



# HILLINGDON

LONDON

Gerry Sutcliffe MP  
Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1Y 5DH

Ref: NCS/LA03/DCMS09

21<sup>st</sup> October 2009

Dear Sir

## **THE LICENSING ACT 2003 – RED AND YELLOW CARD SCHEME**

With reference to your letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 concerning the adoption of the 'Red and Yellow' card scheme at Licensing Reviews, you are advised that I consulted with members of Hillingdon's full Licensing Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 to seek their views on the matter.

At that meeting, the Licensing Authority considered very carefully all elements of the scheme and how the scheme would fit into the current review process.

Members expressed concerns that the scheme could be viewed as a 'light-touch' penalty and would therefore not be a deterrent that licence holders would take seriously.

Hillingdon's Licensing Authority have determined a number of reviews after illegal alcohol sales were made and, in most cases, the decision was to revoke the licence completely, or to impose the maximum suspension period.

Only one of the Licensing Committee's decisions has been challenged at Magistrates Court, however the Court upheld the Council's decision.

The review process has worked well in Hillingdon where we have seen the closure of a number of problem outlets. The Licensing Authority have expressed that this is the preferred method of dealing with review applications and they are minded to continue with each review based on the individual merits of each case.

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Therefore, having given the proposed 'Red and Yellow' card system full consideration, Hillingdon's Licensing Committee have decided not to implement the scheme.

If I can be of further assistance on this matter, please contact me.

Yours faithfully

Norman Stanley  
Licensing Service Manager



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