

WITNESS STATEMENT OF
KIRSTY GREEN
1ST STATEMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT

BEFORE THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
OF BARNSELY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

IN THE MATTER OF A REVIEW OF
PREMISES LICENCE UNDER
SECTION 51 OF THE LICENSING
ACT 2003

CHIEF CONSTABLE OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

Applicant

AND

AMUTHA RAVIKUMAR

Premises Licence Holder

WITNESS STATEMENT OF KIRSTY GREEN

1. I am Kirsty Green and I am a Licensing Enforcement Officer for South Yorkshire Police.
2. This statement relates to Lifestyle Express.
3. The premise is located at 49 Rowland Road, Barnsley.
4. The premise licence number 003832 relates to this.
5. The Premise Licence Holder is Amutha Ravikumar.
6. The Designated Premise Supervisor is Amutha Ravikumar.
7. Except where stated the information contained in this statement has been taken from Police's Smart Contact and Innkeeper systems.
8. On the 29th October 2014, Lifestyle Express failed a test purchase operation conducted by South Yorkshire Police.

9. On the 10th November 2014, Licensing Officer Michelle Hudson, local Neighbourhood Sergeant Andrew Froggatt, and I carried out a licensing visit. The purpose of the visit was to provide a training pack and to carry out an action plan with Amutha Ravikumar.
10. On the 20th January 2015, Lifestyle Express passed a test purchase operation conducted by South Yorkshire Police.
11. On the 11th March 2015, South Yorkshire Police received a complaint that two 12-year-old girls had been served alcohol in the premise.
12. On the 20th March 2015, Licensing Officer Michelle Hudson visited the Lifestyle Express in relation to the allegations received on the 11th March 2015. Amutha Ravikumar and her husband were spoken with at the time and they denied making any such underage sale. They were unable to produce any refusals logs as they claimed that they had taken them home to photocopy.
13. On the 27th March 2015, Licensing Officer Michelle Hudson visited the premise once again to find that refusals logs were now in place.
14. On the 27th April 2015, I visited with a Licensing Officer from Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Rachel Fisher. Amutha Ravikumar was not present at the time of the visit therefore Mr Ravikumar was spoken with. Mr Ravikumar advised us at the time that he did hold a personal licence however he was unable to locate it. Upon inspection, not all relevant documentation linked to their premise licence was displayed and their refusal logs only documented refusals for cigarettes not alcohol. Mr Ravikumar was advised that information had been received that on Saturday evenings, underage persons had been trying to purchase alcohol from the shop and specific drinks including *Frosty Jacks* and *Sourz* had been mentioned. Mr Ravikumar denied there being a problem with underage in the shop. It was stressed to Mr Ravikumar that the challenge 25 policy should be practised when customers were trying to purchase alcohol.
15. On the 28th April 2015, a letter was sent to Amutha Ravikumar following the visit on the 27th April outlining points raised and improvement required.
16. On the 18th May 2015, I carried out a licensing visit with Rachel Fisher to find that all paperwork was now in order. I spoke with Amutha Ravikumar and explained that the Neighbourhood Team had raised concerns about underage persons in the area being in possession of alcohol. I reiterated the need to practice challenge 25 and advised that they must also refuse service to anyone that they suspected was buying alcohol and passing it onto someone that was underage, as this was also an offence. Amutha Ravikumar stated that she was not aware that they needed to do this.
17. On the 1st November 2017, the shop passed a test purchase operation conducted by South Yorkshire Police.

18. On the 15th February 2015, licensing check completed with BMBC Licensing Officer Martin Cooper all in order at the time of the visit.
19. On the 25th April 2019, the shop passed a test purchase operation conducted by South Yorkshire Police.
20. On the 31st October 2019, the shop passed a test purchase operation conducted by South Yorkshire Police.
21. On the 1st April 2021, South Yorkshire Police received a complaint alleging that the owner of the Lifestyle Express was selling to underage. (SYP Incident 0321 01.04.2021)
22. On the 11th June 2021 at 18:32, Lifestyle Express failed a test purchase operation that was conducted by South Yorkshire Police. Kathiravelu Ravikumar served police volunteers with two bottles of Kopparburg. Mr Ravikumar was issued with a fixed penalty ticket for the offence.
23. On the 15th June 2021 I made a telephone call to Amutha Ravikumar to discuss the failed test purchase on the 11th June. I advised regarding consequences of a further failure in 3 months and three failures in a 12-month period and arranged to visit to complete an action plan with her.
24. On the 22nd June 2021 I conducted a licensing visit to complete the action plan with Amutha Ravikumar. I reiterated the consequences of another failure once again and provided her with a training pack and the action plan that was signed.
25. On the 16th July 2021 at 19:36, Lifestyle Express failed a test purchase operation that was conducted by South Yorkshire Police. Kathiravelu Ravikumar served police volunteers with a WKD Blue.
26. On the 20th July 2021 telephone call made to Amutha Ravikumar regarding failed test purchase on the 16th July. I explained the consequences of this and explained what would happen should they fail again within the next 12 months. Amutha Ravikumar advised that she was going back to Sri Lanka for a family emergency and would be away for the next 2 weeks minimum. However, advised that they have had serious conversations regarding Mr Ravikumar serving alcohol due to the last two test purchase failures being a result of him serving.
27. On the 21st July 2021, South Yorkshire Police received a complaint that a 13 year old had been sold alcohol from the shop (SYP Incident 0863 21.07.2021)

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed:**Name: Kirsty Green****Date: 26th July 2021**