

1. My name is Mr Mohammad Ayoob.
2. My date of birth is [REDACTED].
3. My address is [REDACTED].
4. I am making this statement in relation to the off-licence business running at 187-193 Kings Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 8HD.
5. On 7 February 2021, I came into the business as an employee responsible for the day to day running of the business.
6. The owner of the business is Mr Mohammad Ashraf Mushtaq.
7. When I started work, Mr Mushtaq was managing the business and Mr Tasadaq Ahmad was working at the off-licence.
8. Tasadaq was mainly responsible for making sure stock levels were adequate.
9. Mr Mushtaq and Mr Adil Khurshid (premises licence holder) told me Tasadaq was only working there temporarily to see if he wanted to be involved in the business in the future. However, he worked daily and was mainly involved in stock management and was paid for his work whilst he was there.
10. The business ran under Ghauri Off-Licence Limited, of which Mr Mushtaq was a director. I was aware that Tasadaq had no management responsibilities or ownership of the business.
11. Mr Mushtaq was the owner of the Premier franchise, and the business rates, stock credit agreement and bills were in the name of and/or being paid through the account of Ghauri Off-Licence Limited.
12. Mr Mushtaq, and the holder of the premises off-licence Mr Khurshid, were satisfied with my work and approved for me to become the new premises licence holder. On 17 March 2021, with the approval of Mr Mushtaq and Mr Khurshid, an application was made for the transfer of the licence into my name.
13. On 6 April 2021, I asked Mr Mushtaq to contact the Council to find out the status of the application and the Council said that the new licence in my name was posted to the shop address.
14. The licence however was not received by me at the shop address, which was strange.
15. Mr Mushtaq made enquiries and was able to get the licence emailed to him.
16. In May 2021, Mr Mushtaq found out an application to transfer the licence from my name into Tasadaq's name had been made to the Council.
17. I did not sign for this transfer into the name of Tasadaq to take place, neither did he ever mention anything to me or Mr Mushtaq about it even though he saw me regularly at the shop.
18. I was later informed that the premises licence was actually granted to Tasadaq and to my shock it had my signature on the application form. I did not sign that application, nor did I give any authority for the licence to be transferred to anyone else's name.
19. However, the Council has rightly confirmed that my signature on the fraudulent transfer application is different to that of mine.
20. I was and still am extremely shocked and angry that Tasadaq has abused my relationship with him and breached my trust and confidence to commit an act of fraud. I reported this to the Police under crime reference NFRC210504519009.
21. I have also learnt that Tasadaq had created a new company called 'Premier Hurst Cross Ltd' (the name to match the trading name of Premier) and may have been doing transactions behind Mr Mushtaq's back.
22. On 31 August 2021 I attended a meeting where the above issues were mentioned.
23. I will be present at the hearing on 22 November 2021, and I will confirm that I did not sign or authorise the licence transfer application into Tasadaq's name and that the signature on the application is not mine.

Name: Mr Mohammad Ayooob

Signed:  .....

Date: 11/11/21