



HILLINGDON

LONDON

Mr Ian Meens
Licensing Service
London Borough of Hillingdon
Civic Centre
High Street
Uxbridge
UB8 1UW

Ref: GKS/EVU004503

20th December 2016

Dear Mr Meens

**Re: Lotus Wines, 761 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8HY
License Review under the Licensing Act 2003**

Representation

I write further to the License Review submission by the Metropolitan Police for the above mentioned premise. The Trading Standards Service (the service) is making a representation in support of the licensing objective; the prevention of crime and disorder.

The premise was jointly inspected by the Service and the Metropolitan Police on 12th October 2016. During the course of this inspection, various issues were noted:

- Mr Amarjeet Singh was the sole individual behind the till and in charge of the shop at the time of our entry 11:46. He remained present despite being informed that his being there meant Mr Lamba was acting outside of his conditions. Mr Lamba and Mr Singh continued to question officers as to why Mr Singh was not allowed to be present. I informed them both that this was a condition that was added at the time of the license being granted and Mr Lamba had agreed to this condition. Mr Singh eventually left at 12:20.

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- On Mr Lambas arrival to the premises he appeared intoxicated which he attributed to the previous evenings drinking. He was questioned as to how he had arrived at the shop to which he responded that he had taken public transport. It was noted that Mr Lamba arrived at the premises at 11.55 within 10 minutes of his being called by Mr Singh.
- Mr Lamba was asked for sight of his CCTV record, to which he responded that it was not working and that he was awaiting someone to repair it that afternoon.
- Mr Lamba was asked for sight of his refusals log, in which there had been no entries made.
- A brand representative present at the time of visit identified 17 bottles of Jack Daniels as potentially counterfeit. They were seized by me as suspected counterfeit goods contrary to the Trade Marks Act 1994. Mr Lamba was unable to produce any invoices relating to the bottles. Please note following further examination by the brand holder, all bottles were confirmed to be genuine and returned to Mr Lamba on 1st November 2016.
- A videographer arrived stating he wanted to take shots for a film he was doing for Mr Panchal, Licensing representative for Mr Lamba. He was advised we were mid-inspection and the timing inappropriate.
- On exiting the premises Mr Lamba was issued notices by the Police and advised regarding a closure notice, on it becoming apparent that he was not understanding Mr Panchal was called to explain. Mr Lamba queried whether his son Mr Jasmeet Singh Lamba could work at the shop, again he was told that would be contrary to his license.

The premise Lotus Wines and the current license holder Mr Lamba are known to the Service, due to previous License Sub-Committee hearings. These hearings took place on the 10th March 2016 and 25th May 2016. At the first hearing Mr Lambas application was rejected following the representations from all concerned authorities finding his knowledge of licensing to be weak.

By the second hearing on 25th May, Mr Lamba had taken steps to develop his knowledge and so authorities recommended he be given a reasonable opportunity to become a license holder. It is to be noted that at this hearing, Mr Lamba had with him his licensing representative Mr Panchal, legal representative Mr Somarakis and a independant translator. During this hearing, conditions were presented and agreed to by both the representatives and the authorities. On the basis of Mr Lamba complying with said conditions the license was granted.

Since then, Mr Lambas conduct has demonstrated a lack of competence with regards to his obligations as a license holder. Also a lack of regard for authority in that he has continued to act contrary to the conditions of his license. A license that was granted to him following a review where conditions were suggested by his legal representation and agreed to by him. The council has acted reasonably in allowing the license to be granted

and Mr Lamba has demonstrated a flagrant disregard for the law which raises questions as to whether the business is managed in accordance with licensing objectives.

In the circumstances, the Service feels that it would be a necessary and proportionate response to request a revocation of the premises licence.

I invite the Licensing Committee to consider this representation before making any decisions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kiran Seyan', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kiran Seyan
Trading Standards Investigating Officer