

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

(Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B;  
Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 16.2)

NICHE Ref. No:

URN:

Statement of: Sarah Blenkhorn

Date of birth: Over 18

Occupation: Licensng Officer

This statement (consisting of      page(s) 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 to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: S Blenkhorn

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Signature witnessed by:

Date:

Time and date statement taken:

Check box if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness defaults on rear)

I am Police Licensing Officer with West Yorkshire Police based within the Leeds District. I have responsibility for the North West areas of Leeds and the Inner South area.


This statement is in relation to an off-licence premises PREM/00906/003:-

The Local, 4 Market Place, Pudsey, LS28 7UA.

The shop is located in a busy shopping area of Pudsey next to the bus station. It is well known in the local area that if children want to buy alcohol and e cigarettes/ cigarettes ( from here on referred to as e cigarettes) then The Local is the place to go.

On the premises licence , the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) is named as Syed Jabbar Ahmed of 

The Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) is named as Syed Ahmed of 

Both the PLH and DPS are thought to be the same person with a date of birth . West Yorkshire Police are aware this person is also known as "Jay" or "Boss man". Syed's father also works in the shop.

I produce the Premises Licence as exhibit SMB1. Apart from the mandatory conditions and some embedded restrictions around serving hours on Christmas Day, there are no other conditions on the licence that can be enforced. This is due to the 'conversion' application made in 2005 which didn't allow for any conditions other than mandatory conditions to be added by the licensing authority and there has been no opportunity since to add any further conditions.

Over the last few years, the premises have been brought to my attention mainly due to unlawful sales of alcohol and e cigarettes to children. This does not support the licencing objective " the protection of children from harm". In fact, selling alcohol and cigarettes to children literally does the opposite and causes them direct harm.

Signature: S Blenkhorn

Signature witnessed by:

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Continuation Statement of: Sarah Blenkhorn

There have also been other numerous incidents of public order, use of offensive weapons, robbery, assault and damage at the shop and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity involving groups of local youths with whom Syed Ahmed has some sort of relationship with.

Whilst there are no conditions on the licence, the shop does have CCTV but yet Syed has, on numerous occasions, refused to hand over the CCTV when the Police have been carrying out investigations and he has been uncooperative. This hardly supports the licensing objective "the prevention of crime and disorder".

I produce a chronology table of events that have occurred at the premises as exhibit SMB2. This details all the reports of underage sales of alcohol and e cigarettes, 27 in total during the period 11/6/2019 to 20/5/2022. The table also details other occurrences at the shop.

Apart from the numerous pieces of information that have been passed to West Yorkshire Police, I can describe some instances where specifically Police Licensing have been involved. In June 2019, a report came into Licensing regarding underage sales to a 14-year-old girl. It was decided at this stage, due to the information received, that a test purchase would not be fruitful due to the devious behaviour of Syed Ahmed as he would apparently only serve to children he knew were local by using code words. Information was also received the shop owner would not sell to children if other adults were present in the shop.

In February 2020, a report came into Licensing from a local Councillor who stated that she had seen a group of youths walk out of The Local carrying Budweiser. Local officers were to carry out a test purchase operation at the premises on the back of this information however Covid 19 hit the UK and the country went into lockdown for a prolonged period.

In Autumn of 2020 West Yorkshire Police received reports of underage alcohol and cigarette sales.

The following year Police Licensing were contacted again in January 2021 with reports of the same underage sales and anti-social behaviour at the shop. As a result, I spoke with Syed Ahmed. He denied accusations around underage sales and stated that he thought people were making allegations because they were racist. He reported he worked in his shop along with his father and 2 other staff members and they were reminded of underage sales every month. He stated there were signs up in the shop regarding check 21 but they asked for ID if the customers looked under 25. He reported he had CCTV in the shop that was fully operational. He was aware of anti-social behaviour in the area and asked the youths to move on but often they ignored him. He stated it was the bus station that attracted the youths to congregate, not his shop. As all accusations were denied by Syed Ahmed and with no conditions on the licence to enforce, I advised of the consequences of any further reports and that he may receive a letter from the anti-social behaviour unit.

On the back of this conversation, PC Edel Fox from the Anti-Social Behaviour unit also visited the shop and had a similar conversation. All accusations were denied, and he was told about consequences of occurrences continuing.

Despite these conversations, reports continued to come into the Police around underage sales.

In October 2021 there was police investigation into a robbery at the shop. The issue of underage sales was raised again along with anti-social behaviour.

Signature: S Blenkhorn

Signature witnessed by:

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Continuation Statement of: Sarah Blenkhorn

My colleague, David Parker, visited the shop and spoke with Syed's father who stated he was fully aware of not selling to under 18's. Again, warnings were given around the consequences of selling to children.

In March 2022 it was decided that a Test Purchase would be carried out. On 24<sup>th</sup> March two 14-year-old volunteers attended the shop and attempted to purchase e cigarettes. The sale was refused but they were told to return 2 minutes later. An adult was present in the shop at the time. When the girls returned, they were refused sale again.

The question has to be asked here – why were the volunteers told to go back in 2 minutes?

The police officers running the operation did attend at the shop afterwards to speak with the owner about underage sales. He said that the allegations were false. He had sold to someone over the age of 18 who had bought it on behalf of the children.

Following on from this, still the Police continued to receive information that the shop was selling alcohol and e cigarettes to children.

Knowing that the test purchases were failing due to the dubious and sly behaviour of Syed Ahmed and the continuous denials of underage sales when questioned about it, West Yorkshire Police decided there was no other option than to apply for a review of the premises licence for The Local before a child was seriously hurt, made ill, made dangerously ill or worse.

Health officials within Leeds City Council have provided information about children and the effects of e cigarettes and alcohol. I can provide a report by Jonathan Hindley, Advanced Health Improvement specialist with Leeds City Council Public Health as exhibit SMB3 which details the ill effects, risks and impact of alcohol and e cigarettes upon children.

Signature: S Blenkhorn

Signature witnessed by:

MG11

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE (When complete)**

(Revised 19.10 2021)

## Premises Licence

### Part A Schedule 12 Licensing Act 2003

#### Part 1 – Premises Details

**Postal address of premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description**

LOCAL, 4 Market Place, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 7UA

**Licensable activities authorised by this licence**

Sale by retail of alcohol,

**Times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities***Sale by retail of alcohol*

Monday to Saturday

08:00 - 23:00

Sunday

10:00 - 22:30

**Opening hours of the premises**

The hours of licensable activities for the premises are as above. There are no regulated opening hours for non-licensable activities.

Alcohol is sold for consumption off the premises

#### Part 2

**Name, (registered) address, telephone number and email (where relevant) of holder of premises licence**

Syed Jabbar Ahmed

Mobile Telephone Number:

**Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises for the supply of alcohol**

Mr Syed Ahmed

**Personal licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises for the supply of alcohol**

Personal licence number:

Licensing authority: East Lindsey District Council



Mrs Victoria Radford  
Licensing Officer  
Entertainment Licensing  
Elections, Licensing and Registration

## Annex 1 – Mandatory Conditions

1. No supply of alcohol may be made under this licence
  - a. At a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, or
  - b. At a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended.
2. Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.
3. The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.

The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.

The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either -

- a. a holographic mark, or
  - b. an ultraviolet feature.
4. A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.

