

Leicester  
City Council

## **LICENSING (HEARINGS) SUB-COMMITTEE**

**DATE: FRIDAY, 23 JANUARY 2026**

**TIME: 10:00 am**

**PLACE: Meeting Room 1.14, First Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

### **Members of the Sub-Committee**

Councillors Barton, Cassidy and Kennedy-Lount

Members of the Sub-Committee are summoned to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

for Monitoring Officer

#### **Officer contact:**

Julian Yeung, Governance Support Officer, email: committees@leicester.gov.uk

# Information for Members of the Public

## Attending meetings and access to information

You have the right to attend formal meetings such as full Council, committee meetings, City Mayor & Executive Public Briefing and Scrutiny Commissions and see copies of agendas and minutes. On occasion however, meetings may, for reasons set out in law, need to consider some items in private.

Dates of meetings and copies of public agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website at [www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk), from the Council's Customer Service Centre or by contacting us using the details below.

## Making meetings accessible to all

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Filming and Recording the Meeting - The Council is committed to transparency and supports efforts to record and share reports of proceedings of public meetings through a variety of means, including social media. In accordance with government regulations and the Council's policy, persons and press attending any meeting of the Council open to the public (except Licensing Sub Committees and where the public have been formally excluded) are allowed to record and/or report all or part of that meeting. Details of the Council's policy are available at [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk) or from Governance Services.

If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Governance Support Officer in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can be notified in advance and consideration given to practicalities such as allocating appropriate space in the public gallery etc..

The aim of the Regulations and of the Council's policy is to encourage public interest and engagement so in recording or reporting on proceedings members of the public are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

## Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact us on [committees@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:committees@leicester.gov.uk), or call in at City Hall.

For Press Enquiries - please phone the **Communications Unit on 0116 454 4151**.

# LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE PROCEDURAL GUIDE

## INTRODUCTORY PHASE

**The meeting will be held in public unless stated otherwise in the report.**

Present at the hearing will be Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee (minimum 3 Members), Officers from the Licensing Authority, a Legal Adviser to the Sub-Committee, an Officer from Governance Services.

1. Participants at the meeting will introduce themselves as follows:
  - a. Members and Officers
  - b. Statutory Consultees (if any)
  - c. The Applicant and any representatives
  - d. Persons who have made representations
2. The Chair will check that the Applicant has received a copy of the Officer report.

## INFORMATION GATHERING

**(\*Please Note – for the purposes of a hearing to determine an application in a Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ), the Applicant will present their case first)**

3. The Licensing Officer presents the report (previously circulated)

Questions (for clarification purposes only):  
Members  
Statutory Consultees (if any)  
Persons who have made representations  
Applicant and Representative(s)
4. Depending on the nature of the report, Statutory Consultees present their comments.

Questions (for clarification purposes only):  
Members  
Officers  
Persons who have made representations  
Applicant and Representative(s)
5. Persons who have made representations

Questions (for clarification purposes only):  
Members  
Officers  
Statutory Consultees (is any)  
Applicant and Representative(s)
6. \*Applicant's Case

Questions (for clarification purposes only):  
Members  
Officers

Statutory Consultees  
Persons who have made representations

7. Summing up in the following order

Officers  
Statutory Consultees  
Persons who have made representations  
\*Applicant and Representative(s)

8. The Legal Adviser to the Sub-Committee to advise the Sub-Committee in the presence of the Applicant, Representatives, Officers, Statutory Consultees, and persons who have made representations on relevant issues the Members need to be aware of when they come to make their decision.

## **DECISION MAKING**

9. Apart from the Sub-Committee Members and the Governance Support Officer everyone will be asked to withdraw from the meeting The Legal Adviser to the Sub-Committee may be called back to the meeting to advise on the wording of the decision the Sub-Committee Members will have made during private deliberation.
10. The Applicant will be advised that the decision made by the Sub-Committee will be made public within 5 working days of the meeting.

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

## **AGENDA**

### **FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION**

If the emergency alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building immediately by the nearest available fire exit and proceed to the area outside the Ramada Encore Hotel on Charles Street as directed by Governance Services staff. Further instructions will then be given.

#### **1. Appointment of Chair**

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

#### **4. Application for a Review of an Existing Premises Licence - Victoria News and Booze, 81 Howard Road, Leicester**

[\*\*Appendix A\*\*](#)

(Pages 1 - 38)

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a report for an application for a review of an existing premises licence for Victoria News and Booze, 81 Howard Road, Leicester.

#### **5. Any Other Urgent Business**



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# **Application for a review of an existing premises licence**

Licensing (Hearings) Sub-Committee

Decision to be taken by: Licensing (Hearings)  
Sub-Committee

Decision to be taken on/Date of meeting: 23/01/2026

Lead director/officer: Bobby Smiljanic

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## **Useful information**

- Ward(s) affected: Castle
- Report author: Amy Day
- Author contact details: 0116 454 3054
- Report version number: 1

### **1. Summary**

1.1 This report outlines an application for a review of an existing premises licence for Victoria News and Booze and summarises the representations received. It also highlights the licensing objectives, the relevant parts of the guidance and regulations, and the pertinent sections of the Licensing Authority's Licensing Policy.

### **2. Determination to be made**

2.1 Having considered the application and representations, Members must consider whether to

- Reject the review application
- Modify the conditions of the licence
- Exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence
- Remove the designated premises supervisor
- Suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months
- Revoke the licence

2.2 Where Members take the decision to reject the review application, they are permitted to issue an informal warning to the licence holder and / or recommend improvement within a particular period of time.

### **3. Application and promotion of the licensing objectives**

3.1 An application was received on 25 November 2025 from Trading Standards for a review of the existing premises licence for Victoria News and Booze, 81 Howard Road, Leicester. The application was made on the grounds of the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety and the protection of children from harm. A copy of the application is attached at Appendix A.

3.2 Trading Standards are concerned that the premises and management have been selling non-compliant goods and that they also failed a test purchase in relation to underage sales of tobacco and vape products.

3.3 The existing licence is attached at Appendix B. The premises licence was previously reviewed in 2009 and as a result a condition was added to Annex 3 stating "Mr Pavandeep Takhar shall not be involved in the management of the premises or the sale of the alcohol in the premises."

3.4 The activities and hours permitted by the existing licence are as follows:

<b>Licensable activity</b>	<b>Current hours</b>
Supply of Alcohol & Opening Hours	Mon-Sat 08.00 -23.00

3.6 In arriving at its decision on the application, the Licensing Authority's primary consideration must be the promotion of the licensing objectives.

