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My Reference: BH/HAW
 2021

13th July

Matter being dealt with by: B Hussain

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West Yorkshire Police Licensing
 Leeds District Headquarters
 Elland Road
 Leeds
 LS11 8BU

Licence review representation

I would like to make a representation in respect of the review of the licence at BALTIC SUPERMARKET, 4 BRANCH ROAD, ARMLEY, LEEDS, LS12 3AQ. The grounds for the representation are:-

On 16th April 2019 a test purchase for illegal tobacco was conducted at the store. A counterfeit packet of cigarettes was purchased for £3.50. The normal price for the cigarettes is around £10.00, over £6.00 of which is excise duty that is clearly not being paid.

The cigarettes sold from this store were are not labelled with the statutory health warnings required by the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 and did not have the plain packaging as required by the Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products Regulations 2015. Other offences being committed include ones under the Trade Marks Act 1994. By committing these offences, the store is clearly failing to uphold the licensing objective to prevent crime and disorder.

Baltic Supermarket has a history of involvement in the illegal tobacco trade going back a number of years. Following the test purchase, the store was inspected as part of a multi-agency operation on the 30th April 2019 where non duty paid goods were seized by HMRC.

The statutory health warnings which are absent on these tobacco products include "Smoking Kills" and "Smoking seriously harms you and others around you". These warnings were implemented in an effort to enhance the public's knowledge about the dangers and risks of using such tobacco products

All cigarettes pose a major health risk and contain hundreds of poisons, including dozens of cancer-causing chemicals. Over half of long term smokers die early of smoking related diseases.



The supply of cheap and illicit tobacco significantly undermines the government's policy of using tax to maintain the high price of tobacco and help reduce smoking.

By selling non packaging compliant cigarettes at less than half the normal retail price, reducing the incentive for smokers to cut down and quit smoking, the store is failing in its licensing objective to protect public safety.

Dealers in cheap and illicit tobacco products reap the financial benefits of supplying cheap cigarettes and tobacco at the expense of legitimate retailers by providing unfair competition to shops selling the genuine tax paid products. This may lead to honest retailers closing down and causing local economies to suffer.

The supply of illicit and counterfeit tobacco products costs the taxpayer over £2.5 billion per year in lost revenue.

The owners of this store have shown a blatant disregard for the law and licensing objectives. West Yorkshire Trading Standards, as a Responsible Authority, considers the matters outlined above to be extremely serious. As smuggled and counterfeit tobacco is being sold by these premises it therefore recommends the revocation of a premises licence.

Submitted for your consideration

Babul Hussain

Yours sincerely



Babul Hussain
Regulatory Compliance Officer