

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address Michael Sullivan PC 368QK Brent Police Licensing Wembley Police Station 609 High Road Wembley HA0 2HH
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This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)

Please tick one or more boxes

- 1) the prevention of crime and disorder
- 2) Public safety
- 3) The prevention of public nuisance
- 4) The protection of children from harm

X

Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 1)

Jamie's News & convenience Store currently has a Premise Licence to sell alcohol between the hours of 08.00 and 23.00 hours Monday to Saturday and 10.00 and 22.30 hours on Sunday.

The Licence allows for alcohol to be consumed off the premises, and should not be sold in open containers.

The Premises Licence holder (PLH) is Mr Aziz Ahmed, and the Designated Premises supervisor (DPS) is Mr Navin Prajapati

Jamies News and convenience Store are failing to promote one of the licensing objectives namely the prevention of public nuisance.

Police have no faith in the ability of the management to operate the premises responsibly and therefore wish to bring the matter before the sub-committee for consideration.

On Friday 23rd October 2015, officers from Brent Licensing Police Team conducted a licensing visit at Jamies News & Convenience Store, 200a Lyon Park Avenue HA0 4HG.

As officers approached the venue they saw four Asian males standing directly outside the shop, all were drinking cans of beer and they had white plastic cups on the window ledge, there were several empty beer cans on the floor next to where the males were standing.

The males were talking loudly and laughing, and one of the males in particular appeared to be drunk.

Officers went into the shop and introduced themselves to a male who gave his name as Mr Navin Prajapati, he informed officers that he was the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) and also the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) he became very nervous when realising that we

were police officers and quickly went outside to speak with the males, officers followed him outside only to see the males running off down the road, officers also saw several empty miniature bottles where the males had previously been standing.

On re-entering the shop officers noticed a tube of white plastic cups behind the counter, similar to the ones that the males were drinking from outside, Officers asked Mr Prajapati why he had half a tube of white plastic cups behind the counter, to which he admitted selling to street drinkers for ten pence each, it was explained to him that this was unacceptable, and was to stop immediately, he was asked about the males that had been drinking outside and eventually admitted that they were regulars that bought alcohol from his shop and stood outside drinking, again it was explained to him that this needed to stop.

Mr Prajapati speaks very limited English and called his wife to come to the shop, shortly after Mrs Nehal arrived and I asked her if she was aware that the shop sold plastic cups for ten pence, she confirmed that she was aware and that they would stop selling them.

During the visit there was a large amount of people coming into the shop, many of them buying alcohol most seemed to be buying single cans of beer, some appeared to be what I would describe as street drinkers none of them were challenged, there was also people that in my opinion appeared young that should have been asked for identification under the 'Challenge 25 policy' again no one was asked to verify their age, Mr Navin Prajapati seemed more interested in just serving one customer after another as quickly as he could to avoid a queue and possibly losing money by people not wanting to wait to be served, than running the shop in line with the licensing objectives.

Before leaving I arranged a meeting with Mr Navin Prajapati to be held at the Civic Centre to talk through the issues I had found, this meeting was arranged for 29/10/2015.

Mr Navin Prajapati attended the meeting on the 29/10/2015 at the Civic Centre and I discussed the issues that I had found on the 23/10/2015, Mr Prajapati stated that he sold to the local street drinkers as all the other shops did and that if he didn't the other shops would, it became very clear that Mr Prajapati did not understand what was being said during the meeting due to his lack of English, and the meeting was adjourned until a later date so that he could bring someone along with him to interpret what was being said.

A few days later I received a call from a licensing consultant by the name of Mr Noel Samaroo who stated that he was now acting for the premises and suggested that the shop put in a variation with conditions that would be suitable to police.

I then contacted Mr Aziz Ahmed to make him aware of the issues with his shop, I spoke to him on the phone and he denied having any involvement with the shop, stating that he had leased the shop to Mr Navin Prajapati, and had no involvement with the day to day running of the shop, he stated that the Premises Licence was in Mr Navin Prajapati name, I informed him that the Licence was still in his name, he was very confused by this saying that it had been transferred into Mr Navin Prajapati name some time ago.

I asked him if he could attend the next meeting which he declined to do.

I then received a second call from Mr Noel Samaroo who informed me that he had met with his clients and that they felt that the conditions that the police would be asking for would be detrimental to the business, in particular they felt it was unfair for the police to propose that they should stop selling single cans of beer, as other shops are allowed to sell single cans and they would lose customers to them, they also felt that the condition of 'No high strength beers, lagers, and ciders above 6.0% ABV shall be stocked' was unfair as other shops were allowed to sell high strength beers and again people would go elsewhere to buy, and due to this they had now decided that they would not be putting in a variation.

A statement from the dedicated Ward Officer (DWO) has been obtained, this outlines the problems that the area suffers from street drinkers that are linked to this premises.