

Actions taken by Metropolitan Police and Trading Standards regarding underage sales

Committee

Licensing Committee

Officer Contact

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Papers with report

None

Ward(s) affected

All

SUMMARY

A report to update the Licensing Committee on the actions taken by the Metropolitan Police Service and the Council's Trading Standards department concerning sales of alcohol to young persons.

RECOMMENDATION

That the committee note the report

INFORMATION

The Trading Standards Service carried out several underage alcohol test purchase operations in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police Service in 2009. Forty premises were visited for underage alcohol sales.

Where a sale took place the seller was issued with a police Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND). During the test purchase operations a total of 9 PND's were issued by the police to persons who sold alcohol to a person under 18. Trading Standards Officers witnessed these sales, and accompanying statements and exhibits were supplied to the police in support of the PND.

The premises where a sale to under age persons was witnessed and a PND was issued are as follows:

Ruislip Food & Wine, 92 Victoria Road, Ruislip
Londis t/a VG, 153 Whitby Road, South Ruislip
McCalls, 161 Whitby Road, South Ruislip
AA News, 77 Station Approach, South Ruislip
Vic Mart, 113 Victoria Road, Ruislip Manor
Londis, 242 Yeading Lane, Hayes
World Wines, 38 Station Road, Hayes
HP Food & Wine, 115 Falling Lane, Yiewsley
Yiewsley Superstore, 125 Falling Lane, Yiewsley

Further actions taken

Following the illegal sale of alcohol made by licensed premises, the Trading Standards Service contacted the proprietor of the business and conducted a formal interview with the proprietor,

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premises licence holder and DPS regarding the sale to ensure that underage sales at the premises do not recur.

The meeting was substantive in advising them of their responsibilities to prevent underage sales and the consequences should they be found to be supplying alcohol to persons under 18.

Following the meeting a further test purchase is carried out at the premises within 3 months of the interview and if alcohol is sold again to a person under 18 the Trading Standards Service may consider prosecution and/or to have the premises licence reviewed by the licensing committee.

All the business's which illegally sold alcohol to children and were then revisited following the interview, did not re-offend.

Complaints alleging that alcohol is being sold to children at licensed premises is similarly dealt with in the above manner. The proprietor, premises licence holder and DPS are formally interviewed and the premises are visited for underage sales within 3 months of the interview.

The Trading Standards Service interviewed 4 retailers in 2009 and none were found to be selling alcohol to children following the interview and subsequent test purchase visit.

The Trading Standards Service also made representations in 2009 in support of an alcohol licence review made by the Metropolitan Police in October 2009 against World Wines, Station Road, Hayes which resulted in the licence being suspended for 3 months and further conditions being added to the licence.

Further test purchases for underage sales of age restrictive items, including alcohol, will be carried out in 2010.

Statistics will be collated from the Metropolitan Police and Trading Standards on a quarterly basis, relating to any test purchases and the result of any underage sales that are carried out in 2010 and these statics shall be reported to Full Licensing Committee accordingly.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None