For the purposes of the condition set out in paragraph 1 of this condition -

- a. "duty" is to be construed in accordance with the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979;
- b. "permitted price" is the price found by applying the formula  $P = D + (D \times V)$  where -
  - i. P is the permitted price,
  - ii. D is the amount of duty chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the duty were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol, and
  - iii. V is the rate of value added tax chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the value added tax were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol;
- c. "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a premises licence -
  - i. the holder of the premises licence,
  - ii. the designated premises supervisor (if any) in respect of such a licence, or
  - iii. the personal licence holder who makes or authorises a supply of alcohol under such a licence;
- d. "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a club premises certificate, any member or officer of the club present on the premises in a capacity which enables the member or officer to prevent the supply in question; and
- e. "value added tax" means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994.

Where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 would (apart from this paragraph) not be a whole number of pennies, the price given by that sub-paragraph shall be taken to be the price actually given by that sub-paragraph rounded up to the nearest penny.

- (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 on a day ("the first day") would be different from the permitted price on the next day ("the second day") as a result of a change to the rate of duty or value added tax.
- (2) The permitted price which would apply on the first day applies to sales or supplies of alcohol which take place before the expiry of the period of 14 days beginning on the second day.

#### **Embedded restrictions**

5. Alcohol shall not be sold or supplied except during permitted hours.

In this condition, permitted hours means:

- a. On weekdays, other than Christmas Day, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- b. On Sundays, other than Christmas Day, 10 a.m. to 10.30 p.m.
- c. On Christmas Day, 12 noon to 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

6. The above restrictions do not prohibit:

- a. the ordering of alcohol to be consumed off the premises, or the despatch by the vendor of the alcohol so ordered;
- b. the sale of alcohol to a trader or club for the purposes of the trade or club;

#### **Annex 2 – Conditions consistent with the operating schedule**

None

#### **Annex 3 – Conditions attached after a hearing by the licensing authority**

None

#### **Annex 4 – Plans**

The plans for these premises are as those submitted with the application. A copy of which is held by Leeds City Council licensing authority.

## Chronology Table of West Yorkshire Police reports/information

|               |   |    |
|---------------|---|----|
| 11/6/19       | Call received from parent regarding child being given alcohol and cigarettes from the shop  | 1  |
| November 2019 | Incidents of ASB, violence , criminal damage in Pudsey linked to local youths who were spending time inside and outside the shop. Incidents worse when youths under the influence of alcohol or drugs. PLH spoken to , refused to give access to CCTV.            | 2  |
| 28/2/2020     | Call to police reporting shop keeper encouraging nuisance youths to come to area giving them cigarettes and alcohol and breaking covid rules allowing them all in the shop together. Caller states she has seen shop keeper handing out cigarettes to the youths. | 3  |
| 14/9/20       | Information received that shop is selling alcohol and single cigarettes to children   | 4  |
| 15/9/20       | Information received that shop is selling cigarettes to children regularly  | 5  |
| 20/10 20      | Information received that shop is selling single cigarettes to children   | 6  |
| 12/1/21       | Information received that shop is selling cigarettes and alcohol to children  | 7  |
| 15/1/21       | PLH spoken to by Sarah Blenkhorn, Police Licensing Officer who advised and warned re underage sale of alcohol and cigarettes to children.   | 8  |
| 15/1/21       | PC Edel Fox warned PLH of consequences of selling alcohol to children and anti-social behaviour associated with the premises  | 9  |
| 31/3/21       | Information received that shop is selling and giving single cigarettes and alcohol to children  | 10 |
| 1/9/21        | Information received that shop is selling vapes and alcohol to underage children  | 11 |
| 6/9/21        | Officers confiscate 3 x tonic wine in small plastic carrier off child. Staff at shop confirm tonic wine kept in back of shop and have identical carrier bags.   | 12 |
| 14//9/21      | Information received that shop is selling alcohol to children   | 13 |
| 24/9/21       | Information received that the shop is selling alcohol and vapes to children.  | 14 |



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| 4/10/21       | Information received re altercation between Jay and group of youths at shop. Alleged CCTV wiped.   | 15 |
| 5/10/21       | Call received reporting robbery at shop. Jay confirmed to witness there was CCTV. Upon police arrival stated nothing had happened.   | 16 |
| 12/10/21      | Information received shop selling alcohol to children  | 17 |
| 25/10/21      | Public order at shop. Jay would not support prosecution.   | 18 |
| 26/10/21      | Robbery allegation at shop made by Jay.  | 19 |
| 26/10/21      | Information received that child knows shop sells alcohol to children   | 20 |
| 27/10/21      | David Parker , Police Licensing attends premises with Paul Rix from Entertainment Licensing. PLH advised and warned re alcohol and cigarette sales to children                                   | 21 |
| 8/11/21       | Information received that Boss man selling alcohol, cigarettes and vapes to children   | 22 |
| 12/11/21      | Information received that shop sells cigarettes, geek and elf bars to children as young as 13.   | 23 |
| November 2021 | Criminal Damage, assault, possess offensive weapon offences recorded against youths in the area. .PLH confirms incident had occurred but would not co-operate, give a statement or provide CCTV. | 24 |
| 14/1/22       | Information received that shop serving alcohol and vape pens to children   | 25 |
| 22/1/22       | Anti- social behaviour(ASB) - eggs smashed all over pavement. Shop keeper spoken to several times in past about selling certain items to youths ( in this case eggs) which encourages ASB        | 26 |
| 8/2/22        | Information received that shop selling vapes to children as young as 11  | 27 |
| 21/2/22       | Information received that shop sold crates of lager to children  | 28 |
| 24/2/22       | Information received Boss man selling £1 alcohol shots to children   | 29 |
| 15/3/22       | Information received shop sold e cigarette to 12 year old  | 30 |
| 16/3/22       | Information received that the shop sells vapes and alcohol to children   | 31 |
| 16/3/22       | Public Order, shop keeper is threatened accusing him of selling alcohol and e cigarettes to children   | 32 |
| 17/3/22       | Information received , Asian male in 30's selling e-cigarettes to youths   | 33 |
| 20/3/22       | Information received that shop selling single cigarettes, vapes and alcohol to children.   | 34 |

|            |  |    |
|------------|--|----|
| 24/3/22    | Test Purchase operation , volunteers refused service for e cigarettes but were told to go back into shop after short while. Volunteers returned but still no sale. PLH spoken to after , denies selling to children, stated previously sold to 18 year old who then gave it to children. | 35 |
| March 2022 | Due to increasing reports of underage sales by parents and disgruntled parents attending the shop to confront PLH , Officers speak with PLH who confirms incidents have arisen but he has not co-operated with investigations.   | 36 |
| 5/5/22     | Information received Boss man sells vodka to teenage girls.<br>Parents make call to police due to child being ill through drink.   | 37 |
| 13/5/22    | Information received shop selling cannabis, e cigarettes and alcohol to children   | 38 |
| 18/5/22    | Public order at the shop as PLH accused of selling to children. PLH refuses to report incident formally to police  | 39 |
| 20/5/2022  | Call to police from parent reporting 2 occurrences of child being sold e cigarettes on one occasion and alcohol on another by shop   | 40 |

Jon Hindley

Leeds City Council-Public Health Officer / Advanced Health Improvement Specialist

Leeds City Council Public Health Localities and Primary Care Team

Adults and Health Directorate | Leeds City Council

**FAO:** Sarah Blenkhorn  
Licensing Officer  
West Yorkshire Police

30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Sarah,

**Impact of Underage Alcohol Sales and 'E'-Cigarettes on Children**

I hope you are well and thank you for contacting me about this serious issue. Underage drinking and the sale of unregulated 'E' – cigarettes to children are a serious Public Health issues. The UK is a high prevalence country for underage drinking coupled with unscrupulous retailers who knowingly sell alcoholic products to underage children or are lax in carrying out the necessary age and ID checks are responsible for causing our local vulnerable children serious physical harm and the risk of addictive behaviour in later life. It is a potent, dangerous, and toxic mix where children fail to be protected from easy and illegal access to alcohol.