3.7 Location Plan



**4. Representations**

4.1 A representation was received on 18 December 2025 from Leicestershire Police. The representation relates to the prevention of crime and disorder, the prevention of public nuisance, public safety and the protection of children from harm. Leicester Police are concerned that the premises has had repeated failures to prevent underage sales, possession and sale of illegal vape and tobacco products, lack of staff training and poor management. A copy of the representation is attached at Appendix C1.

4.2 A representation was received on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 from a member of the public. This is a positive representation praising the premises and staff. A copy of the representation is attached at Appendix C2.

**5. Statutory guidance and statement of licensing policy**

5.1 Any decision made by the Licensing Authority must be in accordance with the licensing objectives. In addition, the government has issued guidance under section

182 of the Licensing Act 2003. The parts of the guidance that are particularly relevant in this case are as follows:

Section	Heading
1.2 – 1.5	Licensing objectives and aims
1.15 – 1.16	General Principles
1.17	Each application on its own merits
2.1 – 2.6	Crime & Disorder
2.7 – 2.14	Public Safety
2.15 – 2.21	Public nuisance
2.22 – 2.31	Protection of children from harm
8.41 – 8.49	Steps to promote the licensing objectives
9.11 – 9.12	Role of responsible authorities
9.31 – 9.41	Hearings
9.31 – 9.41	Hearings
9.42 – 9.44	Determining actions that are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives
10.1 – 10.3	Conditions - general
10.8 – 10.9	Imposed conditions
10.10	Proportionality
10.13 - 10.15	Hours of trading
10.25 – 10.66	Mandatory conditions in relation to the supply of alcohol
11.1 – 11.29	Reviews
13.10 – 13.11	Giving reasons for decisions
14.51 – 14.52	Licensing Hours

5.2 The relevant parts of the Licensing Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy are as follows:

Section	Heading
4	Promotion of the Licensing Objectives
5	General Principles
6	Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates
12	Enforcement and Reviews

## 6. Points for clarification

6.1 The applicant and the parties making the representation have been asked to clarify certain points at the hearing, as follows:

### *By the applicant*

1. Whether the applicant considers that the concerns outlined in the representations are valid, and if not why not.
2. In the light of the representations made, whether the applicant wishes to propose any additional steps for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

### *By the parties making the representations*

1. Whether they have any additional information to support the representation they have made.

2. Whether there are any additional steps that could be taken which would be equally effective in the promotion of the licensing objectives.

## **7. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

### **7.1 Financial Implications**

There are no significant financial implications arising from the contents of this report.

Jade Draper Principal Accountant  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **7.2 Legal Implications**

Legal advice specific to the application will be provided at the meeting by Legal Officers.

### **7.3 Equalities implications**

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

There are no direct equalities implications arising from the report. However it is important to consider issues of accessibility to the application process and its associated activities (such as lodging an appeal); The criteria used during determination of an application and its associated activities (such as lodging an appeal).

Signed: Surinder Singh, Equalities Officer

Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **7.4 Climate Emergency implications**

There are unlikely to be any significant climate emergency implications directly associated with this report and the licensing process.

Duncan Bell, Change Manager

### **7.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)**

Crime and Disorder – see paragraph 3.1

## **8. Background information and other papers**

None

## **9. Summary of appendices:**

Appendix A – Application  
Appendix B – Existing licence  
Appendix C – Representations

10. **Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

No

11. **Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?**

No

*[Leicester City Council, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ ]*

**Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the  
Licensing Act 2003**

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form.  
If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure  
that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary.  
You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

**I Noel Cazley**

*(Insert name of applicant)*

**Apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 & section 144 of the Licensing  
Act 2003 for the premises described in Part 1 below.**

**Part 1 – Premises or club premises details**

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

Victoria News & Booze  
81 Howard Road

<b>Post town</b> Leicester	<b>Post code (if known)</b> LE2 1XP
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**Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)**

Paramjeet KAUR

**Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known)**

LEIPRM1129

**Part 2 - Applicant details**

I am

Please tick ✓ yes

1) an individual, body or business which is not a responsible  
authority (please read guidance note 1, and complete (A)  
or (B) below)

2) a responsible authority (please complete (C) below) **Yes**

3) a member of the club to which this application relates

(please complete (A) below)

**(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT** (fill in as applicable)

Please tick ✓ yes

Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms  Other title  
(for example, Rev)

**Surname**

**First names**

Please tick ✓ yes

**I am 18 years old or over**

**Current postal  
address if  
different from  
premises  
address**

**Post town**

**Post Code**

**Daytime contact telephone number**

**E-mail address  
(optional)**

**(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT**

Name and address

Telephone number (if any)

E-mail address (optional)

**(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT**

Noel Cazley  
Trading Standards Service  
Leicester City Council  
115 Charles Street  
Leicester  
LE1 1FZ

**Telephone number**  
0116 4543132

**E-mail address**  
[noel.cazley@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:noel.cazley@leicester.gov.uk) ; [trading.standards@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@leicester.gov.uk)

**This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)**

Please tick one or more boxes ✓

1) the prevention of crime and disorder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
2) public safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
3) the prevention of public nuisance	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4) the protection of children from harm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes

**Please state the ground(s) for review**

This review application relates to a licensed premises – Victoria News & Booze  
81 Howard Road, Leicester, LE2 1XP.

The premises operates as a Grocers and General Stores which operates between 8:00am – 11:00pm Monday to Saturday and 10:00am to 10:00pm on a Sunday.

The Premises Licence, **LEIPRM1129** was granted on **09/12/2009**. The current Premises Licence holder and Designated Premises Supervisor is Ms Paramjeet KAUR, **LEIPRS2099**.

At approximately **11.05am on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025**, Trading Standards received a call from Ms Nicola MARSH, Licensing Enforcement Officer with regard to a licencing compliance check carried out at Victoria News & Booze, 81 Howard Road, Leicester, LE2 1XP. Nicola explained that upon inspection it was believed that non-compliant vapes were being sold on the premises and she asked if Trading Standards could attend at the premises to check whether the vapes were compliant or not.

The licensing compliance check revealed the following issues: (see Fig 1.)

- 1. The licence holder shall ensure that a summary of the licence is displayed prominently at the premises.**
  - There was no licence on display at the premises.
- 2. Mr Pavandeep Takhar shall not be involved in the management of the premises or the sale of the alcohol in the premises.**

- Sandeep Takhar who was present at the time of the inspection, stated that Pavandeep Takhar continued to work at the premises. This is a breach of a condition on your licence which was attached to the licence after a review hearing in 2009.
- It was determined that these matters must cease with immediate effect.

**3. Ms Paramjeet KAUR had moved address and had not provided updated details to LCC Licensing Team.**

Ms Nicola MARSH sent a letter to Ms Paramjeet KAUR following the review that covered these issues: (see Fig 1.)

