

Please consider this document as a continuation page regarding Kent Police objection to the authorisation of a designated premises supervisor variation at Best One, 16 Hawthorn Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1BB. Due to the following exceptional circumstances of this case, Kent Police are satisfied that the granting of the application would undermine the licensing objectives.

On 17th August 2023, prior to receiving this designated premises supervisor (DPS) variation request, Kent Police submitted an application for a review of the premises licence at Best One Hawthorn Road. This was due to Kent Police becoming increasingly concerned that in recent weeks and months the premises has seemingly failed to promote the licensing objectives, in particular those relating to the prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm. The application for review is still in a consultation period and a date of hearing is yet to be scheduled. Kent Police are such that we seek revocation of the premises licence.

Mr Roopesh Kapoor is the premises licence holder and Mr Vijay Kapoor the designated premises supervisor.

The objections regarding this DPS variation are very much aligned to the evidence and concerns documented within the application for review submitted to the licensing authority on 17th June 2023 and includes:

- Admissions made by Roopesh Kapoor on 27th July that Vijay Kapoor had not worked at the premises for several years, thus operating and conducting licensable activity without a DPS resulting in local authority licensing issuing a S.19 closure notice.
- The reinstatement of Vijay Kapoor as DPS on 27th July seemingly being a paper exercise only.
- The seizure of 86 illegal vape products from the premises during a multi-agency visit made to the premises on 27th July 2023.
- Numerous allegations of underage sales relating to age restricted products namely vapes, being made at the premises.
- Unconfirmed reports that stolen products are sold within the store.
- Breach of premises licence conditions.
- A lack of faith in Roopesh Kapoor's ability to promote the objectives.

The application for review document covers each of the above points in greater detail, a copy of which we can confirm has been served upon Roopesh Kapoor, hence our reason for only providing bullet points within this specific representation, points that can be elaborated on in a hearing if necessary.

Whilst Vijay Kapoor was the named DPS during the period of time leading to the application for review, by his own admission it was Roopesh Kapoor the premises licence holder that was in day to day control and managing the the premises at that time.

It would even be fair to suggest that the sale of illegal vape products would also undermine and engage the public safety licensing objective.

It is our understanding that Roopesh Kapoor has only very recently undertaken a course to become a personal licence holder which has then enabled him to apply for the position of DPS. The stand alone action that Roopesh Kapoor has undertaken a personal licence course does not alleviate Kent Police concerns or restore our faith in his ability to become a responsible operator or promote the licensing objectives.

Kent Police do not support this variation and request that the application be denied.