the premises licence submitted by the Weights and Measures Authority, North Tyneside Council, due to the concerns expressed below.

The premises licence was first granted on 22 February 2021.

A Licensing inspection was undertaken on 17 February 2022. As part of the inspection the availability of the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) was queried and compliance with the conditions attached to the licence. It was found that the staff present in the shop did not know who the DPS was or how to contact any person in management of the premises. The officer undertaking the inspection was also concerned that several licensing conditions were not being complied with. Due to the lack of responsible management present this could not be investigated further and as a result a letter was hand delivered to the premises on 23 February 2022. Please see Appendix 1.

This letter was further sent on 16 March 2022 when the licence holder failed to respond to the first letter. No response was received to this letter. As a result, the Officer carried out a second visit to the premises on 25 March 2022. The staff present at the shop were unable to provide details of the DPS or contact the licence holder. They were also unable to access the CCTV system.

The two visits to the premises and subsequent failure to respond to letters has raised the following concerns. It is our concern that staff at the premises have no support from the licence holder or the DPS. The staff are unaware of the requirement to follow the conditions attached to the premises licence and other stipulations under the Licensing Act 2003. The conditions attached to the licence were volunteered by the licence holder.

The licence holder has been unable to evidence compliance with the following conditions:

1. CCTV

1.1 The premises shall install and maintain a digital CCTV system

1.2 The CCTV system shall have sufficient hard drive storage capacity to store a minimum of 31 days.

1.3 The CCTV system shall be capable of obtaining clear facial recognition images and a clear head and shoulders image of every person entering or leaving the premises at each exit and entrance point.

1.4 A CCTV log will be completed on a weekly basis to record all elements of the CCTV System is maintained in good working order and recordings date and time stamped.

1.5 Only nominated staff shall be trained in the operation of the CCTV system to ensure rapid data retrieval & downloads of footage can be provided to the Police & the Local Authority Officer upon reasonable request in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

1.6 CCTV shall be continually recording during licensable hours

1.7 In the event of a failure of the CCTV system for any reason, a record of the failure will be recorded in the premises log and immediate steps will be made to rectify the problem

1.8 Proxy signs will be sited on the premises to deter proxy sales on behalf of under 18's

1.9 The DPS will provide training to staff in relation to alcohol sales and to authorise the employees the DPS considers competent to sell alcohol on their behalf in writing. A written sale of Alcohol register will be maintained at the premises.

2. Incident/Refusals Register

2.1 An incident log must be kept at the premises. Log records will be retained for a period of 12 months from the date it occurred. It will be made immediately available on request to an authorised person (as defined in section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003), an authorised trading standards officer or the police, and must record the following.

- a. All crimes reported to the premises (where relevant to the licensing objectives)
- b. Any incidents of disorder.

3. When the designated premises supervisor is not on duty, a contact telephone number will be available at all times.

4. All spirits will be stored and sold behind the counter.

6. Prominent clear and legible signage shall be displayed at all exits to the premises requesting the public to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and the area quickly and quietly. (Quiet Notice).

7. A written register of refusals will be kept including a description of the people who have been unable to provide required identification to prove their age. Such records shall be kept for a period of 12 months and will be collected by the DPS and produced to the police or an authorised person (as defined by section 13 of the licensing act 2003) or an authorised trading standards officer the local authority/council on demand.

8. All staff engaged in the sale of alcohol to be trained in Challenge 25. Training records shall be kept on the premises and produced to the police or an authorised

person (as defined by section 13 of the licensing act 2003) or an authorised trading standards officer of the local authority/council on demand.

9. Challenge 25

9.1 The premises shall operate a Challenge 25 policy. Such policy shall be written down and kept at the premises. The policy shall be produced on demand of the police or an authorised person (as defined by section 13 of the licensing act 2003) or an authorised trading standards officer of the local authority/council.

9.2 Prominent, clear and legible Challenge 25 signage shall also be displayed at all entrances to the premises as well as at least one location behind any counter advertising the scheme operated.

A breach of a licensing condition is an offence under Section 136 Licensing Act 2003.

On 10 April 2022 the DPS gave notice that he no longer is the DPS for these premises. No authorised sales of alcohol can take place from these premises until a new variation of DPS has been approved.

