

Licensing Sub-**Committee Report**

Item No:	
Licensing Ref No:	14/09910/LIREVP
Date:	12 February 2015
Classification:	For General Release
Title of Report:	Top Look Food & Wine 528 Harrow Road London W9 3QF
Report of:	Operational Director – Premises Management
Policy context:	City of Westminster Statement of Licensing Policy
Financial summary:	None
Report Author:	Sharon Bamborough Assistant Service Manager (Licensing)
Contact Details:	Telephone: 020 7641 7824 E-mail: sbamborough@westminster.gov.uk

1. APPLICATION DETAILS:

Application Type:	Review of a Premises Licence under	he Licensing Ac	t 2003.
Applicant:	The Licensing Authority	Date Application Received:	13 November 2014
Premises Name and Address:	Top Look Food & Wine 528 Harrow Road London W9 3QF	Licensee:	MR VEERASINGHAM & MR SARAVANI RAJARATNAM
Ward:	Harrow Road	Stress Area:	No
Premises Description:	The premise operates as a supermark	cet	
GUIDANCE	Guidance issued under section 182 of that at any stage following the grant of such as the Police or the Environment can seek a review, may ask the Licen because of a matter arising at the prelicensing objectives. As such, in accordance with section 5 Licensing Authority must hold a hearing relevant representations.	f a premises lice tal Health Servic sing Authority to mises in connect 2(2) of the above	nce, a responsible authority, e, or any other person who review the premises licence tion with any of the four e-mentioned Act, the

1. SUMMARY OF APPLICATION

- 1.1 An application submitted by the Licensing Authority for a review of the premises licence for Top Look Food & Wine, 528 Harrow Road, London, W9 3QF, was received on 13th November 2014 on the grounds of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder. Please see Annex A1
- 1.2 On 8th May 2014, during an operation between customs and excise and trading standards, alcohol was seized from the premises when it became apparent that Excise Duty had not been paid on the goods. This is an offence under the S 170 of the Customs and Excise management Act 1979 and S144 of the Licensing Act 2003.
- 1.3 The premises currently benefits from a premises licence that permits:

Private Entertainment consisting of dancing, music or other entertainment of a like kind for consideration and with a view to profit Unrestricted

Sale by Retail of Alcohol (Off Sales)

Monday to Saturday

08:00 to 23:00

Sunday

10:00 to 22:30

Regulated entertainment (recorded music and private entertainment): Unrestricted

The opening hours of the premises:

Monday to Saturday

08:00 to 23:00

Sunday

10:00 to 22:30

1.4 A copy of the existing Premises Licence (06/12298/WCCMAP) is attached at **Appendix A1 of** the applicant's bundle (Annex A1)

2. REPRESENTATIONS:

2.1 A local resident has written in support of the review application stating that there is considerable street drinking in the area leading to public nuisance and crime and disorder, and would support less establishments being licensed to sell it **Please refer to Annex B1**

3. LICENCEES SUBMISSIONS:

3.1 There have been no submissions from the licence holders.

4. OPTIONS:

- 4.1 The Authority must, having regard to the application and the representations, take such steps (if any), as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The steps are:
 - (a) to modify the conditions of the licence;
 - (b) to exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence;
 - (c) to remove the designated premises supervisor;
 - (d) to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;
 - (e) to revoke the licence;
 - and for this purpose the conditions of the licence are modified if any of them is altered or omitted or any new condition added.
- 4.2 In accordance with section 52(6) of the 2003 Act, if the authority takes measures to modify conditions or exclude licensable activities from the licence, it may stipulate that the modification or exclusion is to have effect for only such period (not exceeding three months) as it may specify.
- 6.3 The licensing authority's determination of this application does not have effect until the 21 day appeal period has expired or if the decision is appealed the date the appeal is determined and / or disposed of.