The peer reviewed evidence-based article in the link below details many of the negative impacts on children. For example.

- Alcoholic fuelled violent episodes.
- Blunted cognitive reasoning and dangerous risk-taking behaviour.
- Lowering of inhibition threshold and inappropriate, non- consensual sexual behaviour where unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease as well as sexual violence are very real consequences.
- Liver dysfunction and damage.
- A growing dependency on alcohol to manage low mood.
- Illegal sales creating regular opportunities for underage heavy episodic binge-drinking, defined as consuming five or more drinks on one occasion, is associated

with a range of negative health and social outcomes including accidents, physical and mental health problems, poor school performance, anti-social behaviour, and violence.

- Non school attendance
- Missing persons reports where children not attending school can not be located and there is reason for concern involving the extreme emotional stress of a parent or guardian and the costly and time-consuming intervention of multiple agencies such as the Police and Social Workers.

Increased numbers of underage drinkers are in direct correlation to increased numbers of children seeking medical treatment, especially for alcohol related accidents and injury.

Increased consumption of alcohol also has a detrimental impact on adolescent mental and emotional health and has in some incidents been one of the causes of self-harming and risk-taking behaviour.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0955395913001230#:~:text=Underage%20heavy%20episodic%20binge%20drinking,Concern%2C%202011%2C%20Atkinson%20et%20al>

If local retailers sell alcohol illegally to underage children in areas of deprivation it compounds and amplifies the multiple social issues the children and their families may also be facing. This can stunt the child's ability to reach their full potential.

Early onset heavy drinking before the age of 15-years can be a marker for future problems, including suicidal thoughts and attempts, unintentional injury, as well as drug and alcohol dependence later in life ([Friese and Grube, 2009](#), [United States Department of Health and Human Services, 2007](#)).

Drinking alcohol at young ages can hinder the normal development of bodies, brain function and hormones. <https://www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/childrens-health/should-my-child-drink-alcohol/>

Governance and prevention of underage sales is a strong pre-cursor to protecting our young children from alcohol related harm at a stage in their physiological development and when their bodies are less able to deal with the effects of alcohol.

### **Sales of 'E'-Cigarettes to Children and Minors**

The sale of these products to children can have serious health issues, some of which are detailed below.

- The use of e-cigarettes is unsafe for kids, teens, and young adults.
- Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, which continues into the early to mid-20s.<sup>1</sup>

- E-cigarettes can contain other harmful substances besides nicotine.
- Young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.

[https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html)

There are many peer reviewed articles from the medical and academic community in the UK and across the world which detail the associated health risks. Please see links below for more details.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6007544/>

[https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/23/suppl\\_2/ii41](https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/23/suppl_2/ii41)

Vaping and the use of 'E'-Cigarettes is very enticing for children when they feel it gives them the perception of being grown up, unscrupulous retailers involved in these illegal and dangerous sales may be involved in larger scale organised crime.

You have my full validation, collaboration, and support in stopping this illegal trade. The health case is strong, convincing, and utterly undeniable. The health facts that this trade causes harm to the children of Leeds is indisputable and unquestionable. I wish you all the very best in your efforts to stop this illegal trade. If you require and further information, testimony or support I am completely at your service.

Yours Sincerely,

Jon Hindley LCC Public Health Officer

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

(Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B;  
Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 16.2)

NICHE Ref. No:

13220278281

URN:

**Statement of:** PS 5303 RACHEL LOUISE SMITH**Date of birth:** Over 18**Occupation:** Police Sergeant

This statement (consisting of: Two page(s) 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 to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

**Signature:** R SMITH**Date:** 26/06/2022**Time and date statement taken:** 20:00 26/06/2022

Check box if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

I am a Police Sergeant in West Yorkshire Police and I am currently attached to the Neighbourhood Policing Team with specific responsibility for the Pudsey, Farsley & Calverley areas.

I am making this statement in relation to concerns I have about an off licence in Pudsey. The off licence is called 'The Pudsey Local' it is situated in the town centre the address is:

**4 Market Place, Pudsey LS28 7UA**

Pudsey Local is a small shop in the heart of Pudsey opposite the bus station, it is next to park. The shop itself is small, with one entrance, it sells some food items and confectionary but the majority of goods offered for sale are alcohol, tobacco and e-cigarettes.

I have had concerns regarding this shop for a while now. I have been the NPT Sergeant for Pudsey since September 2021, and prior to this I was an ASB Link Officer that worked alongside the Leeds Anti-social behaviour team (LASBT) for several years.

In November 2019 whilst working on LASBT it was identified that there had been an increase in ASB in the Pudsey Centre area. A large group of youths were congregating at the bus station, causing issues intimidating members of the public, there were several unprovoked acts of violence against individuals, criminal damage caused on a regular basis and sometimes the youths were just being a general nuisance, the youths behaviour would be worse if they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs. From looking into these incidents, speaking to victim's, witnesses, local business owners and from viewing CCTV from the local area it became apparent that the problematic group spent a lot of time inside the Pudsey Local and hanging about directly outside the shop.

I have spoken to the owner of the shop numerous times his name is:-

**Syed Jabbar AHMED b** [REDACTED]

he is referred to by local youths as 'BOSS MAN' he also goes by the name of 'JAY'. Whilst working on LASBT from the CCTV I viewed it was clear to see that AHMED had befriended the problematic group of youths. The youths would regularly congregate outside the shop and AHMED could be seen chatting to them on pavement outside the shop.

At the time we were getting reports to the police from members of the public and local elected officials who had witnessed underage children being served alcohol from the off licence. There had also been

**Signature:** R SMITH**Signature witnessed by:****OFFICIAL (when complete)**



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Continuation Statement of RACHEL LOUISE SMITH

instances where criminal offences had taken place outside the shop involving nuisance youths and AHMED refused to allow police to view or seized CCTV from his premises. At the time we did liaise with the licensing department to check if there were any conditions linked to AHMED's licence which there were none. As the licensee AHMED is still required to uphold the licensing objectives 'Prevention of crime and disorder' and 'protection of children from harm' therefore AHMED was spoken to by a licensing officer who offered advice this was followed up by a visit from PC 6148 Edel FOX who visited on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. PC FOX informed AHMED of ASB legislation which could be utilised if the issues continued, specifically a closure order.

Prior to October 2021 AHMED had rarely rang the police to report any issues at his shop, even though youths were regularly hanging around outside the shop he did not report them. In October 2021 the relationship between AHMED and the known youths changed. The youths started targeting the shop.

In October 2021 there were three robberies, a theft, a public order and an assault all recorded at the location. Suspects for all these offences were known youths who AHMED had befriended. During the investigations it came to light that AHMED did know the youths personally as he had mobile telephone numbers for some of the youths and messages on his phone between him and them.

In November 2021 a criminal damage, threats to kill, 3 x assaults, possess offensive weapon and 2 x intimidate witness were recorded, again the suspects were known youths from the area. Some of the incidents that have been recorded were not initially reported to the police, a third party has contacted the police, the police have then visited AHMED who has confirmed an incident has occurred but has not cooperated with police and would not give a statement or let officers view CCTV.

