

From: Ryan Hollings
Sent: 21 July 2023 13:45
To: Licensing; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Review Application - Family Shop, 34 Birchwood Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV4 5UH - PRE1990
Attachments: PH Reps 21.07.23 - Family Shop.docx

Dear Licensing,

I write on behalf of Public Health as a Responsible Authority to submit supporting formal representations to the above application under the licensing objectives of The prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm. Public Health have very serious concerns regarding:

- Illegal sales of vaping products to those under age during test purchase
- Reported sales of age restricted items

As a Responsible Authority we would expect any business licensed to sell age restricted items, to act responsibly at all times and promote the key objectives of the Licensing Act 2003.

With breaches of the licensing conditions reported, Public Health is not reassured that the business is operating in adherence to the Licensing Act and therefore supports Trading Standards request to review the current licence.

I, or a suitable representative from Public Health, will be available to attend the hearing and provide further information as required.

Kind regards

Ryan

Ryan Hollings
Senior Public Health Specialist
Public Health
City of Wolverhampton Council

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Miriam Clayton
Licensing & Compliance Officer
City of Wolverhampton Council

21st July 2023

Dear Miriam,

Review - Family Shop, 34 Birchwood Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV4 5UH - PRE1990

Thank you for your email dated 6th July 2023 in reference to the request made by Trading Standards to review the premises licence for The Family Shop.

I have reviewed the documentation put forward by Trading Standards and would support the request to review the premises licence under the licensing objectives of:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- The Protection of Children from Harm

The evidence put forward by Trading Standards is very concerning, sales of age restricted items, the reported instances are shocking and shows a clear neglect of the licensing act 2003, this is further exacerbated by the fact that no statutory tobacco notice is displayed, cigarette gantry is left open, no evidence of appropriate training and no refusal book being evident.

Although the government recommend adult smokers to switch from smoking cigarettes to vapes, vapes are not risk free. There is well established concern about the harms from vaping, specifically associated with younger people, use of disposable vaping products has increased substantially, with 52.8% of current vapers using them in 2022, compared with 7.8% in 2021 and 5.3% in 2020 nationally [Nicotine vaping in England: 2022 evidence update main findings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nicotine-vaping-in-england-2022-evidence-update-main-findings)

In addition, evidence shows drinking alcohol damages health, specifically a child's health. It can affect the normal development of vital organs and functions, including the brain, liver, bones and hormones. Under-age drinking is also associated with risky behaviour, such as violence, injuries, having more sexual partners, pregnancy, using drugs, suicidal ideation.

<https://www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/childrens-health/should-my-child-drink-alcohol/#:~:text=It%20can%20affect%20the%20normal,and%20suicidal%20thoughts%20and%20attempts>

It is the view of Public Health that any licensee who is not actively promoting the licensing objectives should be subject to review, particularly in view of the complex issues facing the area.

Yours sincerely

Ryan Hollings

Senior Public Health Specialist

E-mail: [REDACTED]