5. LICENSING ACT 2003 APPLICATIONS AND APPEAL HISTORY

5.1 Any applications and appeals under the Licensing Act 2003 are set out in Appendix C.

List of Appendices:	 Annex A – Application for Review Appendix 1 – Copy of current premises licence Appendix 2 – Witness Statement of Nicholas Parker (HMRC) with photos Appendix 3 – Witness statement of Maria Johnson (WCC) Annex B – Local residential representation in support of review
	Annex C – Licence and Appeal History Annex D – Residential Map and list of premises in the vicinity Annex E – Photograph of premises

Background Documents - Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972

- Licensing Act 2003
- City of Westminster Statement of Licensing Policy (7th January 2011)
- Amended Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (June 2013)



PREMISES MANAGEMENT LICENSING SERVICE

1 3 NOV 2014

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

City of Westminster

APPLICATION FOR REVIEW

Please forward <u>one copy</u> of your completed application and any supporting documentation to:

Licensing Service
REVIEWS
Westminster City Council
Westminster City Hall
14th Floor
64 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QP

<u>AND</u>

Please give <u>one copy</u> of your application and any supporting documentation to the Holder of the Premises Licence and each of the following responsible authorities on the same day that the application is served on the Licensing Service;

- The Chief Officer of Police Westminster Police Liaison Team 4th Floor, Westminster City Hall
 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP
- 2. Fire Safety Regulation: South West Area 4 169 Union Street London SE1 0LL
- 3. Premises Management (Environmental Health; Health & Safety; Weights and Measures)

Westminster City Council
Environmental Health Consultation Team
4th Floor, Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP

Continued.....

4. Development Planning Services
Westminster City Council
64 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QP

5. Area Child Protection Committee
Head of Commissioning – Child Protection & Quality, Social and Community
Services – Children and Families
4 Frampton Street
NW8 8LF

6. Director of Public Health
Inner North West London Primary Care Trusts
(Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster)

15 Marylebone Road, London

NW1 5JD

For boats only

The Navigation Authority (for vessels not permanently moored)

Tidal Thames
The Harbour Master
The Port of London Authority, 7 Harp Lane, London EC3R 6LB

Non Tidal Thames
The Environment Agency Recreation and Navigation, Thames Region, Kings
Meadow House, Kings Meadow Road, Reading, RG1 8DQ

Canals
The Leisure Manager
British Waterways Board
1 Sheldon Square, Paddington Central, London W2 6TT

And

The Surveyor General
The Maritime & Coastguard Agency, Orpington Marine Office, Central Court, 1 Knoll
Rise

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.

(Insert name of applicant)	nent		
apply for the review of a premises licence under	section 51 / apply for	the review of a cl	ub
premises certificate under section 87 of the Lice	nsing Act 2003 for the	e premises descri	oed in
Part 1 below (delete as applicable)			
Part 1 – Premises or club premises details	1(4		
Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance	survey map reference	ce or description	
Top Look Food and Wine, 528 Harrow Road			
Top Look Food and Wille, 520 Harrow Road			
y 148	%		
		72	
120	Post code (if known	1 W0 30E	
Post town London	Post code (ii known	i) as a art.	
*		2	30
Name of premises licence holder or club holding	club premises certifi	cate (if know n)	
Mr Veerasingam Arulananthan and Mr Saravar	ni Rajaratnam		
MF Veerasingam Armananman and Mr Garavar	II I (ajaramain		
× × × × × × × × × × × × × × × × × × ×			j.
Number of premises licence or club premises ce	rtificate (if known)		
40	8	34 10	
06/12298/WCCMAP			
Part 2 - Applicant details			
Part 2 - Applicant details		- 64	
lam			
		Please tick	√ yes
4) 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	noncible	(*)	×
1) an Individual, body or business which is not a respatch ority (please read guidance note 1, and complete	e (A)		- 🗔
or (B) below)	· /		
, ,			/
2) a responsible authority (please complete (C) belo	w)		₩.
Z) a respensive dament of	•		
3) a member of the club to which this application rela	ates		
(please complete (A) below)	*		
		*	

(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT (fill in as applicable)