Over the past 18 months there have been 25 pieces of information stating that staff at 'THE PUDSEY LOCAL' are selling alcohol, selling and giving cigarettes to minors and more recently intelligence suggests e-cigarettes are being sold to children as young as 11 years old. I have been told that in the Pudsey area it is common knowledge amongst the children who attend Crawshaw Academy and Pudsey Grammar School that if you want alcohol or cigarettes the shop in the bus station is the place to go.

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 officers from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team conducted a test purchase operation in the West of Leeds visiting off licences in the Pudsey, Bramley and Armley areas. The Pudsey Local was one of the shops visited. The shop did pass however the male working in the shop at the time, believed to be AHMED's Father did not refuse service straight away. Two 14 year old girls entered the off licence and asked to buy an e-cigarette. The male asked them to come back in 2 minutes, the girls left and went back in couple of minutes later. The male asked questions about who they hung around with, if they lived in the area then refused the sale.

A number of concerned parents have come forward to the police after their children have been found in possession of e-cigarettes or have been poorly due to consuming alcohol. The children have told parents they have bought items from the shop in the Market Place opposite the bus station. I am aware that disgruntled adults have attended the shop and been threatening towards Mr AHMED accusing him of selling underage to children. Mr AHMED has failed to report these issues to the police. Officers have found out by other means and approached Mr AHMED who has confirmed that incidents have occurred. He has been advised on several occasions to report matters to the police when they happen. Mr AHMED has not cooperated with investigations into these events, they have been recorded on police systems and filed.

I am giving this statement in support of action that Leeds City Council Licensing Department can take against the licensee of the premise. I strongly feel that Mr AHMED should not be able to hold a licence to sell alcohol and tobacco as he is not responsible or looking out for the welfare of young people. For the past 2.5 years there have been issues with anti-social behaviour in the immediate vicinity of his shop, children obtain alcohol and cigarettes/vapes from his shop, it is only a matter of time before someone is

Signature: R SMITH

Signature Witnessed by:

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Continuation Statement of RACHEL LOUISE SMITH

seriously poorly or hurt. Mr AHMED does not assist in preventing crime and disorder in the area and does not assist in protecting children from harm. At the very least if Mr AHMED continues to have a licence there should be strict conditions in place with regards CCTV and police access to it.

Signature: R SMITH

MG11

Signature Witnessed by:

OFFICIAL (when complete)

(Revised 12.11.20)



**Statement of:** Lucy Catherine Norton

**Age of witness:** (if over 18 enter 'over 18')

Over 18

**Occupation:**

Criminal Investigator

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 to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

**Dated:**

16/6/2022

**Signature:**

[Redacted Signature]

I am a Criminal Investigator employed by West Yorkshire Trading Standards Service. I am an authorised officer for the purposes of the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and the Licensing Act 2003.

The retail premises, **Pudsey Local & Off Licence, 4 Market Place, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 7UA** was known to West Yorkshire Trading Standards Service (WYTSS) as a result of intelligence and complaints regarding the sale of alcohol, cigarettes & nicotine inhaling products to persons under the age of 18.

On 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 I took part in an under age test purchasing operation. We were using a child volunteer test purchaser named [Redacted] who was assisting WYTSS for the purposes of this exercise. The test purchaser was 14 years old.

**NOTE :** If statements are typed double spacing should be used.  
One side only of this paper should be used.

(Signed) .....

[Redacted Signature]

Dated.....

16/6/22

Page

1

of

3

To be completed if applicable: .....being unable to read the  
above statement I, .....of.....  
read it to him/her before he/she signed it. **Signed** ..... **Dated** .....

At approximately 10:45am, I entered the premises of **Pudsey Local & Off Licence**, 4 Market Place, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 7UA shortly followed by Ryan VENTO. I stood browsing the soft drinks in the fridge. An Asian male, aged approximately in his late 50s, was behind the counter. The Asian male said "Get out of my shop" to [REDACTED] when he approached the alcohol fridge. When [REDACTED] left the shop the Asian male said "look at the age of him". I did not respond but purchased a soft drink and left the premises.

I have reviewed the WYTSS database and have compiled a document showing the history of complaints received against the premises **Pudsey Local & Off Licence**, 4 Market Place, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 7UA and advisory letters sent to the business. I now produce the premises history document in evidence as **EXHIBIT LCN/1**.

WYTSS has written to the business on several occasions between 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022. I now produce copies of all the letters sent to **Pudsey Local & Off Licence** between 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 & 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 in evidence as **EXHIBIT LCN/2**

WYTSS wrote to the designated premises supervisor, [REDACTED] of "The Local" of 4 Market Place, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 7UA on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017. A signed declaration was received in reply from the business on 06/07/2017. The original signed declaration is no longer retained by

NOTE : If statements are typed double spacing should be used.  
One side only of this paper should be used.

(Signed) ... [REDACTED] .....

Dated... 16/6/22 ..... Page 2 of 3

To be completed if applicable: .....being unable to read the  
above statement I, .....of.....  
read it to him/her before he/she signed it. Signed ..... Dated.....




**WITNESS STATEMENT**

**Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2  
Criminal Justice Act 1967, S. 9  
Magistrates Courts Act 1980, 5B**

WYTSS and an electronic copy was not created. I now produce a copy of the letter dated 28<sup>th</sup>  
June 2017 in evidence as **EXHIBIT LCN/3**

**NOTE :** *If statements are typed double spacing should be used.  
One side only of this paper should be used.*

(Signed) ...  .....

Dated... 15/6/22... Page 3 of 3

To be completed if applicable: .....being unable to read the  
above statement I, .....of.....  
read it to him/her before he/she signed it. Signed ..... Dated.....



**WEST YORKSHIRE TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE**

**W.Y.T.S.S v.**

This is the.....Premises history document.

Referred to in my statement  
(Signatures)

Date

16/6/22

(1).....

(2).....

(3).....

(4).....

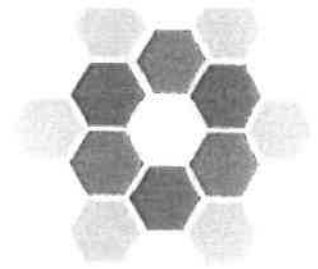
Exhibit No. ....LCN/1.....

