

Ishrat Habib Statement

My name is Ishrat Habib , I was at the premises on the day that two west midlands police officers attended at Broadnews , upon entry the police officers never identified themselves as police officers to me , they came across food and drink suppliers I say this because they were looking at confectionary items. One of the police officer asked me for Mr Sritharan Mailraganam , they had a really hard time pronouncing Mr Sritharan Mailraganam name. It took him three attempts and still couldn't get it right. By that time I have stopped listening to what he has to say thinking he was a food company rep trying to sell stock. He was standing more than 10 feet away and I was dealing with customer and the shop front door was opened and street noise filled the shop. Then he went on to saying that he needed to speak with someone. I had assume it was about purchasing the stock so I called Mr Mir Awais Khan, as he is the stock manager. That is what I have been told - if any food rep comes to call Mr Khan.

I have told the police officer I called Mr Khan - he is on the way. The police officer then asked me what does mr Awais Khan do here in the shop. I pointed to confectionery items and said he manages this. The officer replied OKAY.

In the meanwhile some customer approaches the counter after dealing with the customers I had asked the same officer what is it regarding, then he approached the shop counter and produced a west midland police badge and said he was here to speak to someone regarding the new license and then he stepped back away and started walking up and down in the shop. So I had called Mr Awais Khan again to tell him the two people are not company reps but in fact, west midlands police and they wanted to speak someone regarding the application for A1 Broadnews.

By that time more customers have come into the shop with their kids and they were being difficult to manage, i.e picking things up and putting them back. Their mothers told the children off touching the items. While this was going on both officers proceeded to walk off the premises but before they left , they had one of them asked me a questions on the lines of " who owns the alcohol". I found that questions a bit strange then I have pointed to Mr Abdullah Khan personal license which is located on the cigarrete counter and said "him". I don't know why he would asked such a question but that's what I heard. I wasn't sure at the question but at the same I didn't want to annoy him by asking him to repeat the question as he is a police officer and I thought he might get offended of me asking to repeat himself in front of customers, so I left it alone.

Both officers then walked off the premises saying they would be waiting outside.

I failed the test purchase that trading standard carried out and I know there is nothing I can say or do to change that. I have never taken any training from Mr Awais Khan nor do I answer to him, he is a stock controller and I know there isn't going to be a job position for me when the lease is surrendered back to the landlord. I am truly sorry for the lapse in my judgment, I want to say sorry to everyone for letting them down. I am putting their livelihood at risk for my fault. I am sorry that Mr Awais Khan is being treated unfairly and being accountable for my actions. All I can ask that Committee give him a fair chance, he shouldn't be punished for my actions.

On the 20th of Feb 2020, I was covering for employee Miss Shazia Begum. The officers assumed that I was covering for the man who came in and said words on the lines of is it you who supposed to be covering. The man replied No. He was only an employee and have no responsibility for the business. That man was Mr. Awais Khan.