

MEMORANDUM

To: Central Licensing Administration Unit

From: Rita Groves
Licensing Enforcement Officer
Regulatory Services / Health Protection

Ref: Review application for International Supermarket
82 High Street, Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 0PQ

Date: 23 November 2021

In reference to the review application for the above premises I wish to make the following comments in support of the review:

On 3 August 2021, Emma Matthews (Licensing Compliance Officer) received some intel by email that International Supermarket was selling alcohol to minors. It was also reported that the owners of the store were selling cheap cigarettes which were being kept elsewhere and being taken to the shop to sell.

The above intel was shared with PC Dave Bryan at Northamptonshire Police and [REDACTED] at North Northamptonshire Trading Standards. The intel prompted a joint visit which was carried out on Tuesday 5 October 2021 (See witness statement at appendix 1).

The Licensing Act 2003 makes it clear that criminal activity in licensed premises should be treated particularly seriously and I therefore support Northamptonshire Police in this review.



**North
Northamptonshire
Council**

Statement of Witness

Section 9, Criminal Justice Act 1967 and
Sections 5A(3)(a) and 5B,
Magistrates Court Act 1980

STATEMENT OF RITA GROVES

Age of witness: Over 18

Occupation of witness: Licensing Enforcement Officer

Address of witness: North Northamptonshire Council, Cedar Drive, Thrapston,
Northamptonshire NN14 4LZ

This statement, consisting of 4 page(s) 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 I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

My name is Rita GROVES and I am employed by North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) as the Licensing Enforcement Officer. I am an Authorised Officer under the Licensing Act 2003. On Tuesday 5 October 2021, in Rushden, I met with PC Dave BRYAN (DB) of Northamptonshire Police, [REDACTED] of North Northamptonshire Trading Standards and two Trading Standards Apprentices [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Intel received by Northamptonshire Police and North Northamptonshire Council prompted the visit. At approximately 11:15 we entered International Supermarket, 82 High Street, Rushden NN10 0PQ and each identified ourselves. There was only one member of staff on duty who had no identification on him. He stated that his name was Mr [REDACTED].

Dated the 8 October 2021

(Signature:) _____

■■■. ■■■ stated that he does not work at the shop, that he was only helping out for an hour and he did not know anything about the running of the shop. After ■■■ had taken some details from ■■■, DB asked some questions about the Licensing Act 2003 Premises Licence. It became apparent that at least 5 conditions on the licence were being breached.

1. CCTV must be installed capable of recording and storing images. The system must record at all times the premises is open to the public. Images must be stored for 31 days. The system must cover the entrance and all retail areas.
2. A person must be on the premises at all times they are open to the public to enable viewing of recordings on request of an officer from a responsible authority and subsequent full downloads must be available within the following 24 hours.

Although there was a CCTV camera in view, ■■■ did not know how the CCTV worked or where the viewing monitor was.

3. A record of staff members must be kept that includes the names, dates of birth, home addresses and current, valid documentation demonstrating the right to work of the individual with photographic id. This record must be kept on the premises at all times. These records must be made available to an officer from a responsible authority including an immigration officer on demand.

Mr ■■■ stated that his details had not been checked or put in a book when he started work in the shop that day.

Dated the 8 October 2021

(Signature:) _____

4. All staff involved in the retail of alcohol will be trained in relation to the law regarding its sale and awareness of the Challenge 25 age verification policy. This training must be completed prior to them being allowed to sell alcohol. A record of this training must be kept and maintained with a copy of the syllabus. The recipient of the training must sign to state they have received and understood the training and this should be dated. This record must be kept on the premises at all times.

Although there was a Challenge 25 poster in clear view on the shelf behind the counter, it was on its side and ■ when questioned did not know what Challenge 25 meant.

5. A refusals register must be maintained. Both registers must be available for inspection at any time the premises is open.

■ was not aware of any refusal register at the premises and did not find any documentation behind the counter.

Trading Standards Officers checked the fridges and found one out of date product, though as there were many products which were not labelled in English, it was unclear if there were any further products out of date. Behind the main store, there was a small area with racking and a few items of stock (mainly soft drinks and alcohol). DB, ■ and I then checked the rear storeroom. Both storeroom areas were separated from the main shop by a door. There were a few boxes, a chair and a few items of store fixtures and fittings in this room. ■ started to check the boxes and found a small box of tobacco and a large box of mixed foreign and UK branded cigarettes. The

Dated the 8 October 2021

(Signature:)

Appendix 1

cigarettes were sorted into 3 piles, UK cigarettes with correct branding, UK cigarettes with incorrect branding (not showing health warnings) and foreign branded cigarettes with wording in other languages. The cigarette boxes were counted, bagged and tagged. The UK correctly branded cigarettes were left at the shop and all the others were seized by Trading Standards who left seizure and visit paperwork with [REDACTED]. During the visit [REDACTED] had called the shop owner several times. He stated that the shop owner was called [REDACTED]. At first, he said that the owner would come back to the store to meet with us and would be with us in half an hour. A few minutes later he stated that the shop owner would be with us in ten minutes. When [REDACTED] was asked to contact the owner and tell him that we had found the cigarettes, [REDACTED] informed us that the owner would no longer be coming back to the shop. We left the store at approximately 12:10. END OF STATEMENT.

Dated the 8 October 2021

(Signature: _____)

Louise Tyers

From: ENC Licensing Unit
Sent: 11 November 2021 14:05
To: Pat Mackness
Subject: FW: Review of Premises Licence, International Supermarket, 82 High Street, Rushden, NN10 0PQ

For you

From: Nicola Gibson [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 November 2021 13:57
To: ENC Licensing Unit <LicensingUnit.ENC@northnorthants.gov.uk>
Subject: Review of Premises Licence, International Supermarket, 82 High Street, Rushden, NN10 0PQ

Good Afternoon,

Rushden Town Council are in support of this licencing review.

Kind Regards

Nicola Gibson

Assistant to Town Clerk

(Part-time: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.15am – 14.45pm)

Rushden Town Council
Rushden Hall
Rushden
Northants NN10 9NG

Tel: 01933 316216

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Web: www.rushdentowncouncil.gov.uk

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