| Date       | WYTS Ref no. | Detail   |
|------------|--------------|--|
| 27/05/2022 |              | Consumer complaint, sale of alcohol to 13 year old   |
| 25/05/2022 |              | Consumer complaint, sale of vape pen to 12 year old  |
| 20/05/2022 |              | Consumer complaint, sale of vape pen to 13 year old  |
| 19/05/2022 |              | Consumer complaint, sale of vape pen to 13 year old  |
| 21/04/2022 | 5            | Attempted purchase of alcohol by underage test purchase volunteer. Sale refused.   |
| 25/03/2022 |              | Anonymous complaint – Alcohol and vapes being sold to 11 & 12 year olds wearing school uniform   |
| 24/03/2022 |              | Consumer complaint, sale of alcohol to 13 year old.  |
| 17/03/2022 |              | Consumer complaint, sale of vape pen to 13 year old  |
| 16/03/2022 |              | Via Calderdale Environmental health, report of shop in Pudsey bus station selling vapes to children.   |
| 15/03/2022 |              | Consumer complaint, sale of E cig to 15 year old   |
| 03/03/2022 |              | Alcohol letter sent by WYTS. No reply received.  |
| 17/12/2021 |              | Consumer complaint, selling fake elf bars to children  |
| 24/11/2021 |              | E-cigarette letter sent by WYTS. No reply received.  |
| 23/11/2021 |              | Consumer complaint, sale of alcohol to 13 year old   |
| 12/11/2021 |              | Consumer complaint, selling cigarettes, geek and elf bars to children  |
| 28/10/2021 |              | Visit by TS officer regarding E-cigarettes, All e-cigarettes were correctly labelled, no counterfeit stock found. Everything priced correctly. |
| 23/10/2021 |              | Attempted test purchase of alcohol by underage test purchase volunteer. No sale.   |
| 04/10/2021 |              | Consumer complaint, trader selling counterfeit elf bars  |
| 23/09/2021 |              | Consumer complaint, children vaping outside premises   |
| 30/04/2021 |              | Alcohol/cigarette letter sent by WYTS. No reply received.  |
| 29/04/2021 |              | Consumer complaint, sale of cigarettes to 14 year old  |
| 29/03/2021 |              | Consumer complaint, selling cigarettes and alcohol to children.<br>Trader is in his mid-late 30's Pakistani origin, stocky build.              |
| 03/03/2020 |              | Single cigarette letter sent by WYTS. No reply received.   |
| 29/08/2019 |              | Notification letter (pass) sent by WYTS.   |
| 24/08/2019 |              | Attempted test purchase of alcohol by underage test purchase volunteer. No sale.   |
| 28/03/2019 |              | Alcohol letter sent by WYTS. No reply received   |
| 26/10/2017 |              | Attempted test purchase of alcohol by underage test purchase volunteer. No sale.   |
| 28/09/2017 |              | Responsible retailer visit by TS officers, trader denied selling the goods   |
| 26/09/2017 |              | Attempted test purchase of illicit tobacco by TS officer, no sale.   |
| 06/07/2017 |              | Signed declaration received from "The Local". The original is no longer retained, no electronic copy created.                                  |
| 28/06/2017 |              | Cigarettes / alcohol letter sent to "The Local" DPS [REDACTED]<br>[REDACTED] by WYTS   |

27/06/2017



Consumer complaint, foreign labelled cigarettes being sold to children.



**WEST YORKSHIRE TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE**

**W.Y.T.S.S v.**

This is the..... Copies of all letters to Pudsey Local + off licence.

Referred to in my statement  
(Signatures)

Date

16/8/2022


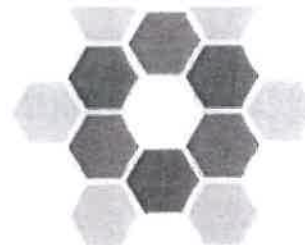
- (1)..  .....
- (2).....
- (3).....
- (4).....

Exhibit No..... LCN/2 .....



My Reference: [REDACTED]

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

Matter being dealt with by [REDACTED]

FAO The Designated Premises Supervisor  
Pudsey Local & Off Licence  
4 Market Place  
Pudsey  
LS28 7UA

Dear Sir/Madam

#### **THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

This Service has received a complaint that your business is selling alcohol to children. Enclosed is a sheet that should address any questions you have about why you have received this letter.

It is an offence under the Licensing Act 2003 to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18. Anyone convicted of this offence will have a criminal record, faces a maximum fine of £5,000 and/or the forfeiture or suspension of their personal licence. The premises licence may also be revoked.

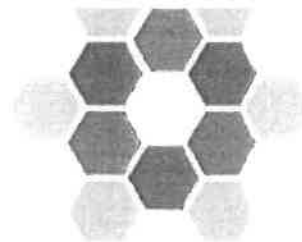
The purpose of this letter is to remind you of your obligations. However, you should take steps to ensure that your employees are aware of the contents of this letter and that it is an offence to sell alcohol to anyone under 18.

I must advise you that this Service may attempt a test purchase of age restricted products using a child volunteer. Should a sale be made under these circumstances then the Service may take legal action against you.

Cont.







If you require assistance in preventing underage sales (and you are not currently receiving assured advice under the Primary Authority Scheme from another Trading Standards Department) then please visit the Business Companion website for further information, by typing the following link into your browser.

<https://www.businesscompanion.info/>

**Please sign and return the attached slip in the prepaid envelope provided to acknowledge receipt of this letter.**

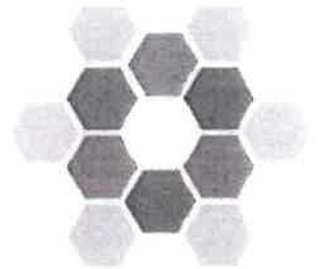
Yours faithfully



Team Manager: Business Growth & Regulation

ENC: FAQ Doc/ Receipt Declaration / Pre-Paid Reply envelope





My Reference: [REDACTED]

24<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Matter being dealt with by: [REDACTED]

FAO The Proprietor  
Pudsey Local & Off Licence  
4 Market Place  
Pudsey  
LS28 7UA

Dear Sir/Madam

**The Children & Families Act 2014. Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations 2015**

This Service has received a complaint that your business is selling Nicotine Inhaling Products to children. Enclosed is a sheet that should address any questions you have regarding why you have received this letter.

Under the Children and Families Act 2014, Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations 2015, it is an offence to sell these products to any person under the age of 18. Products include, disposable products (non-rechargeable), an electronic cigarette kit that is rechargeable with replaceable pre-filled cartridges, and an electronic cigarette that is rechargeable and has a tank or reservoir which has to be filled with liquid nicotine. Most, but not all electronic cigarettes contain nicotine.

**Anyone convicted of this offence faces a maximum fine of £2,500.**

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of your obligations. You should also take steps to ensure that your employees are aware of the contents of this letter and that it is an offence to sell Nicotine Inhaling Products to anyone under the age of 18.

I must advise you that this Service may attempt a test purchase of age restricted products using a child volunteer. Should a sale be made under these circumstances then the Service may take legal action against you.

Cont.



If you require assistance in preventing underage sales (and you are not currently receiving assured advice under the Primary Authority Scheme from another Trading Standards Department) then please visit the Business Companion website for further information, by typing the following link into your browser.

<https://www.businesscompanion.info/>

**Please sign and return the attached slip in the prepaid envelope provided to acknowledge receipt of this letter.**

Yours faithfully

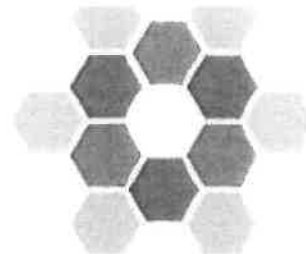
A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.  
Team Manager: Business Growth & Regulation

ENC: FAQ Doc/Receipt Declaration / Pre-Paid Reply envelope



# West Yorkshire Trading Standards

Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds, LS27 7JQ  
t 0113 353 0000  
e [dutyofficer@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:dutyofficer@wyjs.org.uk)  
[www.wyjs.org.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.wyjs.org.uk/tradingstandards)



My Reference [REDACTED]

30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Matter being dealt with by [REDACTED]

FAO The Designated Premises Supervisor  
Pudsey Local & Off Licence  
4 Market Place  
Pudsey  
LS28 7UA

Dear Sir/Madam

## THE LICENSING ACT 2003 THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT 1933 AS AMENDED

This Service is in receipt of a complaint that your business is selling alcohol, cigarettes and / or tobacco products to children. Enclosed is a sheet that should address any questions you have regarding why you have received this letter

It is an offence under the Licensing Act 2003 to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18. Anyone convicted of this offence faces a maximum fine of £5,000 and / or the forfeiture or suspension of their personal licence. The premises licence may also be revoked.

