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Mr A Burrows
Licensing Officer
Arun District Council

14 February 2022

Please ask for:
Sarah Meeten
Licensing
Direct Line: (01903)737755

Your Ref: .

Our Ref: EH/SM/L114092 . /sm

Dear Mr Burrows,

Representation - application for review of a premises licence
Sussex News, 15b Surrey Street, Littlehampton

I make representations on behalf of the Licensing Authority as a Responsible Authority. The application for review of the above premises licence is of great concern. The supply of alcohol to a child is not only unlawful but several breaches of the premises licence have also been found upon visits to the premises, even after the premises licence holder had been notified the review application had been made. The Sub-Committee are asked to explore the seriousness of this matter and the willingness and capability of the responsible person to hold a premises licence.

At the time of writing this representation, the authority has had no contact from the licence holder. No proposals have been made to address the serious issues that have been uncovered at the premises. On inspection an officer noted that almost half the store was being used for the display of alcohol, contrary to the conditions of the premises licence which state

Further to this, no application been made to the authority for a minor variation of the licence upon advice of an officer who noted the layout of the premises had been altered, contrary to the premises licence 'No more than 20% of the sales area to be used at any one time for the sale, exposure for sale, or the display of alcohol'. An officer is currently investigating a further breach of conditions in relation to deliveries of alcohol.

The business appears to be selling a large amount of alcohol with little regard to the rules. It is for the Sub-Committee to be satisfied that the business is being operated in a way which promotes the licensing objectives.

Section 19 of the authorities own relevant policy states:

19.2


The application of a proof of age policy such as 'Challenge 25' is considered an essential measure in preventing underage sales. The Council expects that signage relating to the application of the selected policy should be clearly displayed at the premises. All staff involved with the sale or supply of alcohol should be trained in the application of this Policy and other related matters such as proxy sales.

19.3

Where the sale of alcohol to children gives rise to a licence review, it will be the responsibility of the licence holder to demonstrate that measures were in place to try and prevent issues arising. Where a licence holder fails to do so the committee will consider what action is appropriate to ensure promotion of the licensing objectives. This may include removal of the designated premises supervisor, suspension or revocation of the licence.

The Sub-Committee are asked to consider that there are a number of aggravating factors in this case. These include previous warnings being ignored following the intervention of Trading Standards, a large number of conditions of the premises licence not being complied with and the potential harm that could have been done to young persons as a result of the unlawful supply of alcohol.

Yours Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Mrs Sarah Meeten.

Mrs Sarah Meeten
Licensing Manager