Signed

Joanne Lee, Public Protection Manager

Appendix 1



Working in partnership with

Capita

The Killingworth Site
Harvey Combe
Killingworth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE12 6UB

Booze Master Food Centre Ltd
43 High Street East
Wallsend
Tyne And Wear
NE28 8PF

Date: 23rd February 2022
This matter is being dealt with
by: **Mr J Young –**
Licensing Officer
Licensing Section
☎ Telephone: 0191-643 2175

Dear Sir

Re: Licensing Act 2003 – Licensed Premises Inspection 17th February 2022

Further to my visit to your premises on Thursday 17th February 2022.

During the visit the following breaches of licence conditions were identified.

1. CCTV

1.10 The premises shall install and maintain a digital CCTV system

Premises has 12 CCTV cameras displayed on the monitor. There were 2 cameras outside which do not appear to be shown on the CCTV system for the premises. I was unable to check the system as there was no one capable of operating the system at the premises. The staff member did not know where the hard drive or CCTV equipment was located.

1.11 The CCTV system shall have sufficient hard drive storage capacity to store a minimum of 31 days.

I was unable to check the CCTV system as there was no one capable of operating the system at the premises.

1.12 The CCTV system shall be capable of obtaining clear facial recognition images and a clear head and shoulders image of every person entering or leaving the premises at each exit and entrance point.

I was unable to check the CCTV system for the reasons above. It is questionable from the display on the monitor whether the system is able to obtain such images.

1.13 A CCTV log will be completed on a weekly basis to record all elements of the CCTV System is maintained in good working order and recordings date and time stamped

There was no CCTV log being maintained and I was unable to check the system for date and time recording.

1.14 Only nominated staff shall be trained in the operation of the CCTV system to ensure rapid data retrieval & downloads of footage can be provided to the Police & the Local Authority Officer upon reasonable request in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

The member of staff on duty advised that they work there on a day to day basis could not access or operate the CCTV system.

1.15 CCTV shall be continually recording during licensable hours

I was unable to check the CCTV system as there was no one capable of operating the system at the premises.

1.16 In the event of a failure of the CCTV system for any reason, a record of the failure will be recorded in the premises log and immediate steps will be made to rectify the problem

There was no CCTV log being maintained.

1.17 Proxy signs will be sited on the premises to deter proxy sales on behalf of under 18's

There were no Proxy sales signage displayed either inside or outside of the premises.

1.18 The DPS will provide training to staff in relation to alcohol sales and to authorise the employees the DPS considers competent to sell alcohol on their behalf in writing. A written sale of Alcohol register will be maintained at the premises.

The member of staff advised that she had received no training from the existing DPS, there was no written consent from the DPS to authorise sales of alcohol and no written sale of alcohol register available for inspection. The member of staff claimed not to know the DPS's name and stated that she had received training from someone else but not in the past 6 to 12 months.

2. Incident/Refusals Register

2.1 An incident log must be kept at the premises. Log records will be retained for a period of 12 months from the date it occurred. It will be made immediately available on request to an authorised person (as defined in section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003), an authorised trading standards officer or the police, and must record the following.

- a. All crimes reported to the premises (where relevant to the licensing objectives)
- c. Any incidents of disorder.

There was no incident log available for inspection.

3. When the designated premises supervisor is not on duty, a contact telephone number will be available at all times.

The staff member did not have contact details (telephone number for the DPS and did not appear to know who the DPS actually was for the premises.

4. All spirits will be stored and sold behind the counter.

The majority of spirits were stored behind the counter but there was a selection of Gin on a shelf to the left of the counter (not behind the counter) and readily accessible by customers.

6. Prominent clear and legible signage shall be displayed at all exits to the premises requesting the public to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and the area quickly and quietly. (Quiet Notice).

There were no signs displayed in relation to this condition.

7. A written register of refusals will be kept including a description of the people who have been unable to provide required identification to prove their age. Such records shall be kept for a period of 12 months and will be collected by the DPS and produced to the police or an authorised person (as defined by section 13 of the licensing act 2003) or an authorised trading standards officer the local authority/council on demand.

There was no refusal register available for inspection.

8. All staff engaged in the sale of alcohol to be trained in Challenge 25. Training records shall be kept on the premises and produced to the police or an authorised person (as defined by section 13 of the licensing act 2003) or an authorised trading standards officer of the local authority/council on demand.