**On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 at 12.07pm**, Mr Noel CAZLEY, Trading Standards Officer, visited Victoria News & Booze, 81 Howard Road, Leicester, LE2 1XP for a compliance check. An inspection was carried out under statutory powers in the Consumer Rights Act 2015 Schedule 5.

Behind the till and on the shelves **non-compliant goods were found for sale**, (see Fig 2) which were:

1. **Non-compliant Vapes x 719 units**
2. **Non-compliant Cigarettes x 24 packs**
3. **Non-compliant Cigars x 10 units**
4. **Non-compliant Hand Rolling Tobacco x 2 packs**
5. **Non-compliant Blunt Wraps x 49 units**

**The detriment is estimated to be £11, 273.40 with £292.19 duty unpaid.**

The offer of the goods detailed above breach one or more of the provisions under the following legislation;

**Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024 - Schedule 20 (Commercial practices which are in all circumstances considered unfair), Paragraph 9**, ‘Stating or otherwise creating the impression that a product can be legally sold, when it cannot’.

**The Licensing Act 2003 Section 144 (1)** Keeping of Smuggled Goods: it is an offence if a person ‘knowingly’ keeps, or allows to be kept, on any relevant premises, any goods which have been imported without payment of duty.

**Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 Part 2 (5) (1)** No person may produce or supply a tobacco product for smoking unless it complies with this regulation.

**The Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products Regulations 2015 Section 15 (1)** A person who produces or supplies a tobacco product in breach of any provision of these Regulations is guilty of an offence.

**Tobacco Products Duty Act 1979. Section 8 (G) and (H):** Possession and Sale of unmarked tobacco and the Use of Premises for Sale of Unmarked Tobacco respectively.

By virtue of the **Licensing Act 2003, Schedule 4, Paragraph 24, Under the Criminal Attempts Act 1981**, it is an offence to attempt to commit a relevant offence for personal licence holders; Ms Paramjeet KAUR is the personal licence holder in this instance, as such commits this offence.

I am as such of the view that the premises licence holder, Ms Paramjeet KAUR, has committed these offences.

These goods were subsequently seized from the premises and the inspection paperwork was signed by the store assistant and left on the premises for the attention of Ms Paramjeet KAUR, as she was not on the premises at the time of the inspection.

No contact or communication has been received from Ms Paramjeet KAUR following the visit by Trading Standards on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025**.

**On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025** an intelligence check was conducted on the Citizens Advice Bureau Portal (CAB) & Council's Uniform Database to see if there had been any complaints or reports logged for Victoria News & Booze, 81 Howard Road, Leicester, LE2 1XP. The results are follows:

**CAB from 2021 to 2022**

- One relates to buying and selling stolen alcohol
- One relates to sales of single cigarettes and selling alcohol from multipacks as single items for more money

**Uniform**

- One from 2020 relating to overcharging
- One from 2024 relating to underage sales of cigarettes, vapes and alcohol
- Letter sent from Trading Standards on 15/10/2024 in relation to underage sales (see **Fig 3**)

There was a non-domestic rates account, diary note record for **17<sup>th</sup> March 2021** stating that Mrs KAUR no longer works in the shop and its run by her husband and son. (see **Fig 4**)

**On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025** the Leicestershire Police carried out a test purchasing operation in relation to underage sales of Tobacco and Vape products. During this operation, Police Constable 1400 Richard WAGG was with a Police Cadet aged 16. Victoria News & Booze, 81 Howard Road, Leicester, LE2 1XP was visited and they failed the test purchase as at 12.42pm the Police Cadet was able to purchase a strawberry flavoured Vape at the cost of £5.00.

In the light of the above facts and matters, Leicester City Council has no faith that Ms Paramjeet KAUR has the ability to uphold the licensing objectives or adhere to the licence conditions.

We therefore request a review of the premises licence as the licence holder is failing to uphold three of the licensing objectives:

- *The prevention of crime and disorder*
- *Public Safety*
- *The protection of children from harm*

**Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 3)**

I have noted above the various offences that relate to the non-compliant vapes and tobacco related products that have been seized. In addition to this it is important to note the following.

The vapes that have been seized from this premises are **non-notified** with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the governing body sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care whose role it is amongst other things are to ensure that medicines and medical devices work and are acceptably safe for use by the public. As a consequence these vapes are deemed an unsafe product and cannot be legally sold within the United Kingdom.

For non-compliant cigarettes and rolling tobacco if they are counterfeit or plain whites we can never know exactly what ingredients/contaminants are in them and when tested often show levels of Tar & Carbon Monoxide to be in excess of permitted levels often by more than 80%. Furthermore when these are manufactured, it is unlikely that safety standards (including the required testing) or a standardised manufacturing processes are adhered to. These present a greater cancer health risks due to the unknown contaminants and quantities. Further it is unlikely that the cigarettes will comply with the burn safety tests. Their sale or offer for sale is illegal.

Ms Paramjeet KAUR of Victoria News & Booze, 81 Howard Road, Leicester, LE2 1XP is in breach of the **Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024 - Schedule 20 (Commercial practices which are in all circumstances considered unfair), Paragraph 9**, ‘Stating or otherwise creating the impression that a product can be legally sold, when it cannot’.

In summary, this is the breakdown for the overall non-compliant goods seized from Victoria News & Booze, 81 Howard Road, Leicester, LE2 1XP on **1<sup>st</sup> May 2025**.

<b>Seized Items &amp; Cost (Victoria News &amp; Booze)</b>	<b>Duty Tax Evasion</b>
1. 24 packets of Cigarettes (£360.00)	£253.59
2. 2 packets of Tobacco (£50.00)	£38.60
3. 719 Vapes (£10,785)	n/a
4. 49 units of Blunt Wraps (£78.40)	n/a
<b>Total Cost £11,273.40*</b>	<b>Total Duty Tax Evasion £292.19</b>
<i>*Figures are based on average RRP</i>	

Since **January 2025**, Leicester City Trading Standards has seized non-compliant goods from businesses across the City, the breakdown is as follows:

<b>Seized Items &amp; Cost</b>	<b>Duty Evasion</b>
1. Tobacco x 2809 pks (£42,135)	£29,680.32
2. Vapes x 5619 units (£84,285)	n/a
3. HRT x 595 pks (£14,875)	£11,483.50
4. Shisha x 15 pks (£210.00)	£124.50
<b>Total Cost £141,505</b>	<b>Total Duty Evasion £41,288.32</b>
<i>*Figures are based on average RRP</i>	

## Appendices

Please ask for: Licensing Enforcement  
Direct line 0116 454 0049  
Our ref: N&ES/LEIPRM1/Inspection/NM  
Email [licensingenforcement@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:licensingenforcement@leicester.gov.uk)  
Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025



Ms Paramjeet KAUR  
Victoria News & Booze  
81 Howard Road  
Leicester  
LE2 1XP

Dear Ms Kaur

### INSPECTION OF LEIPRM1129 Victoria News & Booze

I refer to the inspection of your premises on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 by Licensing Enforcement officers, Leicestershire Police and Trading Standards.

