



Licensing Enforcement representations in support of an application for review of a premises licence

Licensing Enforcement of Bridgend County Borough Council supports the application made by South Wales Police to review the premises licence of Caerau Village Stores 8/9 Caerau Road, Caerau, Maesteg, CF34 0PB, which is a grocery store/off licence, and make the following representation.

1. Introduction

Licensing Enforcement Officers are responsible for the enforcement of conditions set on Premises Licences under the Licensing Act 2003. The team is also responsible for investigating licensing related complaints received by the Council.

2. Concerns over management of the premises under the Licensing Act 2003

The service notes the evidence of South Wales Police and shares the concern that the management at Caerau Village Stores 8/9 Caerau Road, Caerau, Maesteg, CF34 0PB is failing to promote the licensing objectives.

Summary

The Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor is Harminder Kaur Malhi. Harminder Kaur Malhi took responsibility on 24 April 2012.

Harminder Kaur Malhi also manages Costcutter, 175/176 Caerau Road, Caerau, Maesteg, CF34 0PD, which is also a grocery store/off licence. Harminder Kaur Malhi resides above the premises at 175-176 Caerau Road, Caerau.

On Wednesday 29 July 2015 a joint routine licensing inspection was carried out at Costcutter, 175/176 Caerau Road, Caerau, Maesteg, CF34 0PD by Bridgend County Borough Council Licensing enforcement and the South Wales Police Licensing Section. On entering the shop a lone female was serving behind the counter, enquiries were made with Harminder Kaur Malhi and the said female as to her personal details and immigration status. Concerns were raised and information was passed to the United Kingdom Borders Agency (UKBA) on 06 August 2015.

On Thursday 20 August 2015 at approximately 0730 hours, Fiona Colwill, Bridgend County Borough Council Licensing Enforcement Officer accompanied UKBA on a visit to the premises at 175/176 Caerau Road, Caerau.

On Thursday 20 August 2015 after attending the Costcutter Store, Fiona Colwill, Licensing Enforcement Officer along with two UKBA Officers attended Caerau Village Stores 8/9 Caerau Road, Caerau, Maesteg, CF34 0PB, a lone female was behind the counter, whilst the Licensing enforcement officer discussed licensing issues with the said female, the two UKBA Officers were given permission to enter the upstairs of the property in order to look for any paperwork. On entering the upstairs officers discovered and detained a male of Indian origin on suspicion of being in the country illegally.

3. Conclusion

Even though there has been no further visits to the premises, mainly due to not interfering or hampering any immigration investigation, it is clear information given to officers by Harmider Kaur Malhi during their visit on 29 July 2015 were false. It is concerning that two persons who were illegal in the country were residing in both premises managed and run by Harmider Kaur Malhi.

In light of the above, Licensing enforcement has no confidence that the management at Caerau Village Stores 8/9 Caerau Road, Caerau, Maesteg, CF34 0PB is effectively promoting the Licensing Objectives under the Licensing Act 2003.

This review is welcomed as a means of identifying the most appropriate way to ensure that these concerns are addressed.

Fiona Colwill
Licensing Enforcement Officer