Under the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, as amended, it is an offence to sell any tobacco products, which includes cigarettes and rolling papers, to any person under the age of 18. Anyone convicted of this offence faces a maximum fine of £2,500. If appropriate (three underage sales of tobacco in two years) this Service may also seek a Restricted Premises Order or a Restricted Sales Order. An Order of this nature can prohibit you from supplying cigarettes and breach of an Order can result in a fine of up to £20,000.

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of your obligations. However, you should take steps to ensure that your employees are aware of the contents of this letter and that it is an offence to sell alcohol and tobacco products to anyone under 18.

Cont.



West Yorkshire Joint Services

I must advise you that this Service may attempt a test purchase of age restricted products using a child volunteer. Should a sale be made under these circumstances then the service may take legal action against you.

If you require assistance in preventing underage sales (and you are not currently receiving assured advice under the Primary Authority Scheme from another Trading Standards Department) then please visit the Business Companion website for further information, by typing the following link into your browser.

<https://www.businesscompanion.info/>

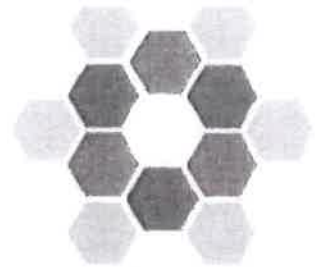
**Please sign and return the attached slip in the prepaid envelope provided to acknowledge receipt of this letter.**

Yours sincerely



Trading Standards Team Manager

ENC: FAQ Doc/TIL / Receipt Declaration / Pre-Paid Reply envelope



Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds, LS27 7JQ  
t: 0113 535 0000  
e: dutyofficer@wyjs.org.uk  
www.wyjs.org.uk/tradingstandards

My Reference [REDACTED]

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Matter being dealt with by: [REDACTED]

FAO The Proprietor  
Pudsey Local & Off Licence  
4 Market Place  
Pudsey  
LS28 7UA

Dear Sir /Madam

**THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT 1933 AS AMENDED  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS (PROTECTION FROM TOBACCO) ACT 1991**

This Service is in receipt of a complaint that your business is selling single cigarettes to children.

Under the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, as amended, it is an offence to sell any tobacco, which includes cigarettes, to any person under the age of 18. Anyone convicted of this offence faces a maximum fine of £2,500. If appropriate (three underage sales of tobacco in two years) this Service may also seek a Restricted Premises Order or a Restricted Sales Order. An Order of this nature can prohibit you from supplying cigarettes and breach of an Order can result in a fine of up to £20,000.

Under the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991, it is an offence to sell cigarettes to any person other than pre-packed quantities of 10 or more cigarettes in their original packaging. Anyone convicted of this offence faces a maximum fine of £1,000.

An information leaflet on the above is enclosed.

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of your obligations. However, you should take steps to ensure that your employees are aware of the contents of this letter and that it is an offence to sell cigarettes not in their original packaging, and to anyone under 18.

Cont.



I must advise you that this Service may attempt a test purchase of age restricted products using a child volunteer. Should a sale be made under these circumstances then the service may take legal action against you.

If you require assistance in preventing underage sales (and you are not currently receiving assured advice under the Primary Authority Scheme from another Trading Standards Department) then please visit the Business Companion website for further information, by typing the following link into your browser.

<https://www.businesscompanion.info/>

**Please sign and return the attached slip in the prepaid envelope provided to acknowledge receipt of this letter**

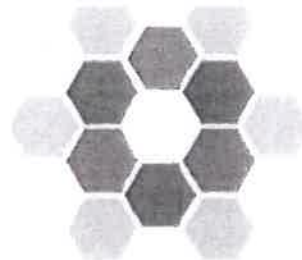
Yours faithfully



Trading Standards Acting Manager

ENC: TIL / Receipt Declaration / Pre-Paid Reply envelope

Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds, LS27 7JQ  
t: 0113 535 0000  
e: [dutyofficer@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:dutyofficer@wyjs.org.uk)  
[www.wyjs.org.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.wyjs.org.uk/tradingstandards)



Reference: [REDACTED]

29<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Matter being dealt with by: [REDACTED]

FAO The Designated Premises Supervisor  
Pudsey Local and Off Licence  
4 Market Place  
Pudsey  
LS28 7UA

Dear Sir/Madam

#### Notification of Test Purchase

I write to notify you that a test purchase operation was conducted at the above premises on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019. A test purchase operation is where a child volunteer enters a premises and attempts to purchase an age restricted product(s).

The child volunteer was refused the sale of the age restricted products(s). Although you have passed on this occasion, I would urge you to remain vigilant at all times and always strive to prevent under age selling occurring in the future.

If you require any further information regarding Under Age Sales, please visit the following website [www.businesscompanion.info](http://www.businesscompanion.info)

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Trading Standards Officer







Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds, LS27 7JQ  
t 0113 535 0000  
e: [dutyofficer@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:dutyofficer@wyjs.org.uk)  
[www.wyjs.org.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.wyjs.org.uk/tradingstandards)

My Reference [REDACTED]

28<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Matter being dealt with by: [REDACTED]

T [REDACTED]

FAO Mr Syed Jabbar Ahmed  
Pudsey Local & Off Licence  
4 Market Place  
Pudsey  
LS28 7UA

Dear Sir

**THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

This Service is in receipt of a complaint that your business is selling alcohol to children. Enclosed is a sheet that should address any questions you have regarding why you have received this letter.

It is an offence under the Licensing Act 2003 to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18. Anyone convicted of this offence faces a maximum fine of £5,000 and / or the forfeiture or suspension of their personal licence. The premises licence may also be revoked.

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of your obligations. However, you should take steps to ensure that your employees are aware of the contents of this letter and that it is an offence to sell alcohol to anyone under 18.

I must advise you that this Service may attempt a test purchase of age restricted products using a child volunteer. Should a sale be made under these circumstances then the service may take legal action against you.

Cont.



If you require assistance in preventing underage sales (and you are not currently receiving assured advice under the Primary Authority Scheme from another Trading Standards Department) then please visit the Business Companion website for further information, by typing the following link into your browser.

<https://www.businesscompanion.info/>

**Please sign and return the attached slip in the prepaid envelope provided to acknowledge receipt of this letter.**

Yours sincerely

  
Trading Standards Officer:

ENC: FAQ Doc/ Receipt Declaration / Pre-Paid Reply envelope



**WEST YORKSHIRE TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE**

**W.Y.T.S.S v.**

This is the..... letter dated 28/6/2017

Referred to in my statement  
(Signatures)

Date

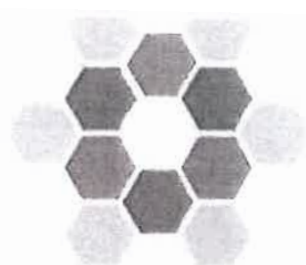
|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| (1)..... | 16/6/2022 |
| (2)..... |           |
| (3)..... |           |
| (4)..... |           |

Exhibit No..... LCN/3.....



# West Yorkshire Trading Standards

Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds, LS27 7JQ  
t: 0113 253 0241  
e: dutyofficer@wyjs.org.uk  
www.wyjs.org.uk/tradingstandards



My Reference: [REDACTED]

28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Matter being dealt with by [REDACTED]

E-m [REDACTED]

FAO [REDACTED]

The Local  
4 Market Place  
Pudsey  
LS28 7UA

Dear Sir

## THE LICENSING ACT 2003 THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT 1933 AS AMENDED

This Service is in receipt of a complaint that your business is selling alcohol, cigarettes and / or tobacco products to children.