This letter outlines issues raised from Licensing Enforcement only. Other agencies may be in touch regarding other issues that will need to be addressed.

Several issues were raised during the inspection, and as these are conditions on your licence, they will need to be rectified immediately.

The issues raised are detailed below and action is required is marked in **RED**.

1. The licence holder shall ensure that a summary of the licence is displayed prominently at the premises.  
**There was no licence on display at the premises.**
2. Mr Pavandeep Takhar shall not be involved in the management of the premises or the sale of the alcohol in the premises.  
**Sandeep Takhar who was present at the time of the inspection, stated that Pavandeep Takhar continued to work at the premises. This is a breach of a condition on your licence which was attached to your licence after a review hearing in 2009.**  
**This must cease with immediate effect.**

A re-inspection of the premises will be required, so please ensure that all matters that have been noted above should be rectified by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025.

Please note that failure to address these matters is a breach of the conditions on your premises licence.

### LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

Licensing Enforcement Team, Licensing Authority, York House, 91 Granby Street, Leicester, LE1 6FB  
[www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk)

Other issues were noted during the inspection, that I would recommend at your premises.

1. There was no fire extinguishers on the premises which were in date and had been serviced by a reputable fire safety officer.
2. There was no staff training in place at the premises.
3. There was no log book or incident book at the premises to record such events.

I was also informed that you had recently moved address. You are required to notify the licensing authority, as a personal licence holder, of any change of name or address your personal licence and failure to do so is an offence.

Please email the licensing applications team at [licensing@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@leicester.gov.uk) full details of your new address.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Marsh  
Licensing Enforcement Officer



**Fig 2.**

Please ask for: Duty Officer  
Email: [trading.standards@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@leicester.gov.uk)  
Our Ref: 24/01215/TSS  
Date: 15 October 2024



**Private and Confidential**  
To be opened by addressee only

Victoria News & Booze  
81 Howard Road  
Leicester  
LE2 1XP

Dear Sir/Madam

**The Tobacco and Related Products 2016**  
**Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991**

I am writing to you today to explain your obligations if you sell goods that have an 'age restriction.' Under UK law, there are minimum ages you must be before you can purchase certain goods. There are too many to list here; but I have included a table below, which you can print off for you or your staff. Further, this Service has received a complaint that your business is selling illicit tobacco and non-compliant vapes, and further, that these are also being sold to children under the age of 18 years old. It is an offence to sell non-notified vapes and illicit tobacco to any persons in the UK. It is a further offence, to sell these to children under the age of 18 years old.

Trading Standards, along with the Police, enforce under-age sales. We will focus our resources on the most prevalent issue, sometimes working with other Trading Standards departments regionally or nationally. This approach allows us to focus our limited resources effectively and efficiently.

We do this by building intelligence led information obtained from members of the public, which may result in Trading Standards undertaking Test Purchase operations with children under the age of 18 (or 16 if we are testing petrol stations). Any sales are dealt with using various tools which are at our disposal. This may be a Warning Letter, Simple Caution or we may instigate legal proceedings to the Court. The outcome depends on numerous factors, such as, previous sales, previous advice had been given, remorsefulness from the seller/business.

Trading Standards  
Leicester City Council  
115 Charles Street  
Leicester  
LE1 1FZ

**(excerpt of Warning Letter)**



UAS Warning Letter -  
tobacco and vapes.pc

**Fig 3.**

17/03/21	Noel Kelly	TEXT	Husband of Mrs Kaur on the phone advising that Mrs Kaur no longer works in the shop anymore and it is now run by him and their son. I advised I would send a new occupier form for him to complete and return. When form returns please check to see if alcohol licence has also been transferred.
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**Fig 4.**

**Please tick ✓ yes**

Have you made an application for review relating to the  
premises before

If yes please state the date of that application

Day   Month   Year

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**If you have made representations before relating to the premises please state what they were  
and when you made them**

**Please tick ✓ yes**

- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate **Yes**
- I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected **Yes**

**IT IS AN OFFENCE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003, TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION. THOSE WHO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT MAY BE LIABLE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO A FINE OF ANY AMOUNT.**

**Part 3 – Signatures** (please read guidance note 4)

**Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent** (please read guidance note 5). If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.

Signature [REDACTED]  
.....

Date 24/11/2025  
.....

Capacity **Trading Standards Officer – Leicester City Council**  
.....

**Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application** (please read guidance note 6)

<b>Post town</b>	<b>Post Code</b>
<b>Telephone number (if any)</b>	
<b>If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional)</b>	

**Notes for Guidance**

1. A responsible authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.
2. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
3. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
4. The application form must be signed.
5. An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
6. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.



## Trading Standards Service

**Statement of  
Witness**

**(Criminal  
Procedure  
Rules, r 16.2;  
Criminal  
Justice Act  
1967, s9,  
Magistrates'  
Courts Act  
1980, s5B)**

Statement of: Noel Cazley

Age of witness (if over 18 enter "over 18"): Over 18

Occupation of witness: Trading Standards Officer

This statement, [consisting of 2 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.

Dated the 17 day of November, 20 25. (Signed) [REDACTED]

I am employed as a Trading Standards Officer by Leicester City Council Trading Standards Service and I am a duly authorised officer for the purposes of Consumer Protection Act 1987, Trademarks Act 1994, General Product Safety Regulations 2005, The Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016, Tobacco Products (Traceability and Security Features) Regulations 2019, Tobacco for Oral Use (Safety) Regulations 1992, Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products Regulations 2015, Fraud Act 2006, The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 and Consumer Rights Act 2015.

1. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2025 at 11.05am, I received a telephone call from Nicola MARSH, Licensing Enforcement Officer explaining that she was carrying out an inspection with the Police at Victoria News & Booze, 81 Howard Road, Leicester, LE2 1XP.
2. Nicola MARSH informed me that there were a lot of vapes on sale which she wasn't sure were compliant and asked if I could visit and check them out. She also made me aware that there were also reports of ASB from youths attending the premises.
3. At 12.07pm, I arrived at Victoria News & Booze, 81 Howard Road, Leicester, LE2 1XP to carry out an inspection. As I approached the premises I could see a lot of youths gathered around the premises and took a photograph to capture this. I produce a copy of this photograph in evidence as **Exhibit NC01**.
4. When I entered the premises I showed my warrant card and identification badge to the store assistant who identified himself as Mr Sandeep TAKHAR. I then went over the Consumer Rights Act 2015 Entry Notice, which explained my powers of entry and their rights during the inspection. This notice was signed by Mr Sandeep TAKHAR who was alone in the store. I produce a copy of this notice in evidence as **Exhibit NC02**.
5. I then told Mr Sandeep TAKHAR that I would be carrying out an inspection as per my telephone conversation with Nicola MARSH, Licensing

<p><b>Statement of Witness</b>   <b>(Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s9, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s5B)</b></p>	<p>Statement of: Noel Cazley</p> <p>Enforcement Officer, who believed that there were non-compliant items on the premises. I explained to him that I would be seizing any non-compliant items found on the premises.</p> <p>6. I could see that directly behind the till, on display, were non-compliant vapes. These are the following non-compliant items found on the premises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Non-compliant Vapes x 719 units</li> <li>➤ Non-compliant Cigarettes x 28 packs</li> <li>➤ Non-compliant Cigars x 10 units</li> <li>➤ Non-compliant Hand Rolling Tobacco x 2 packs</li> <li>➤ Non-compliant Blunt Wraps x 49 units</li> </ul> <p>7. These were all seized and logged on my inspection paperwork, Schedule of Goods <b>Exhibit NC03</b> and the Section 50 Criminal Justice &amp; Police Act 2001 notice <b>Exhibit NC04</b>. There were a total of eight evidence bags <b>Exhibit NC05</b>. I then left the completed notices with Mr Sandeep TAKHAR and took photographs of them for my records.</p> <p>8. When I left the premises, there were still a lot of youths outside the premises waiting to go into the shop. I produce a copy of this photograph in evidence as <b>Exhibit NC06</b>.</p> <p>9. The owner details for this business is Ms Paramjeet KAUR, 1 Shanklin Avenue, Leicester, LE2 3RF - Premises Licence Ref: <b>LEIPRM1129</b>.</p> <p>I produce a copy of these photographs in evidence as <b>Exhibit NC01 – NC06</b>.</p> <p><b>Signed:</b> .....  ..... (witness)</p> <p><b>Date:</b> ..... 17/11/2025 .....</p> <p><i>(To be completed if applicable):</i> ..... being unable to read the above statement I, ..... of ....., read it to him/her before he/she signed it.</p> <p><b>Signed:</b> ..... <b>Date:</b> ..... )</p> <p><b>(Continuation Sheet)</b></p>
--	--

Victoria News & Booze Exhibits – NC01 to NC06



NC01

QD012

## Consumer Rights Act 2015

### ENTRY NOTICE

This notice is provided pursuant to paragraph 23(7) of Schedule 5 of CRA 2015

Date of Notice: 01 MAY 2025

To (the occupier): Paramjeet Kaur

Address: Victoria News & Booze  
81 HOWARD ROAD  
LEICESTER LE2 1XP



Leicester City Council,  
Trading Standards Service,  
City Hall  
115 Charles Street  
Leicester  
LE1 1FZ

By telephone: 0116 454 3200  
By e-mail:  
trading.standards@leicester.gov.uk

### PURPOSE OF ENTRY

To carry out an inspection under Consumer Protection Act 1987, General Product Safety Reg 2005, Tobacco & Related Products Reg 2016, Tobacco Products Traceability & Security Features Reg 2019, Tobacco for Oral Use (Safety) Reg 1992, Standard Packaging of Tobacco Products Reg 2013, Fraud Act 2006, Trade Mark Act 1994.

The Officer (stated below) is authorised to enforce as detailed in Schedule 5 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015 or to ascertain compliance with an undertaking or to ascertain whether goods are liable to be forfeited.

#### OBSTRUCTION OFFENCE:

It is an offence to obstruct a duly authorised officer. Obstruction includes where a person intentionally obstructs an officer; intentionally fails to comply with instructions given by an officer; without good reason fails to give an officer assistance or information reasonably required; makes a statement or a reckless statement which they know is false or misleading.

Signed by Officer issuing Notice: [REDACTED]

Print Name: N. Caslay Position: Trading Standards

Signature: [REDACTED]

Print name: SANDEEP TAKHAT Job Title/Position: Employee

Consent

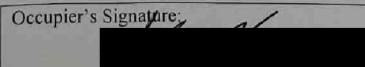
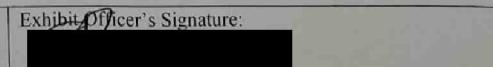
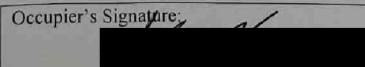
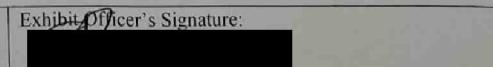
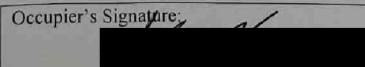
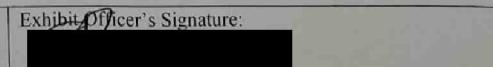
Statutory Powers

Warrant

20/02/2023

01/05/2025 13:44:50

NC02

 <p>Leicester City Council</p>				<p>QD015 20/03/2023</p>		
<p>Schedule of Goods/Documents Seized:</p> <p>Search Reference No: NC/VB/002</p>				<p>Page 1 of 1</p>		
Officer Reference	Seal Number	Location Seized	Description			
NC01	WS603402	BEHIND COUNTER	VARIOUS VAPES (149)			
NC02	WS603403	BEHIND COUNTER	VARIOUS VAPES (150)			
NC03	WS603404	BEHIND COUNTER	VARIOUS VAPES (150)			
NC04	WS603405	BEHIND COUNTER	VARIOUS VAPES (150)			
NC05	WS603406	BEHIND COUNTER	VARIOUS VAPES (200)			
NC06	WS603407	RACK ROOM	VARIOUS VAPES (200)			
NC07	WS603408	SHOP FLOOR TOP SHELF	BLUNT WRAPS (49)			
NC08	WS603409	BEHIND COUNTER	MARLBOROUGH GOLD (200) SIGNATURE CIGARS (10) HAND ROLLING TOBACCO (2 packs) TOBACCO (3 packets x 26) 1 PK man kewl			
<p>I agree that the above list is a true record of the property removed from the above location.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Occupier's Signature: </td> <td>Exhibit Officer's Signature: </td> </tr> </table>					Occupier's Signature: 	Exhibit Officer's Signature: 
Occupier's Signature: 	Exhibit Officer's Signature: 					

01/05/2025 13:44:58

NC03

QD012

### S.50 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001

Section 50 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 allows for the seizure and removal of property found on premises where it is not reasonably practicable to complete a process of examination, searching or separation at the scene.

