



**West Midlands Police Evidence Bundle for the transfer  
application for S&B Store, 3 College Road, Handsworth.  
B20 2HU**

**Premises licence number 1106.**

| PAGE(S) | DOCUMENT(S)                                |
|---------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1 to 2  | Statement of Licensing Officer Chris Jones |
| 3 to 9  | Premises Review Application                |

## WITNESS STATEMENT

Crime Number:.....

**Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B**

URN

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Statement of: 55410 Christopher Jones.....

Age if under 18: Over 18..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Licensing Officer .....

This statement (consisting of TWO 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.

Signature: 

Date 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024.....

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

I am Police Licensing Officer 55410 Christopher Jones of the West Midlands Police currently based at Lloyd House, Police Headquarters in Birmingham City Centre.

On 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 West Midlands Police received a premises transfer application for S&B Store, 3 College Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. B20 2HU. Premises licence number 1106.

The applicant for this transfer was Hardeep Kaur.

The transfer application was received only 5 days after West Midlands Police received notification of a premises licence review for this premises submitted by Trading Standards, after they had seized a number of illegal vapes on sale at the premises.

The review application is available on pages 3 to 9 of this bundle.

The review application detailed that Mr Gurdeep Samrai was the premises licence holder for the premises at the time when the illegal vapes were found at the premises in November 2023 and was still the premises licence holder when the review application was submitted. This was confirmed by the transfer application submitted by Hardeep Kaur,

West Midlands Police noted on the review application that on the visit in November 2023 (when the illegal vapes were seized) it was Hardeep Kaur who identified herself as being in charge of the premises and Mr Singh who stated he was the owner of the shop. Hardeep Kaur also identified herself as being in charge of the premises in August 2023 at a previous visit by Trading Standards Officers.

On the visit in August 2023 a 'Traders Notice' was left with the applicant, Hardeep Kaur by Trading Standards Officers giving advice on not stocking illegal / illicit items as per the complaints by the members of the public to Trading Standards, which promoted their visit to the premises.


West Midlands Police also note that there is no mention of illegal vapes being offered for sale at the premises on the visit by Trading Standards Officers in August 2023. This would indicate that the illegal vapes were placed for

sale within the shop between the two Trading Standards visits in August 2023 and November 2023. This being after advice had been given to Hardeep Kaur and a 'Traders Notice' had been left with her by Trading Standards Officers regarding not stocking illegal / illicit items in the premises.

On receiving the transfer application, I spoke on the phone with Hardeep Kaur, as the application stated that she wanted the premises licence transfer to start from 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, approximately 19 months prior to the transfer application being submitted. I originally assumed that this was an error on the application, but Hardeep Kaur stated that the date on the application was the day she took over the business, although had not submitted any licensing transfer paperwork until this application in December 2023. The fact that no transfer paperwork had been submitted is obviously also confirmed by the Trading Standards review paperwork as Hardeep Kaur is not listed as the premises licence holder.

Hardeep Kaur, by her own admission, would have been responsible for the premises when Trading Standards Officers seized the illegal vapes on sale in the shop and also when the initial complaints / concerns were raised by members of the public, to Trading Standards, regarding what they believed to be illicit and/or illegal activity at the premises.

West Midlands Police are concerned as to why Hardeep Kaur only submitted the premises transfer application approximately 19 months after she took over management control of the premises, by her poor decision making, stocking illegal vapes for sale at the premises and the fact that she has seemingly dismissed advice given to her by Trading Standards Officers in August 2023.

West Midlands Police object to the premises licence transfer to Hardeep Kaur as they have little confidence in her ability to promote the licensing objectives, for the reasons detailed in this statement. 

Signature:  Signature witnessed by: .....

**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 ~~am~~ Chief Inspector of Weights & Measures**

Apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 of The Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in part 1 below.

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

|                                                                                                                                                                   |                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description</b><br><br>S & B GENERAL STORE<br><br>1-3 COLLEGE ROAD<br>HANDSWORTH WOOD |                                     |
| <b>Post town</b> BIRMINGHAM                                                                                                                                       | <b>Post code (if known)</b> B20 2HU |

|                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)</b><br><br>Mr GURDEEP SINGH SAMRAI |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known)</b><br>1106 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**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**

I am 18 years old or over

Please tick ✓ yes

☐

**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**

|                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name and address;<br><br>Birmingham Trading Standards<br>1-3 Ashted Lock Way<br>Aston<br>Birmingham<br>B7 4AZ<br><br>Our Ref: 10736702 |
| Telephone number (if any)<br>0121 303                                                                                                  |
| E-mail address (optional)<br>@birmingham.gov.uk                                                                                        |

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

- |                                         |                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) the prevention of crime and disorder | Please tick one or more boxes ✓ |
| 2) public safety                        | Yes                             |
| 3) the prevention of public nuisance    | No                              |
| 4) the protection of children from harm | Yes                             |
|                                         | No                              |

**Please state the ground(s) for review** (please read guidance note 2)

During June and July 2023 Birmingham Trading Standards received several complaints from members of the public concerning S & B General Store, 1-3 College Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 2HU.

