



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

**TOTAL POLICING**

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

**Your ref: N/A**

**Our ref:**

**Brent Borough Police Licensing Unit  
Brent Civic Centre  
Fifth Floor  
Engineers Way  
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HA9 7FJ**

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**Date: Saturday 30th September 2017**

**Police representation to the application for a new Premises Licence at Tropical Café, 68 High Road, Willesden London NW10 2PU.**

**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 licensing objectives for the reasons indicated below.**

Police Officer: **Paul Whitcomb PC 782QK**  
Brent Borough Police Licensing Constable

An officer of the Metropolitan Police, 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 for a new premises licence under section 17 of the act. The Police representations are primarily concerned with the prevention of crime and disorder.

Tropical Café first came to the attention of police back in July of this year. I found that the premises were advertising alcohol for sale on a menu displayed in the window and that there were beer pumps at the counter. Staff were unable to produce to me a premises licence but told me that they were currently applying for a licence and that they believed the blue notices that they had displayed in the window allowed them to sell alcohol. Brent council licensing office confirmed that they had no such application. Further, no temporary event notice was received from the venue. When I contacted the owner, Mr. Lucio Costa, he told me that his licensing agent was handling the application and that he had no idea that the application had not been sent to Brent Council. I informed him that alcohol sales must stop and that the beer pumps are covered until he receives his premises licence or he submits temporary

event notices to Brent council. I sent Mr. Costa a police warning letter (attached) about this matter and fully explained in this letter what he can and can't do.

On Friday 29th September 2017 PC Sullivan and I attended Tropical Café for a consultation visit and meeting with Mr. Costa. I noticed that the beer pumps were uncovered despite police advice. Staff appeared to be surprised by our visit. Mr. Costa arrived thirty minutes late for our meeting and stated that he was busy as he also manages an estate agency too. During our meeting, which took place inside the café, I noticed that there was a female customer sitting outside in the front external seating area drinking a pint of Super Boc lager (picture attached). I asked Mr. Costa why the customer was served alcohol. Mr. Costa said that he had a temporary event notice in place which was arranged by his agent. PC Sullivan requested to inspect the notice, we could see no TEN displayed in the café. Mr. Costa appeared nervous and was becoming flustered, trying to ring his agent who was not answering the phone. I contacted Brent council licensing office and it became apparent that no temporary event notice was in place, therefore, an offence under s.136 Licensing Act 2003 of carrying out licensable activity without an authorisation in place had been committed. I was told by the council that the last TEN received in relation to this premise was for the period covering the 8th to the 13th of August 2017. Mr. Costa told me that he was being advised by his agent whom he was paying to manage all the licensing work on his behalf.

During the meeting it became very apparent that Mr. Costa's knowledge of basic licensing legislation is extremely limited. He was unable to tell me what the four licensing objectives were despite claiming to have recently passed his personal licence course which he took through his agent. Further, Mr. Costa appeared to know very little about his operating schedule within the application, which he told me his agent wrote for him.

Due diligence is a fundamental attribute required of any responsible licensee. Despite Mr. Costa pointing out, in his own defence, that he is paying an agent to manage his licensing affairs for him, he has not applied any due diligence in terms of checking where his TEN was with Brent council, which ultimately led him to committing licensing offences.

At this moment in time, I believe that it would be detrimental on the four licensing objectives if this applicant or the premise was to be issued with a premises licence. Police request that this application is refused.

Yours Sincerely,

**Paul Whitcomb PC 782QK**  
Licensing Constable for  
Brent Borough Police