Date/Time of Notice: 01.05.2025 at 12:08p

Address:

81 Howard Road  
Leicester  
LE3 1XP



Leicester  
City Council

Leicester City Council,  
Trading Standards Service,  
City Hall  
115 Charles Street  
Leicester  
LE1 1FZ

By telephone: 0116 454 3200  
By e-mail:  
trading.standards@leicester.gov.uk

### GROUND FOR SEIZURE

The property to which this Notice refers has been seized under Section 50 on the following grounds:



Statutory Powers



Entry Warrant

Under the provisions of (insert Act/s):

Reasons why it was not reasonably practicable to complete the relevant process at the scene:

- Insufficient time available to carry out separation on the premises
- Insufficient persons available to carry out separation on the premises
- Separation would involve damage to property
- Specialist expertise/equipment required
- Separation likely to prejudice use of the property seized

Description of Property Seized:

non-compliant Vapes x 719.

Blunt Wraps x 49

non-compliant Cigarettes x 200 sticks 280 sticks.

non-compliant Cigars x 10

Hand Rolling tobacco x 2 PKS.

Notice issued to: Paramjeet Kaur

Position: Owner

Place on premises where Notice left: Behind the Counter

Notice Issued By: N. Gazal

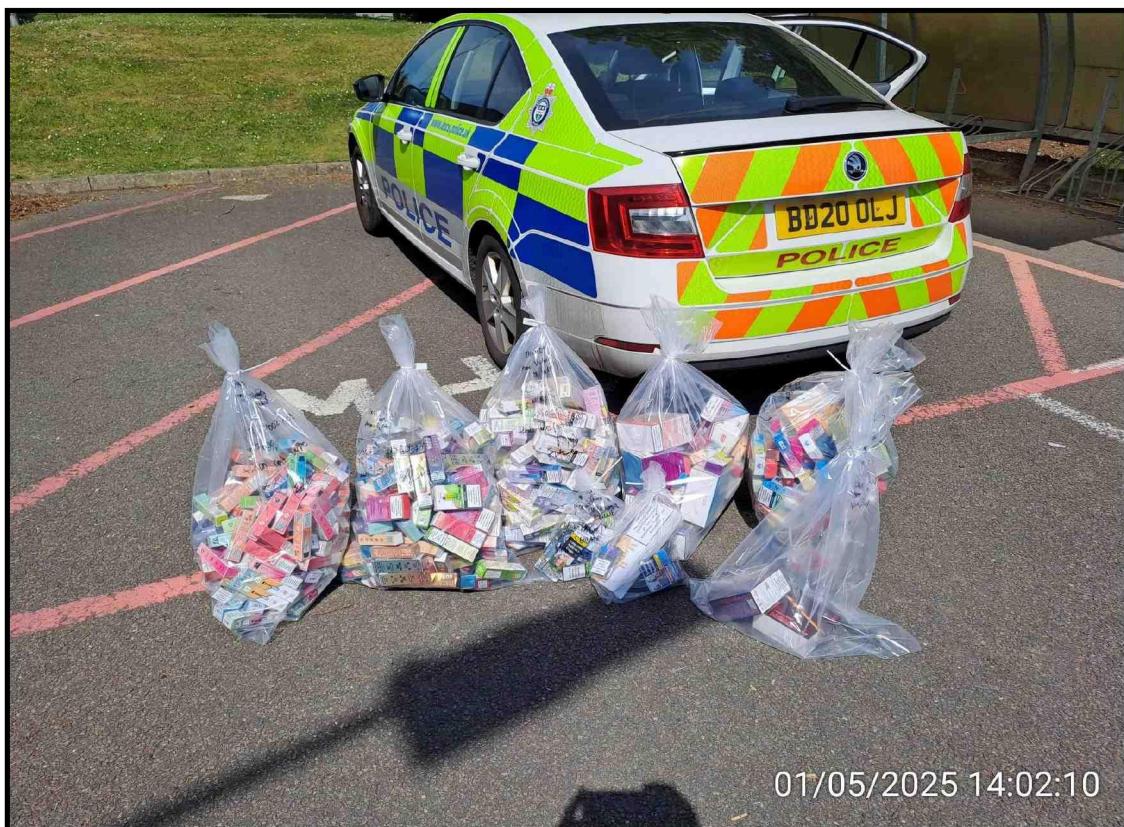
Position: FSO

20/03/2023

01/05/2025 13:44:32

NC04

Victoria News & Booze Exhibits – NC01 to NC06



NC05

Victoria News & Booze Exhibits – NC01 to NC06



NC06

## MG11 WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9

Occurrence Number:	25000301231	URN:	
Statement of:	WAGG, RICHARD ALAN		
Age:	Over 18	Occupation:	Police service

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.

I am Police Constable 1400 Richard WAGG of Leicestershire Police. I was on duty on Saturday 24th May 2025 with a police cadet aged 16 years to conduct a test purchasing operation in relation to underage sales of Tobacco and VAPE products.

During the operation, I visited Victoria News and Booze, Howard Road Leicester with the police cadet at approximately 12:42 hours.

The cadet entered the store and asked the till operative for a strawberry flavoured VAPE, where he was served by a male. I described him as an Asian male, approximately 20 years, approximately 5ft6in, chubby build with black hair and a beard.

The cadet purchased the item for £5 and left the store. The purchased item is exhibited as RW4 and the receipt was asked for, but the till operative stated he could not provide one.

The details of the male who sold the VAPE was taken and I confirm he is Gopiragu NUKATHOTI [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Leicester.

All purchased items have been booked into the police property systems for destruction.

Signature of Witness		Signature Witnessed By
Name:	WAGG, RICHARD ALAN	Name:
Signed	28/05/2025 20:02	Signed
Time:		Time:
		





Licensing Act 2003  
**Premises Licence**

**LEIPRM1129**



**Leicester  
City Council**

Licensing  
Leicester City Council  
City Hall  
115 Charles Street  
Leicester  
LE1 1FZ

(0116) 4543030  
[licensing@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@leicester.gov.uk)

**Part 1 - Premises Details**

**POSTAL ADDRESS OF PREMISES, OR IF NONE, ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP REFERENCE OR DESCRIPTION**

**Victoria News & Booze**

81 Howard Road, Leicester, LE2 1XP.

Telephone [REDACTED]

**WHERE THE LICENCE IS TIME LIMITED THE DATES**

Not applicable

Expires **no expiry**

**LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED BY THE LICENCE**

- the supply of alcohol

**THE TIMES THE LICENCE AUTHORISES THE CARRYING OUT OF LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES**

Activity

(and Area if applicable)

