



The Licensing Officer
Health, Safety and Licensing
Brent Civic Centre
Engineers Way
Wembley
HA9 7FJ

Your ref: N/A
Our ref: 01QK/677/15/782

**QK - Brent Borough Police
QD - Licensing Unit**

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Date: **9th December 2015**

Police Representation to the Application for a variation of premises licence for Winemart, 48 High Road, Willesden, London NW10 2QA.

I certify that I have considered the application shown above and I wish to make **representations** that the likely effect of the grant of the application is detrimental to the Council's Licensing Objectives for the reasons indicated below.

Officer: Paul Whitcomb PC 782QK

Brent Police Licensing Constable

An officer of the Metropolitan Police Service, in whose area the premises are situated, who is authorised for the purposes of exercising its statutory function as a 'Responsible Authority' under the Licensing Act 2003.

The application has been made to vary the premises licence under section 34 of the act.

The venue is currently holds a premises licence to supply alcohol Sunday - Thursday 12:00-0100 and 12:00-03:00 Friday - Saturday.

The applicant has applied for the removal of condition number eight (8) which reads, **'No high strength beers, lagers and ciders above 5.5% ABV shall be stocked, with the exception of Guinness Foreign Stout and Dragon Stout'**.

The applicant has requested that condition number eight (8) be re-worded to the following: **'No high strength beers, lagers and ciders above 9% ABV shall be stocked as well as the following brands: Kestrel Super, Skol Super, Tennants Super, Special Brew, K Cider, Strongbow Super, Ace Cider, Okocim Black, Crest Super and Warka Strong.'**

The Police representations are primarily concerned with crime and disorder and public nuisance.

Street drinking is a major concern in Brent. So much so, the entire borough remains a controlled drinking zone (CDZ). Street drinking is a trigger for crime, disorder and

nuisance to the community. Brent police and our partners have worked extremely hard to lessen this problem, particularly in and around Willesden High Road. One major hotspot being outside Willesden Library, which is very close to the premise in question.

Street drinking in and around the vicinity of the applicants premise remains an issue. The following summaries have been taken from recent police reports in respect of street drinking:

1. Criminit QKRT00442685 dated 09/01/2015 refers to a police officer seizing alcohol from a street drinker. The street drinking was issued with a direction to leave the area for 24 hours under s.27 Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.
2. Crimint QKRT00445275 dated 05/03/2015 refers to police officers seizing alcohol from a street drinker on High Road, NW10.
3. Crimint QKRT00446266 dated 31/03/2015 refers to people drinking in the toilets of a betting shop on High Road, Willesden.
4. Crimint QKRT00445802 dated 17/03/2015 refers to police officers stopping two males street drinking on High Road, Willesden. Both had alcohol seized from them.

Further, I conducted a walk through of the vicinity of the shop. I found numerous discarded alcoholic tin cans on the floor of the alleyway which runs between Ellis Close, NW10, which is directly in front of Winemart and Richmond Avenue, NW10. Quite clearly, this area is still being used for street drinking. I attach a photograph of this area in the supporting document attached.

I understand that this variation application has come about after officers from Brent police licensing unit conducted enforcement visits throughout this year. The first being back in January 2015, when PC McDonald visited the venue and found staff selling, 'vast amounts' of high strength alcohol above 5.5% ABV, breaching condition eight (8) of the premises licence. PC McDonald issued Mr. Singh, who is the premises licence holder and DPS, a warning letter. I then re-visited the premise on 24th September 2015 and again found nineteen (19) beers, lagers and ciders over 5.5% ABV for sale, along with numerous other breaches of the premises licence, despite already being warned by police.

Following these second round of breaches I held a meeting with Mr. Singh at Brent civic centre to discuss the matter. He assured me that these breaches would be rectified immediately. I issued him with a final written warning. He went on to say that he is in the process of submitting to the local authority, a variation application, to amend his high strength condition. He told me that he would like to sell some 'premium Belgian beers'. I was of the understanding that the applicant was wishing to name a few Belgian beer brands to attach to his premises licence. However, the application he actually submitted is not asking for a 'few Belgian beers', but a high strength condition of 9% ABV with the exception of some high strength beers. This condition would allow the applicant to sell a whole host of other high strength beers, lagers and ciders up to 9% ABV.

I visited the premise once again on Monday 7th December 2015, to speak with the applicant about this application, however, he was not there. I conducted another licensing inspection and there were yet more breaches of his premises licence. There

was one high strength product on display, no personal licence holder present, staff had not been given cash minimisation training amongst other breaches.

In summary, I suspect that the grant of this application will fuel the street drinking problem, in and around Willesden High Road area. As such, this will undermine the licensing objectives in respect of crime, disorder and public nuisance. It will undo all the work that has been put into lessening the problem. At this time, I have no confidence in the management of this premise in upholding the licensing objectives. The reason for this being that there have now been THREE separate breaches of their premises licence since January 2015, which amounts to an offence under section 136 Licensing Act 2003, of carrying out unauthorised licensable activity. This is despite two warning letters (attached as supporting documentation) and advice from police. At the time of writing this letter, I am currently in discussions as to what, if any, enforcement action to take against this shop in relation to the most recent breaches.

Having taken all of the above into account, police would respectfully request that this application is refused.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Whitcomb PC 782QK
Brent Police Licensing Constable