The member of staff advised that she had not received training for 6 to 12 months. There were no training records available for inspection.

9. Challenge 25

9.1 The premises shall operate a Challenge 25 policy. Such policy shall be written down and kept at the premises. The policy shall be produced on demand of the police or an authorised person (as defined by section 13 of the licensing act 2003) or an authorised trading standards officer of the local authority/council.

There was no written Challenge 25 Policy available for inspection.

9.2 Prominent, clear and legible Challenge 25 signage shall also be displayed at all entrances to the premises as well as at least one location behind any counter advertising the scheme operated.

There was one challenge posted displayed behind the main door but this was obscured by another poster for something totally unrelated.

There were no other challenge 25 posters displayed throughout the premises.

The Council is extremely concerned that almost every condition on Annex 2 of the Premises Licence is being breached. Please note that breaches of the conditions attached to a Premises Licence is an offence for which you can be prosecuted.

Licensing Act 2003 Section 136 - Unauthorised licensable activities

(1)A person commits an offence if—

(a)he carries on or attempts to carry on a licensable activity on or from any premises otherwise than under and in accordance with an authorisation, or

(b)he knowingly allows a licensable activity to be so carried on.

Please return the attached notice to confirm that you have rectified the above matters in the pre-paid addressed envelope enclosed. Please do so within 14 days from the date of this letter.

Please note – failure to comply with this notice may result in further action being required.

If you need any information or advice on this or any other licensing matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Licensing Team.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Young
Licensing Officer



North Tyneside Council

Quadrant, The Silverlink North,
Cobalt Business Park,
North Tyneside, NE27 0BY
Tel: 0191 643 2104

North Tyneside Licensing Committee
North Tyneside Council
Quadrant East, The Silverlink North,
Cobalt Business Park,
North Tyneside, NE27 0BY

23 May 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Review of Premises Licence: Booze Master Food Centre Ltd, 43 High Street
East, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, NE28 8PF**

As the Director of Public Health for the borough I have responsibility for improving population health and providing leadership for health improvement and protection. I am therefore concerned about the evidence supplied by Trading Standards and others which alleges that illicit tobacco has been sold and present at the premises of Booze Master Food Centre, 43 High Street, Wallsend.

The activities at this premise appear to undermine the licensing objectives to prevent crime and disorder, and I do not believe that the applicant has demonstrated that he is able to uphold the licensing objectives due to trading in an illegal and unregulated manner.

The sale of illicit tobacco is rightly subject to robust regulation as it can cause harm to health and can also impact negatively on society through crime and disorder. Cigarettes, no matter where they are sold, are the only legal consumer product that, when used exactly as the manufacturer intends them to be used, will kill at least half of its users and every year in the North East, over 5,000 people die because of smoking. Tobacco smoke contains thousands of poisonous chemicals causing 16 types of cancer and other conditions. Whilst some illegal/illicit tobacco products are smuggled genuine products and foreign brands where no duty has been paid to the Treasury, some counterfeit tobacco are an even greater threat to public health as they have been found to contain arsenic, rat droppings and far more tar and carbon monoxide than legal products. Furthermore, the trade is linked to organised crime fuelling human trafficking, loan sharks and the drug trade.

While fewer people than ever are smoking, illegal cigarettes are often responsible for getting children initiated into smoking. The sale of illegal and unregulated tobacco poses a risk to health for all residents, particularly children, and it is a criminal activity that supports a trade that encourages children to become addicted to tobacco at younger ages and promotes dangerous products. The availability of illicit tobacco

undermines every measure that is put in place to reduce smoking rates particularly taxation, age of sale legislation and packaging regulations. Based on the findings of a major public survey across Tyne and Wear, Northumberland, and County Durham in 2021 more than 7 in 10 children aged 14-17 who smoke have been offered illegal tobacco and half buy it. Shops are the source of 14% of children's illegal tobacco purchases. Also, 15% of smokers in the sample area, around 36,000 people, buy illegal tobacco and more than 8 in 10 of these buyers say it helps them smoke i.e., when otherwise high prices would motivate them to quit.

It is clear that in order to prevent further criminal activity and protect children from harm this premises licence should be revoked.

Thank you for the opportunity to raise my concerns, and should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Wendy Burke
Director of Public Health and Responsible Authority