Description

Time From

Time To

J. Supply of alcohol for consumption OFF the premises only

Mon-Sat

8:00am

11:00pm

Sunday

10:00am

10:00pm

**THE OPENING HOURS OF THE PREMISES**

Description

Time From

Time To

Mon-Sat

8:00am

11:00pm

Sunday

10:00am

10:00pm

**WHERE THE LICENCE AUTHORISES SUPPLIES OF ALCOHOL WHETHER THESE ARE ON AND / OR OFF SUPPLIES**

- J. Supply of alcohol for consumption OFF the premises only

**Part 2**

**NAME, (REGISTERED) ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL (WHERE RELEVANT) OF HOLDER OF PREMISES LICENCE**

Paramjeet Kaur

**REGISTERED NUMBER OF HOLDER, FOR EXAMPLE COMPANY NUMBER, CHARITY NUMBER (WHERE APPLICABLE)**

## Premises Licence

Leicester  
City Council

Licensing  
Leicester City Council  
City Hall  
115 Charles Street  
Leicester  
LE1 1FZ

(0116) 4543030  
[licensing@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@leicester.gov.uk)

## NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORISES THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Paramjeet KAUR



## PERSONAL LICENCE NUMBER AND ISSUING AUTHORITY OF PERSONAL LICENCE HELD BY DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORISES FOR THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Licence No. LEIPRS2099

Issued by Leicester

## ANNEXES

## Annex 1 - Mandatory conditions

No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises 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.

Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

## Annex 2 - Conditions consistent with the operating schedule

The licence holder shall ensure that a CCTV system is fitted and maintained on the premises.

## Annex 3 - Conditions attached after a hearing by the Licensing Authority

Mr Pavandeep Takhar shall not be involved in the management of the premises or the sale of the alcohol in the premises.





Leicester  
City Council

Licensing  
Leicester City Council  
City Hall  
115 Charles Street  
Leicester  
LE1 1FZ

(0116) 4543030  
[licensing@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@leicester.gov.uk)

### Premises Details

#### POSTAL ADDRESS OF PREMISES, OR IF NONE, ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP REFERENCE OR DESCRIPTION

#### Victoria News & Booze

81 Howard Road, Leicester, LE2 1XP.

Telephone [REDACTED]

#### WHERE THE LICENCE IS TIME LIMITED THE DATES

Not applicable

#### LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED BY THE LICENCE

- the supply of alcohol

#### THE TIMES THE LICENCE AUTHORISES THE CARRYING OUT OF LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES

Activity (and Area if applicable)	Description	Time From	Time To
J. Supply of alcohol for consumption OFF the premises only			
	Mon-Sat	8:00am	11:00pm
	Sunday	10:00am	10:00pm

#### THE OPENING HOURS OF THE PREMISES

Description	Time From	Time To
Mon-Sat	8:00am	11:00pm
Sunday	10:00am	10:00pm

#### WHERE THE LICENCE AUTHORISES SUPPLIES OF ALCOHOL WHETHER THESE ARE ON AND / OR OFF SUPPLIES

- J. Supply of alcohol for consumption OFF the premises only

#### NAME, (REGISTERED) ADDRESS OF HOLDER OF PREMISES LICENCE

Paramjeet Kaur

#### REGISTERED NUMBER OF HOLDER, FOR EXAMPLE COMPANY NUMBER, CHARITY NUMBER (WHERE APPLICABLE)

#### NAME OF DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORISES THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Paramjeet KAUR

#### STATE WHETHER ACCESS TO THE PREMISES BY CHILDREN IS RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED





**Leicester  
City Council**

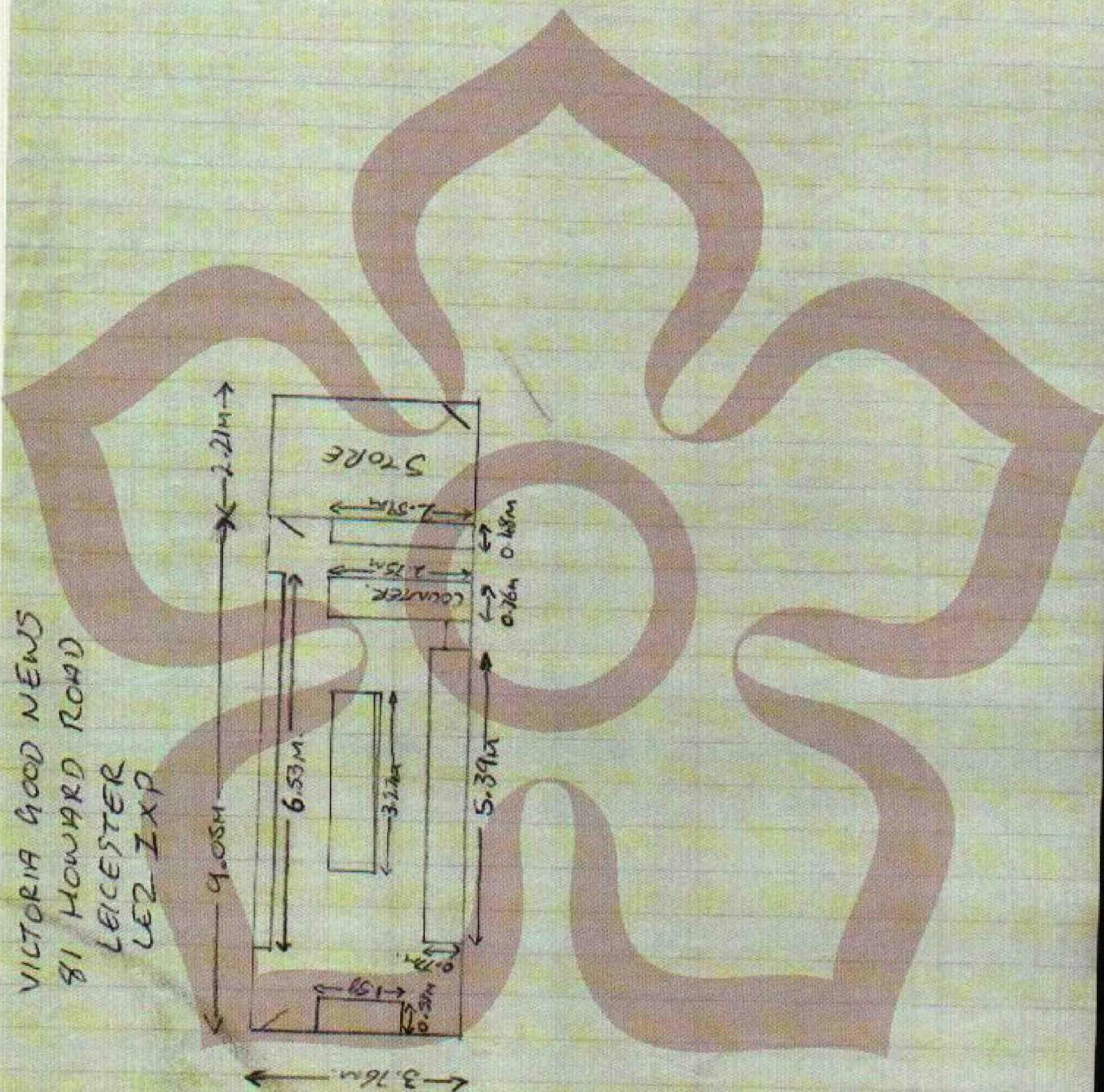
Licensing  
Leicester City Council  
City Hall  
115 Charles Street  
Leicester  
LE1 1FZ

