

Merton Council

Licensing sub-committee

18 December 2014

Supplementary agenda

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London Borough of Merton



Licensing Act 2003 Notice of Determination

Date of issue of this notice: 24th December 2014

Subject: Bineet Stationers, 237 London Road, Mitcham CR4 3NH

Having considered relevant applications, notices and representations together with any other relevant information submitted to any Hearing held on this matter the Licensing Authority has made the determination set out in Annex A. Reasons for the determination are also set out in Annex A.

Parties to hearings have the right to appeal against decisions of the Licensing Authority. These rights are set out in Schedule 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 and Chapter 12 of the Amended Guidance issued by the Home Secretary (April 2012). Chapter 12 of the guidance is attached as Annex B to this notice.

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Useful documents:

Licensing Act 2003

<http://www.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2003/20030017.htm>

Guidance issued by the Home Secretary

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

Regulations issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

http://www.culture.gov.uk/alcohol_and_entertainment/lic_act_reg.htm

Merton's Statement of Licensing policy

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/licensing/>

Annex A

Determination

The Licensing Sub-Committee reviewed the premises licence for the premises, Bineet Stationers, following service of a Review by the Metropolitan Police.

The Licensing Sub-Committee determined that there should be a one week suspension of the Premises Licence.

The Licensing Sub-Committee determined that the Premises Licence shall continue in force and did not take the step of revoking the Premises Licence.

The Licensing Sub-Committee also looked at the possibility of the removal of the DPS, but accepted that the DPS was not at the premises when the underage sale took place, but still considers that the DPS should have understood and managed the premises so as to avoid underage sales.

The Licensing Sub-Committee decided to take the step of attaching all further conditions sought by the Metropolitan Police, along with two additional conditions, as set out below:

- 1) The premises shall install and maintain a comprehensive CCTV system as per the minimum requirements of a Metropolitan Police Crime Prevention Officer. All entry and exit points will be covered enabling frontal identification of every person entering in any light condition. The CCTV system shall continually record whilst the premises is open for licensable activities and during all items when customers remain on the premises. All recordings shall be stored for a minimum period of 31 days with date and time stamping. Recordings shall be made available immediately upon the request of Police or authorised officer throughout the preceding 31 day period. The CCTV system should be updated and maintained according to police recommendations.
- 2) A staff member from the premises who is conversant with the operation of the CCTV system shall be on the premises at all times when the premise is open to the public. This staff member must be able to show a Police or authorised council officer recent data or footage with the absolute minimum of delay when requested.
- 3) No super-strength beer, larger or ciders of 5.5% ABV (alcohol by volume) or above shall be sold at the premises.
- 4) No single cans of beer or cider shall be sold at the premises.
- 5) A proof of age scheme such as Challenge (21/25) shall be operated at the premises where the only acceptable forms of identification are recognised photographic identification cards, such as a driving licence or passport or holographically marked PASS scheme identification cards.
- 6) A log shall be kept detailing all refused sales of alcohol. The log should include the date and time of the refused sale and the name of the member of staff who refused the sale. The log shall be available for inspection at the premises by the police or an authorised officer at the Council at all times whilst the premise is open.
- 7) An incident log shall be kept at the premises, and made available on request to an authorised officer of the Council or the Police, which will record the following:
 - All crimes reported to the venue
 - All ejections of patrons

- Any complaints received
- Any incidents of disorder
- Any faults in the CCTV system or searching equipment or scanning equipment
- Any refusal of the sale of alcohol
- Any visit by a relevant authority or emergency service

8) Notices prohibiting under-age sales shall be on display in the premise.

9) Training in licensing shall be conducted every 3 months with training records to be available to the Police and Local Authority for inspection.

Reasons

The Licensing Sub Committee considered all of the relevant evidence made available to it and in doing so has taken into account the Licensing Act 2003, the Guidance under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, its Regulations, case law, and Merton Council's Licensing Policy.

The Licensing Sub-Committee took a very serious view of what happened with the under-age sales to two children aged 14 and 16. The Licensing Sub-Committee applied the case of *Bassetlaw v Worksop* and had regard to the Guidance and therefore took a stronger view in their determination.

In relation to the suspension, the Licensing Sub-Committee felt it both proportionate and appropriate to take that step, as

a) Mrs Patel, Designated Premises Supervisor, was not available on any of the three occasions where the police / trading standards officers visited, or on the occasion of the test purchase,

b) the premises appear to be running in a casual and slipshod manner, without due regard to the responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003, but it was appropriate and proportionate to take the steps imposed.

The premises are situated in an area that has a high incidence of street drinking, and a street drinker was observed purchasing alcohol in the premises.

The evidence submitted by the Metropolitan Police indicates that there was an unauthorised person selling to under-aged children and potentially an unauthorised person selling to someone who was drunk. All of these are potential criminal offences.