It is an offence under the Licensing Act 2003 to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18. Anyone convicted of this offence faces a maximum fine of £5,000 and / or the forfeiture or suspension of their personal licence. The premises licence may also be revoked.

Under the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, as amended, it is an offence to sell any tobacco products, which includes cigarettes and rolling papers, to any person under the age of 18. Anyone convicted of this offence faces a maximum fine of £2,500. If appropriate (three underage sales of tobacco in two years) this Service may also seek a Restricted Premises Order or a Restricted Sales Order. An Order of this nature can prohibit you from supplying cigarettes and breach of an Order can result in a fine of up to £20,000.

Information leaflets on the above are enclosed. Also enclosed is a sheet that should address any questions you have regarding why you have received this letter.

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of your obligations. However, you should take steps to ensure that your employees are aware of the contents of this letter and that it is an offence to sell alcohol and tobacco products to anyone under 18.

Cont.



Certificate Number 374  
1509621

West Yorkshire Joint Services

I must advise you that this Service may attempt a test purchase of age restricted products using a child volunteer. Should a sale be made under these circumstances then the service may take legal action against you.

If you require assistance in preventing underage sales (and you are not currently receiving assured advice under the Primary Authority Scheme from another Trading Standards Department) then please visit the Business Companion website for further information, by typing the following link into your browser.

<https://www.businesscompanion.info/>

**Please sign and return the attached slip in the prepaid envelope provided to acknowledge receipt of this letter.**

Yours sincerely



Trading Standards Officer

ENC: FAQ Doc/TIL / Receipt Declaration / Pre-Paid Reply envelope

# WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B;  
Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 16.2)

NICHE Ref. No:

URN:

**Statement of:** David Parker

Date of birth: Over 18

Occupation: Licensing officer

This statement (consisting of page(s) 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 to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: David Parker

Date: 18.7.22

Signature witnessed by:

Date:

Time and date statement taken: 0910hrs 18.7.22

Check box if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness defaults on rear)

I am a licensing officer in West Yorkshire Police force presently stationed at Leeds district headquarters, Elland Road, Leeds.

On or about the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 I attended at:

Local shop, Market Place, Pudsey, Leeds with a colleague from Leeds City council licensing enforcement, Paul RIX.

This visit followed a report of an offence of robbery that had occurred at the premises on the 11th of October 2021 and ongoing reports of the sale of alcohol and tobacco to people under 18.

We spoke to the owner of the shop who I now know to be, Syed AHMED. He stated that he was the owner of the premises, and he ran the premises with the help of his son who was I now know to be Syed Jabbar AHMED.

We informed him of the reports that we had received with regards underage sales.

He stated that they did not sell alcohol or cigarettes to people under 18.

He was warned that should it be proved that the sales were being made to under 18's then potentially the process to review the licence before the licensing committee would be undertaken.

He was also informed that the licence for the sale of alcohol would be potentially at risk should this review take place.

David Parker

Signature: David Parker

Signature witnessed by:

## WITNESS STATEMENT

( CJ ACT 1967, s.9;MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5b;MC Rules 1981, r.70 )

**Statement of John Paul Rix**

**Age/Date of Birth – Over 21    Occupation – Senior Liaison & Enforcement Officer**

This statement (consisting of two 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 anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated 13 July 2022

Signature : 

I am the above named person. I am employed full - time as a Senior Liaison and Enforcement Officer (SLEO) with Leeds City Council's Entertainment Licensing Section. My duties include investigating unauthorised activities contrary to the Licensing Act 2003 and I have delegated authority under the said Act.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 the department was contacted by a member of the public regarding sales of alcohol to persons under the age of 18. It was alleged that the premises at 4 Market Place, Pudsey, LS28 7UA were selling alcohol to gangs of youths who were then committing acts of antisocial behaviour in the local area.

The complainant was contacted and advised that the issues raised had been forwarded to West Yorkshire Trading Standards and West Yorkshire Police. These two agencies being the relevant departments to conduct test purchasing operations for alcohol sales to under age persons.

On the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> October in company of David Parker, West Yorkshire Police Licensing officer the premises was attended. The manager of the premises who introduced himself as the father of Syed Jabbar Ahmed who is the premises licence holder (PLH) / designated premises supervisor (DPS) was spoken too and advised of the issues raised. These being that the premises were alleged to be allowing persons under the legally required age of 18 to purchase alcohol. These persons allegedly then went on to commit anti social behaviour in the area.

He was also advised that agencies may conduct covert test purchasing on the premises

and that the local policing team would be paying attention to the premises. 

I requested he ensured that the PLH / DPS was made aware of the details of the visit and made aware of the possible test purchasing of alcohol.

We resumed from the premises to conduct enquiries elsewhere

Signature:



OFFICIAL (when complete)

## WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, S.5B;  
Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 16. 2)

NICHE Ref No: [REDACTED]

Statement of: Ms [REDACTED]

Age (if under 18): N/A

PARENTI

This statement 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 to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature

[REDACTED]

Date: 25-05-2022

I am giving this statement in relation to an incident which occurred on Tuesday 15th March 2022 involving an off licence in Pudsey which I think is called Pudsey Off Licence. The shop is situated just around the corner from Greggs opposite the bus station in Pudsey Town Centre, it is next to a barbers.

On Wednesday 16th March 2022 I was at work when I received a telephone call from my daughters step mum [REDACTED]. I could not talk at the time as I was working so I called [REDACTED] back after I finished work at 430pm. [REDACTED] told me she had spoken to her friend [REDACTED] who has an 11 year old daughter who is friends with my daughter [REDACTED] who is 12 years old. She told me [REDACTED] had found a vape in her daughter [REDACTED] glasses case [REDACTED] had told her mum that [REDACTED] had bought the vape from the shop in the bus station [REDACTED] and another girl allegedly paid for the vape but it was [REDACTED] who entered the shop on her own and purchased the vape.

I confronted [REDACTED] about it when she came home that evening. After a little while she admitted that she had been in the shop and had been sold a vape by the shop keeper. She said the shop keeper was young and had dark hair. She said she went in and said 'CAN I BUY AN E-CIG FOR MY MATES OUTSIDE' he replied 'YEAH WHAT FLAVOUR DO YOU WANT' [REDACTED] asked what flavours he had, the shop keeper went through the flavours and [REDACTED] chose strawberry. [REDACTED] knew that she could get served as she told me its common knowledge amongst children at the high schools in Pudsey.

I am angry and upset that my daughter was served an e-cigarette, she is 12 years old, she does look older but no way does she look 18. I think that if this shop continues to sell to underage children someone is going to come to harm. It is not healthy for young people to be vaping, it also looks really bad in the community and sets a bad example. Each person reacts differently to substances that they put in their bodies. It also worries me that children could get introduced to stronger substances which they may become addicted to.

Signature

[REDACTED]

Date: 25-05-2022

Statement started: 25-05-2022 19:32

Statement completed: 25-05-2022 20:37

NICHE Ref No:

Statement of: Ms

I am happy to support police and licensing in action taken against this off licence.