(0116) 4543030  
[licensing@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@leicester.gov.uk)

**STATE WHETHER ACCESS TO THE PREMISES BY CHILDREN IS RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED continued ...**

Unrestricted

Annex 4 - Plan





Complete	GSC Class:	Reason:
If Req'd	Handling Conditions:	

MG11

Occurrence Ref:

## WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9

URN

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Statement of: Derek Bausor

Age if under 18: 0/18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Police Constable

I, Police Constable 4599 Derek Bausor, of Leicestershire Police, make this statement in relation to Victoria News & Booze, 81 Howard Road, Leicester. I am the dedicated Neighbourhood Police Officer for the Clarendon Park Ward, within which Howard Road and Victoria News & Booze are situated. In March 2025, Leicestershire Police began receiving numerous calls from residents

reporting persistent issues of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the vicinity of Victoria News & Booze. The reports described:

- Large groups of people congregating on Howard Road
- Loud noise and littering
- Cars driving at speed and in an inconsiderate manner
- General nuisance coinciding with break times of nearby WQE College

Initial enquiries strongly indicated that those involved were college students frequenting the area during lesson breaks. Given the volume and persistence of the complaints, the local beat team implemented a Problem Management Plan—a structured policing approach used to analyse the root causes of recurring crime and disorder and develop an appropriate multi-agency response. A key element of such plans involves partnership work with businesses whose practices may be contributing to the problem.

On Wednesday 9 April 2025, I attended Howard Road in plain clothes. At approximately midday I observed a high number of college-aged individuals congregating outside and around Victoria News & Booze. Groups were standing directly outside the premises, while others sat in parked cars playing music and socialising. The behaviour matched the reports received from residents. Once the crowd dispersed, I entered the store to speak with staff. While waiting, I observed a male of clear college age purchase a vape product without being challenged for proof of age. At no time did the staff member attempt to verify his age. When the shop became empty, I identified myself as a police officer. The member of staff provided his name as Sandeep THAKAR. I asked Mr THAKAR why no age verification had been requested. He stated that he was "not required to" and that he personally knew the age of all his customers. He appeared unaware of the "Challenge 25" policy, which, while not mandatory, is considered best practice and widely adopted within the licensing industry to prevent underage sales. Mr THAKAR stated he was not the owner but, from our conversation and his role in the premises, it was clear he was responsible for the day-to-day running of the store. My professional assessment was that Mr THAKAR had limited knowledge of relevant legislation, age-restriction duties, and licence conditions, and that this lack of compliance was actively contributing to the attraction of large numbers of students to the shop, generating the ASB reported by residents. During this visit I also observed a lighter hung on a string near the shop entrance. In my experience this is indicative of stores selling "singles"—individual cigarettes—which is an illegal practice.

Due to these concerns, I arranged a joint visit on Thursday 1 May 2025 at 11:00 hours with Leicester City Council Licensing and Trading Standards. During the inspection, Trading Standards officers seized over £11,000 worth of illegal and non-compliant tobacco and vape products. I was informed that these items did not meet UK regulatory standards and were significantly stronger than legal equivalents. The presence of such stock posed clear risks to public health and further demonstrated serious and systemic non-compliance within the premises.

On Saturday 24 May 2025, Leicestershire Police conducted further test purchasing in relation to underage sales. At 12:42 hours, a 16-year-old Police Cadet attended Victoria News & Booze and successfully

Signature: ..... Signature witnessed by: .....

October 2018

Continuation of Statement of: DEREK BAUSOR

Page 2

purchased a strawberry-flavoured vape for £5.00, again without any form of age challenge. I subsequently entered the store with PC 1400 Richard Wagg, informed the staff of the failed test purchase, and obtained the name of the worker present: Gopiragu NUKATHOTI [REDACTED]

My interactions with the store have primarily been with Sandeep THAKAR. Despite not being the business owner, he appears to act in the capacity of manager with substantial operational responsibility. From my first conversation, I was open and transparent regarding the community complaints and our desire to work constructively with the premises. However, Mr THAKAR's attitude was consistently unhelpful, dismissive, and combative. He openly criticised police presence at the store, stating it would "affect their sales". This led me to believe that profit is being prioritised over community safety, legal compliance, and the prevention of underage sales. While police patrols and engagement have led to a reduction in student congregation, serious concerns remain regarding:

- Poor management oversight
- Lack of staff training and awareness
- Repeated failures to prevent underage sales
- Possession and sale of illegal vape and tobacco products
- An apparent disregard for licensing obligations and community impact

In my professional opinion, Victoria News & Booze has demonstrated a pattern of permissive, unsafe and unlawful practices, which contribute directly to ASB in the local area and present significant safeguarding risks to young people. I believe these issues are ongoing, systemic, and unlikely to improve without formal licensing intervention. I make this statement believing it to be true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Signature: [REDACTED]

Date: 18/12/2025

Signature: ..... Signature witnessed by: .....

March 2017

## Hello Council!

My name is [REDACTED] and I have never left a compliment with you before, so I hope that I do it right!

**This compliment is on the grounds of Victoria News & Booze on Howard Rd + Hartopp Rd, and more specifically to Sunil, the owner of the premises.**

To put it bluntly, Sunil is a pillar of the community. He is an absolute gem of a man, in my personal instance (that has many parallels) when I was in a psychosis for 2 years ( was recently diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder + Psychotic disorder) Sunil would let me stay in his shop talking to him. We talked about the local area, pass times, girls, drinks, employment. The point being that Sunil went out of his way to make me feel welcomed and safe in his establishment in my darkest days.

I would just like to have it documented and know that Sunil and Victoria News and Booze have been present in the local area for over 2 decades. I have memories of going into the shop as a toddler with my late father when Sunil's father Bill owned the shop. Generations of customer/shop keeper dynamic have gone by and not one person has a negative thing to say in regards to the premises and owner, if anything it is on the contrary.

**Sunil is a stand-up man, provides convenient and accessible amenities to the local area, and goes above and beyond to take care of the neighbours.**

**I owe a lot of my social reintegration, confidence and inter-personal skills to Suni, because he helped me to take the first step!**

**Thank you for reading through this.**

