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Date: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015  
Our Ref: 512518  
Your Ref: 223392470

**Trading Standards representation to the variation of the premises licence at Maxy Roexport (UK) trading as Food 4 Less, 201 Edgware Road, Kingsbury NW9 6LP**

I wish to make representations about the above application on behalf of Brent and Harrow Trading Standards which is the Weights and Measures Authority as specified in section 154 of the Licensing Act 2003 covering the above premises address. I believe the application to extend the licensing hours for the sale of alcohol will be detrimental to the Council's licensing objectives and in particular the protection of children from harm and the prevention of crime and disorder for the reasons given below:

**Sale of alcohol to a child**

On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at the shop called Food4Less, 201 Edgware Road, Colindale NW9 6LP a sale of alcohol by a sales assistant took place to a 13 year old female accompanied by a 12 year old female acting on the instructions of Brent and Harrow Trading Standards contrary to the Licensing Act 2003 Section 146 (1). The alcohol sold was a can of Carlsberg lager. The sale was observed by me. During the sale no attempt was made by the sales assistant to ask for identification or check the age of the children.

The sales assistant was on her own at the counter at the time of the sale. She did not have a personal licence. She had started work for Maxy Roexport (UK) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. She was not fluent in English. This was contrary to the condition stated on the licence for this premises (licence 860819) which specified at Annexe 2, point 7; "A personal licence holder fluent in English shall be present on the premises and supervise the sale of alcohol throughout the permitted hours for the sale of alcohol".

At annexe 2, point 2, the licence said "a refusal book should be maintained and made available for inspection." When I asked to see the refusals book after the sale had taken place none of the staff that were then present including the seller were able to show me a refusals log.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 I interviewed Mrs Ancuta Solovastru the designated premises supervisor and one of the directors of Maxy Roexport (UK) about the sale. She produced training records including the one for the seller and a refusals/incident log. She indicated that a challenge 25 scheme was in operation in the shop.

The records of training, the provisions of a refusals register and the reference to a challenge 25 scheme were provided after the event. The test purchase revealed that these systems were not being adhered to.

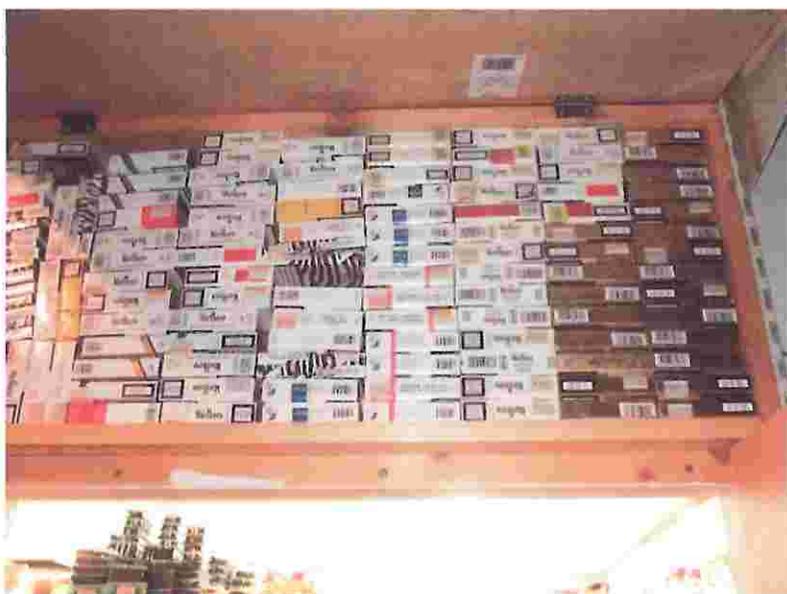
### **Seizure of Cigarettes with no statutory warning in a shop part of the Maxy Roexport (UK) firm**

On 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015 I visited the shop called Food 4 Less at 194 Preston Road, Wembley HA9 8PA following a complaint from a Brent Resident about sales of alcohol and cigarettes to a 16 year girl. This premises is part of the Maxy Roexport (UK) firm. During the inspection approximately 16 packets of cigarettes were found behind the counter on the floor and in a fleece behind the counter and 451 packets of cigarettes were found hidden behind panelling in the store room. The packets did not have the health warnings on them as required by the Tobacco Products (Manufacture, Presentation and Sale) (Safety) Regulations 2002.

### **Photos of panelling concealing cigarettes**



Panelling above entrance door from store room – closed.



Panelling above entrance door from store room – opened.

### **Seizure of Cigarettes with no statutory warning in 201 Edgware Road shop**

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014 officers from Brent and Harrow Trading Standards seized 106 packets of cigarettes from Food4Less, 201 Edgware Road, Colindale NW9 6LP. The packets did not have the health warnings on them as required by the Tobacco Products (Manufacture, Presentation and Sale) (Safety) Regulations 2002. Following this seizure an advisory letter of warning was issued to Mr Marius Iacob Solovastru the other Director of Maxy Roexport (UK).

Having possession of packets of cigarettes for sale without the correct health warnings is a criminal offence and the two occurrences that they were found on premises from which Maxy Roexport (UK) was trading from indicate an effort to flout legislation for the protection of consumers by the owners of the business.

### **Conclusion**

The business has shown by the sale of alcohol to a child and the continued flouting of consumer protection by the possession of cigarettes without the correct health warnings that it is not fully controlling its business to operate within the licensing objectives. I therefore object to the application to extend the hours when alcohol can be served.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Harris**  
Trading Standards Enforcement Officer  
Regulatory Services