

**TAMESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL****STATEMENT OF WITNESS****(C.J.Act 1967, s.9; M.C.Act 1980, ss5A(3)(a) and 5B; M.C.Rules 1981, r.70)****STATEMENT OF: Gemma Lee****AGE OF WITNESS: Over 18****OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: Regulatory Compliance Officer**

STATEMENT OF: Gemma Lee

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

Occupation of Witness: Regulatory Compliance Officer

1. My name is Gemma Lee. I am employed by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council as Regulatory Compliance Officer based within the Licensing section. I have been employed in this capacity since December 2011.
2. On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021, I submitted an application for a review in respect of PL0231 Premier - Hurst Cross Convenience Store, 187-193 Kings Road, Ashton –Under - Lyne, OL6 5HD. This statement is submitted in support of that application.
3. On 19 March 2021, the Licensing Department received an application to transfer the premises licence from Mr Khurshid to Mohammed Ayoob.
4. On 16 April 2021, an email was received by the Licensing Department, from Mr Ayoob, stating that he had not received a copy of his licence following the transfer application and raised concerns that the licence may be subject to a transfer without the consent of Mr Ayoob.

**This statement, consisting of 2 page, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021****Signed**

**Continuation of witness statement of: Gemma Lee**

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**(C.J. Act 1967, s.9; M.C. Act 1980, ss5A (3)(a) and 5B; M.C. Rules, 1981, r.70)**

5. On 28 April 2021, the licensing department received an application to transfer the premises licence from Mr Ayoob to Tasadaq Ahmad. This application was submitted by a licensing agent, Tony Dales. This document is signed by Mr Ayoob. However, Mr Dales has confirmed that he never met Mr Ayoob and did not verify his identity. It is clear from the signature on the consent page of the transfer that this is different to the signature previously provided by Mr Ayoob – it appears that this application was fraudulently signed.
6. Mr Ayoob disputes that he signed the form and maintains that he did not consent to the transfer of the licence to Mr Tasadaq Ahmad.
7. Both Mr Dales and Mr Ahmad confirmed that they had not seen Mr Ayoob sign the consent form and alleged they had been dealing with the former licence holder, Mr Khurshid.
8. All communication between the Licensing Department and Mr Ayoob in relation to the dispute has been via Mohammed Mushtaq. Enquiries with Tameside Council Business Rate section confirm that Mr Mushtaq is a Director of GHAURI OFF-LICENCE LIMITED, responsible for payment of Business Rates at the premises between 15 February 2020 and 1 July 2021.
9. On 31 August 2021, a meeting was arranged the Licensing Office attended by the following people;
  - Mr Ayoob and his business partner, Mohammed Mushtaq,
  - Mr Tasadaq Ahmad,
  - PC Martin Thorley
  - Thaira Khan (Owner of the building)

**This statement, consisting of 3 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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



**Signed**

**Continuation of witness statement of: Gemma Lee**

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**(C.J. Act 1967, s.9; M.C. Act 1980, ss5A (3)(a) and 5B; M.C. Rules, 1981, r.70)**

- Tony Dales (Licensing Agent acting on behalf of Mr Ahmad)
- Mike Robinson – Licensing Manager

10. At the meeting, it was clear that there was an ongoing dispute between business partners (Ayoob, Mushtaq and Ahmad). Both Mr Dales and Mr Ahmad confirmed that they had not seen Mr Ayoob sign the consent form and alleged that they had been dealing directly with the former licence holder Mr Khurshid

11. On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021, I visited the premises and conducted a full compliance check. It was apparent that the premises were operating in accordance with the premises licence. They also provided a due diligence folder from Baker's Solicitors.

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**Dated the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



**Signed**