Signature

Date: 25-05-2022

Signature

Date: 25-05-2022

Statement started: 25-05-2022 19:32

Statement completed: 25-05-2022 20:37

OFFICIAL (when complete)

## WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, S.5B;  
Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 16. 2)

NICHE Ref No: [REDACTED]

Statement of: Miss [REDACTED]

Age (if under 18): N/A

PARENT 2

This statement 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 to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature [REDACTED]

Date: 26-05-2022

I am giving this statement in relation to an incident which occurred on Sunday 1st May 2022.

On this day my daughter [REDACTED] aged 15 went out with her friend. It was around teatime that she went out. I did not know specifically where she was going.

At approximately 10pm I received a telephone call from the landlady of the Butchers Arms Pub in Pudsey Centre, which is situated in between the Library and Lloyd's Pharmacy on Church Lane. The landlady whose name I do not know told me that my daughter [REDACTED] was outside her pub, she was drunk and had fallen and banged her head. She told me she had called for an ambulance.

I rang my son to ask him to come to my house to look after my other two children who were in bed. He arrived and I went to my best friends house who lives around the corner. My friend [REDACTED] is very close to [REDACTED] they are like sisters. I went and told [REDACTED] what had happened, her husband was there and he got in the car and went straight up to Pudsey. I did not go because [REDACTED] would have kicked off, [REDACTED] suffers with her mental health and sometimes our relationship can be quite strained so thought it best [REDACTED] and her husband [REDACTED] went to her. [REDACTED] followed him to Pudsey a short time later.

The Ambulance was already present treating [REDACTED] when they got there. Once she had been given treatment [REDACTED] brought [REDACTED] back home. My son put her straight to bed so when I got back home 10 minutes later she was already asleep.

The next morning [REDACTED] woke up early. I asked her where she got the alcohol from. She said it was from the shop opposite the bus station, She said that she didn't buy it a friend called [REDACTED] had bought it. I knew that [REDACTED] didn't have any money. She told me they had bought a bottle of vodka. There had been four of them drinking it. All four under eighteen, all in year 10 at school. [REDACTED] said she waited outside whilst [REDACTED] went in to get served and was not asked for ID.

Signature [REDACTED]

Date: 26-05-2022

Statement started: 26-05-2022 17:09

Statement completed: 26-05-2022 18:00

NICHE Ref No: [REDACTED]

Statement of: Miss [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] told me the man at the shop is called 'Boss' or 'Bossman'. She told me that it is easy to get served and joked that he would probably sell to her 8 year old sister!

I am disgusted that this shop have served alcohol to an underage child, it is totally irresponsible, the adult in the shop is supposed to protect children from harm. I am lucky that [REDACTED] was with her friend at the time, I am lucky that a responsible person came to help my daughter as she could have been in a ditch somewhere. It annoys me how blatantly this shop continue to sell to kids. I have not seen the man in the shop so know very little about him other than the name [REDACTED] told me.

I fully support police and the licensing department in any action they take against the shop.

Signature

[REDACTED]

Date: 26-05-2022

Signature

[REDACTED]

Date: 26-05-2022

Statement started: 26-05-2022 17:09

Statement completed: 26-05-2022 18:00

OFFICIAL (when complete)

## WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, S.5B;  
Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 16. 2)

NICHE Ref No: [REDACTED]

Statement of: Mr [REDACTED]

Age (if under 18): N/A

PARENT 3

This statement 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 to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature

[REDACTED]

Date: 25-05-2022

I am the above named person and I reside at the address shown overleaf.

I am giving this statement in relation to two incidents which occurred on Tuesday 17th May 2022 and Friday 20th May 2022. Both incidents involve an off licence called 'The Pudsey Local Shop & Off Licence' which is situated on the Market Place, Pudsey near to the bus station.

On Tuesday 17th May I was at home at around 530pm, my wife [REDACTED] was home as was my 13 year old daughter [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was in the shower. My wife checked [REDACTED] phone which we do regularly to keep an eye on what she is up to. There was a snap chat video of [REDACTED] and her friend vaping, both were in school uniform. My wife then checked [REDACTED] account and found a transaction for £17.99 on the 16th May and two £12 transactions for the 9th May. All three were at the Pudsey Local off licence. By the time [REDACTED] had come out of the shower we had found two e-cigarettes in her school coat pocket.

When [REDACTED] came out of the shower my wife and I confronted [REDACTED] with the e-cigarettes. When we asked where she had bought them from she said she could not remember. We then told her we knew about the transactions at Pudsey Local. She then admitted that she had bought it from the shop in the Market Place, she described it to us but she did not know what it was called. She admitted she had bought it herself after school, she was in her school uniform when she purchased it. We took the e-cigarettes away from her and spoke to her about the dangers of using them.

My wife went to visit the shop the same evening and spoke to the shop keeper who denied selling the vape to my daughter. He did admit selling the product she showed him which was a ELUX legend 3500 puffs but back tracked and then said he didnt. [REDACTED] told him that she was reporting him.

Signature

[REDACTED]

Date: 25-05-2022

Statement started: 25-05-2022 18:01

Statement completed: 25-05-2022 19:21

NICHE Ref No: [REDACTED]

Statement of: Mr [REDACTED]

On Friday 20th May 2022 [REDACTED] had her friend staying overnight [REDACTED] and I got home from work at 630pm We had seen on our CCTV that [REDACTED] and her friend came home around 10 minutes before us. [REDACTED] had come home from school earlier, got changed and then went out around 4pm.

Whilst we were sat downstairs we could hear someone being sick in the bathroom. [REDACTED] went to see who it was, I followed shortly after. [REDACTED] was being sick. From [REDACTED] behaviour we knew instantly that she was intoxicated, initially we did not know whether it was alcohol or something else she may have taken. We could not get much sense out of [REDACTED] We spoke to her friend [REDACTED] who is also 13 who said she had drank some yellow liquid which was 15% alcohol. [REDACTED] admitted she had drank some but only a small amount. [REDACTED] admitted they had bought the alcohol from the shop opposite the bus station next to the barbers.

I went to the shop at around 730pm, I parked up outside and entered the shop. The shop keeper who I will describe later was in the shop alone. I asked him why he was selling alcohol to kids. He denied the allegation and said he would not do something like that. I told him my daughter was at home being sick due to alcohol he had sold her, again he denied. As I was challenging him four young kids aged 13-15 years old walked in. The kids loitering in the shop. I said to the shop keeper 'I BET YOUR GONNA BE SELLING TO THESE NOW' one of the boys said he was just buying pop. I left and got back in my vehicle and drove away. I received a phone call from my neighbour who had followed me to the shop. He pulled up outside a few minutes after I had left. He told me the kids were still in the shop but didn't see what they had bought.

I would describe the shop keeper as an Asian male, about 5'8" in height, slim build, light coloured eyes, black short slicked back hair, mid to late 20's, he had a man bag across his body. I cannot recall what clothing he was wearing.

I feel really angry that he has served my daughter and that this male could stand there and lie to my face, I am aware that other children have been sold alcohol and e-cigarettes before. This man has a blatant disregard to children's safety. He is putting them at risk and we are fortunate that [REDACTED] was at home and not drunk in a ditch somewhere. He is also profiting from selling to minors which is unacceptable.

I support the police and licensing in action they take against this shop as it is only a matter of time before someone comes to harm.

Signature



Date: 25-05-2022

Statement started: 25-05-2022 18:01

Statement completed: 25-05-2022 19:21

**OFFICIAL** (when complete)

NICHE Ref No:



Statement of: Mr



Signature



Date: 25-05-2022

Signature



Date: 25-05-2022

Statement started: 25-05-2022 18:01

Statement completed: 25-05-2022 19:21

**OFFICIAL** (when complete)