The first complaint in early June said that shoplifters were coming into the shop with stolen goods and the shop was buying bootleg booze and stolen goods and selling it on.

Another said; "this shop is selling stolen goods such a baby milk and illegal cigarettes and vapes and stolen alcohol and many other things"

Later in July an email was received from a member of the public with the following detail;

"To: TradingStandards <TradingStandards@birmingham.gov.uk>  
Subject: S&B Stores 3 College Road B20 2HU

Hello

I would like to report this shop for illegal trading of vapes, cigarettes, stolen alcohol and illegal substances.

The shop keeper is buying stolen alcohol from supermarkets on a huge scale, his store is full of bottles with supermarkets security tags and the shop cellar is also full of stolen or illegal alcohol and illegal substances.

The area around the shop is like a magnet for drug users and I am concerned that young people will also be targeted.

Please can this be investigated.

A very concerned resident..."

On 8 August 2023 Trading Standards Enforcement Officer [REDACTED] went to S& B General Store to give advice to the shop owners and warn them about selling and stocking illicit items as per the allegations in the complaints received. The officer spoke with a Hardeep Kaur who said she was in charge and issued her with a traders notice to confirm the advice and instruction which she signed for and was given a copy.

On 14 November 2023 Trading Standards Officers re -visited S&B General Store to check compliance with the previous advice.

On arrival at approximately mid-day the officers noticed several unaccompanied men standing around outside the shop and nearby in the street. When the officers went into the shop several of these men were seen coming in and out of the shop.

The officers explained why they had come to the two people who said they were in charge; a woman who identified herself as Hardeep Kaur and a male as Gurbinder Singh who said he was the owner of the business.

Whilst both these people were co-operative they appeared not to understand the seriousness of the allegations and the implications it could have upon the premises alcohol licence.

Officers then began to inspect the goods for sale on the premises and found and seized 96 illicit nicotine inhaling vapes on the sales shelf in view of customers and nearby beneath the sales counter.

Officers also noticed a large number of various brands of spirit bottles that appeared to have damaged cap tops and closures around the bottle necks. (A common reason for this is often the unauthorised or forced removal of security bottle tops as often seen applied to similar high value bottles in supermarkets). Some bottles also had third party security stickers still attached to them.

When the officers asked about these bottles Ms Kaur and Mr Singh said they often purchased alcohol from local supermarkets to sell in their shop rather than from wholesalers.

**PLEASE PROVIDE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THE APPLICATION**

On going to the shop in November 2023 the officers found that most of the allegations made in the various complaints had some credence; Officers seized illicit vapes which are illegal as they have far larger tanks sizes of content than is legal under current legislation.

There were many bottles of spirits whose provenance appeared to be suspicious based on their condition and appearance in the shop.

There appeared to be a significant number of people wandering in and around the shop whose presence appeared to be unwarranted.

All of this is particularly concerning considering that an officer had been to the shop previously to warn and advise them specifically about the matters raised.

The premises licence holder and DPS is currently listed on the public register as a Mr Gurpreet Singh Samrai. He was not present on the day of the inspection. Both members of staff appeared to give the impression that they were in charge, indeed both appeared to give the impression that each other was. They did not appear to have much knowledge of licensing matters and were not convincing of being in control of the shop or of much of the outward circumstances related to it.

**Previous history of this shop.**

As indicated above Trading Standards received a number of similar allegations about the activities in and around of the shop in the run up to the visit beforehand in June and July 2023.

It would appear in selling illicit goods and other activities this shop was giving local residents concern that it was contributing to public nuisance and crime and disorder and possibly even running the risk of persons under the age of 18 being implicated.



### Recommendations.

There is a concern that the premises licence holder and DPS may have absented himself and abrogated his responsibilities to people with much less experience in the licenced trade than is necessary for a shop of this nature.

This licence was granted in 2005, quite some years ago to a Mr Gurdeep Singh Samrai who is still listed as the premises licence holder and DPS of the premises. He was nowhere to be seen or even mentioned on the day of the visit.

In such a licence review it may be advisable to ensure that a suitably experienced and responsible DPS is in charge of the premises and is present and in control as much as possible.

Such a person should ensure that no illicit products are stocked or supplied to the general public. They should also be able to cope with the environment the shop is located in. The fact that this shop appears to have particularly challenging circumstances surrounding it such a person in charge should not make matters worse by failing to control such behaviour.

The sub-committee may wish to impose a period of suspension of the licence for all these matters to be taken into hand and may wish to consider if there is adequate supervision of the premises on a daily basis.

Equally Trading Standards would support a revocation of the licence in order that matters can be sufficiently turned around under new management.

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

If yes please state the date of that application

| Day                  | Month                | Year                 |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

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

N/A

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

Date 28/11/2023

Capacity Chief Inspector of Weights & Measures

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

Post town

Post Code

Telephone number (if any)

If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional)

**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.