

Licensing Committee – 21st March 2024

Summary Review (Interim Steps hearing) – RP Patel Newsagent, 80a Waterloo Street Crumpsall, Manchester

Applicant – GMP – PC Alan Isherwood in attendance

PLH – not in attendance

The Committee considered the representations made on behalf of GMP and noted that the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) was not in attendance. Both the written and oral representations were taken into account.

In reaching its decision the Committee have also considered the Council's statement of Licensing Policy, the Licensing Act 2003, the Guidance issued by the Secretary of state under Section 182 of the Act and the licensing objectives.

Decision:

Suspend the Premises Licence with immediate effect pending the final hearing.

Reasons:

The Committee was concerned by the evidence obtained by GMP arising out of a search of the premises on the 14th of March 2024 when a warrant was executed.

An officer from GMP searched a handbag belonging to a member of staff and inside was a single snap bag of cannabis and a joint containing cannabis.

Officers then conducted a search of the rear of the premises and in one of the rooms noticed that the carpet did not appear to be fixed to the floor. Upon pulling the carpet back, a door to the cellar was discovered.

Directly behind the stairs leading down to the cellar, a large plastic container and carrier bag containing a significant amount of suspected cannabis was discovered, thirty large sandwich type bags in the plastic container and twenty-eight large sandwich bags, located in the plastic carrier bag.

In the back room of the premises, there were thirty-one sleeves of cigarettes found which were believed to be for selling without payment of the appropriate tax being made.

In addition, thirty-four snap bags of cocaine and a block believed to be class A drugs along with a cutting agent, drugs packaging and scales was discovered in a metal cabinet.

Also recovered was an axe and a ball bearing firing rifle.

GMP advised the Committee that a staff member and the Premises Licence Holder had both been arrested and bailed until June 2024 in relation to allegations of Possession of Cocaine and Class B drugs with Intent to Supply.

The Committee viewed the matters extremely seriously and agreed with the representations of GMP that the Premises was associated with serious crime and that it was appropriate to suspend the Premises Licence with immediate effect pending the final hearing.

For the purpose of Section 53B(5)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 immediate notice of the decision and reasons was given at the hearing.

