

TAMESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

(Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.1(1);
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s5B)

STATEMENT OF: SHARON CAMPBELL

Age of Witness (if over 18 enter over 18): OVER 18

Occupation of Witness: REGULATORY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

- 1: I have been employed by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council for 25 years. I am currently in position as a Regulatory Compliance Officer within Operations and Neighbourhoods.
2. My main duties are to investigate any enforcement issues.
3. The Licensing Authority, in its capacity as a 'Responsible Authority' under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, hereby give notice of our representation supporting the Application for Review of a Premises Licence at by Trading Standard which was submitted to the Local Authority on the 20th April 2022. The reason(s) for the objections are as follows: Public Safety and the prevention of crime and disorder.
4. On the 21st July 2021 a joint unannounced inspection of the premises was made with PC Martin Thorley, Delegated District Licensing Officer for Tameside and Tim Watson Trading Standards Officer. On entering the premises there were a number of staff present, including someone who presented himself as the owner and licensee Iqbal Shamraiz. A full search of the premises was conducted, during which a key

This statement, consisting of 4 pages, each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable for prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 11/5/2022

Signed



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was requested and obtained for a locked filing cabinet behind the counter. A packet of 'Golden Virginia' hand rolling tobacco (50 g) and a pack of 20 'Rothmans' cigarettes were found inside one of the drawers and on examination of these items they were found not to have the required warning statements in English or be packaged in the required standardised packaging

5. On 9th December 2021 I received information from an anonymous complaint that illicit tobacco was being stored and sold from vehicles outside the premises.
- 6 On 4th January 2022 the authority received further anonymous intelligence via the 'Keep it Out' illegal tobacco reporting website that illegal cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco had been observed being sold from the premises on 24th December 2021. The complainant gave the name 'Shamraiz Hussain' for the person selling it and also provided the following information to Tim Watson, Trading Standards Officer.
7. On the 13th February 2022, In light of on-going intelligence relating to the premises it was decided to add it to the list of premises to be visited during a test purchase operation carried out in conjunction with a test purchaser working on behalf of the Red Snapper Group. During this operation the test purchaser made a successful purchase of Richmond King Size cigarettes for £5.50 and he stated that the cigarettes were obtained by the person in the shop from a storage cabinet underneath a coffee machine, located to the right of the entrance to the shop. This pack of cigarettes was found not be packaged in the required

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standardised packaging. The price paid for the cigarettes was also cheaper than the standard market price of £9.75.

8. On 14th February 2022 the department received information by email from PC Daniel Wilson of Greater Manchester Police as follows:
" The staff at the Best One Canterbury Stores, Ashton under Lyne are selling fake cigarettes. The shop is on the corner of Union Road and Canterbury Street. The staff members are described as Asian males. The staff change regularly.
9. On 17th February 2022 Tameside MBC visited the premises with officers from Greater Manchester Police as part of 'Operation Avro'. The person working in the shop at the time of the visit was confirmed by GMP as being N [REDACTED] M [REDACTED] and whilst carrying out a full search of the premises a key was obtained from Mr M [REDACTED] for a storage cabinet underneath a coffee machine. The following items were found and seized:
10. On the 28th May 2022 I conducted a compliance visit to the premises along with Mike Robinson Regulatory Compliance Manager. A due diligence folder was available and completed correctly. Both refusals and staff training records were up to date. The CCTV was in operational order but no member of staff were able to use this to download footage to us although it could be shown on screen. Wines and

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spirits of high volume were not behind the counter but out on display on the shopfloor. This was pointed out to staff and they were asked to rectify this.

11. The Licensing Authority has lost faith in the ability of the management of the premises to promote the licensing objectives and therefore I recommend that the premises licence be revoked. If the panel are not minded to revoke the licence I would suggest considering the following conditions:

- CCTV
- Challenge 25
- Refusals Book
- Proxy Notices
- Staff Training
- List of Authorised Persons
- Purchasing Policy
- Purchasing Records to be kept

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