There was a joint Metropolitan Police and licensing officer visit three days before the test purchase, where advice was given and clearly ignored and against a backdrop of regular advice in the form of age restriction advice packs, that had been given to the premises.

Annex B

Extract from the Amended Guidance issued by the Home Secretary under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (April 2012).

12.Appeals

12.1 This chapter provides advice about entitlements to appeal in connection with various decisions made by a licensing authority under the provisions of the 2003 Act. Entitlements to appeal for parties aggrieved by decisions of the licensing authority are set out in Schedule 5 to the 2003 Act.

GENERAL

12.2 With the exception of appeals in relation to closure orders, an appeal may be made to any magistrates' court in England or Wales but it is expected that applicants would bring an appeal in a magistrates' court in the area in which they or the premises are situated.

12.3 An appeal has to be commenced by the appellant giving of a notice of appeal to the designated officer for the magistrates' court within a period of 21 days beginning with the day on which the appellant was notified by the licensing authority of the decision which is being appealed.

12.4 The licensing authority will always be a respondent to the appeal, but in cases where a favourable decision has been made for an applicant, licence holder, club or premises user against the representations of a responsible authority or any other person, or the objections of the chief officer of police or local authority exercising environmental health functions, the holder of the premises or personal licence or club premises certificate or the person who gave an interim authority notice or the premises user will also be a respondent to the appeal, and the person who made the relevant representation or gave the objection will be the appellants.

12.5 Where an appeal has been made against a decision of the licensing authority, the licensing authority will in all cases be the respondent to the appeal and may call as a witness a responsible authority or any other person who made representations against the application, if it chooses to do so. For this reason, the licensing authority should consider keeping responsible authorities and others informed of developments in relation to appeals to allow them to consider their position. Provided the court considers it appropriate, the licensing authority may also call as witnesses any individual or body that they feel might assist their response to an appeal.

12.6 The court, on hearing any appeal, may review the merits of the decision on the facts and consider points of law or address both.

12.7 On determining an appeal, the court may:

- dismiss the appeal;
- substitute for the decision appealed against any other decision which could have been made by the licensing authority; or

- remit the case to the licensing authority to dispose of it in accordance with the direction of the court and make such order as to costs as it thinks fit.

LICENSING POLICY STATEMENTS AND SECTION 182 GUIDANCE

12.8 In hearing an appeal against any decision made by a licensing authority, the magistrates' court will have regard to that licensing authority's statement of licensing policy and this Guidance. However, the court would be entitled to depart from either the statement of licensing policy or this Guidance if it considered it was justified to do so because of the individual circumstances of any case. In other words, while the court will normally consider the matter as if it were "standing in the shoes" of the licensing authority, it would be entitled to find that the licensing authority should have departed from its own policy or the Guidance because the particular circumstances would have justified such a decision.

12.9 In addition, the court is entitled to disregard any part of a licensing policy statement or this Guidance that it holds to be ultra vires the 2003 Act and therefore unlawful. The normal course for challenging a statement of licensing policy or this Guidance should be by way of judicial review, but where it is submitted to an appellate court that a statement of policy is itself ultra vires the 2003 Act and this has a direct bearing on the case before it, it would be inappropriate for the court, on accepting such a submission, to compound the original error by relying on that part of the statement of licensing policy affected.

GIVING REASONS FOR DECISIONS

12.10 It is important that a licensing authority should give comprehensive reasons for its decisions in anticipation of any appeals. Failure to give adequate reasons could itself give rise to grounds for an appeal. It is particularly important that reasons should also address the extent to which the decision has been made with regard to the licensing authority's statement of policy and this Guidance. Reasons should be promulgated to all the parties of any process which might give rise to an appeal under the terms of the 2003 Act.

IMPLEMENTING THE DETERMINATION OF THE MAGISTRATES' COURTS

12.11 As soon as the decision of the magistrates' court has been promulgated, licensing authorities should implement it without delay. Any attempt to delay implementation will only bring the appeal system into disrepute. Standing orders should therefore be in place that on receipt of the decision, appropriate action should be taken immediately unless ordered by the magistrates' court or a higher court to suspend such action (for example, as a result of an on-going judicial review). Except in the case of closure orders, the 2003 Act does not provide for a further appeal against the decision of the magistrates' courts and normal rules of challenging decisions of magistrates' courts will apply.

PROVISIONAL STATEMENTS

12.12 To avoid confusion, it should be noted that a right of appeal only exists in respect of the terms of a provisional statement that is issued rather than one that is refused. This is because the 2003 Act does not empower a licensing authority to refuse to issue a provisional statement. After receiving and considering relevant representations, the licensing authority may only indicate, as part of the statement, that it would consider certain steps to be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives when, and if, an application were made for a premises licence following the issuing of the provisional statement. Accordingly, the applicant or any person who has made relevant representations may appeal against the terms of the statement issued.