Please tick ✓ yes	w.
Mr 🗋 Mrs 🗌 Miss 🔲 M	S Other title (for example, Rev)
Surname	First names
6	
l 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	er e
Name and address	
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8	*
	a es
Telephone number (if any)	
E-mail address (optional)	

e

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address The Licensing Authority – Premises Management Westminster City Council 64 Victoria Street London SW1E 6QP	
Westminster City Council 64 Victoria Street London	
Telephone number (if any)	11
020 7 641 3385	
E-mail address (optional)	
mjohnson5@westminster.gov.uk	
This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)	
1) the prevention of crime and disorder 2) public safety Please tick one or more boxes ✓ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □	

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

This establishment operates as an off-licence / convenience store and is licensed for regulated entertainment – playing of recorded music and private entertainment consisting of dancing, music or other entertainment of a like kind for consideration and with a view to profit and for the sale by retail of alcohol.

The sale of alcohol is permitted from Monday to Saturday – 08:00 to 23:00 and Sunday from 10:00 to 22:00.

On 8 May 2014, during an operation by Customs and Excise and Trading Standards, alcohol was seized from the premises when it became apparent that no Excise Duty had been paid on the goods.

This is an offence under S.170 Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 and S. 144 of the Licensing Act 2003.

This Incident undermines the Licensing Objective of:

1. Crime and Disorder

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 3)

The licence is held by Mr Veerasingam Arulananthan and Mr Saravani Rajaratnam and is operated as a convenience store and off-licence. The designated premises supervisor is Mr Veerasingham Arulananthan, who is also one of the licence holders. The licence was granted on 28 November 2006.

See Appendix 1 for a copy of the premises licence and photographs of the premises.

On 8 May 2014 a joint visit was carried out by officers from Customs and Excise and Trading Standards. This visit was carried out as a result of intelligence which had been gathered by Customs and Excise and Westminster's Trading Standards Officers.

See Appendix 2 for a copy of the statement from the Customs and Excise Officer, dated 24 July 2014

The person in charge at the time of the visit, Mr Premananthan Sachitharanthasarma, described himself as the owner of the premises. The officers identified a quantity of canned beers in the storeroom at the rear of the premises. Mr Sachitharanthasarma was asked to provide purchase records in respect of the canned beers. Mr Sachitharanthasarma said that many of the beers in the store room were purchased from a "delivery man" without an invoice. The Customs and Excise officer believed that the UK duty had not been paid on the alcohol.

The officers also identified a quantity of wine on the shelves in a downstairs storeroom. Mr Sachitharanthasarma confirmed that this wine had been purchased from the same "delivery man". The Customs and Excise Officer believed that this alcohol had also been purchased without the duty being paid.

The Customers Officer seized the canned beers and the wine for which no invoice could be supplied, pursuant to Section 139 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 as the goods were liable to forfeiture on the basis that, on the balance of probabilities, the UK excise duty had not been paid.

In total the following items were seized:

683.616 litres of canned beers

103.5 litres of wine.

The duty attributed to the seized stock amounted to £1396.41, including VAT.

It is an offence contrary to S 170 of the Excise Management Act 1979 to evade excise duty on goods and Mr Sachitharanthasarma was issued with a warning letter. He was also given a booklet explaining his right to appeal the seizure of the alcohol. To date this has not been done. In addition it is also an offence contrary to S 144 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the Designated Premises Supervisor and / or holder of a premises licence to "knowingly keep on licensed premises any goods without payment of duty".

Formal legal letters were sent by Westminster Council to both licence holders (one of whom is also the Designated Premises Supervisor). Mr Veerasingam Arulananthan attended an interview under caution on 16 September 2014. During the interview Mr Arulananthan confirmed that he was aware that purchases were made by cash from unauthorised retailers but said the majority of purchases were made to legitimate cash

and carry retailers. Although he did not purchase the alcohol, he took full responsibility as the licence holder and Designated Premises Supervisor. He said no purchases would take place in future from an unauthorised retailer and receipts would be available for viewing at the premises.

See Appendix 3 for a copy of the statement dated 17 September 2014 regarding the interview

In the statutory "Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003" (under the heading of "Reviews arising in connection with crime") it states:

- 11.27 There is certain criminal activity that may arise in connection with licensed premises which should be treated particularly seriously. These are the use of licensed premises:
 - For the sale of smuggled tobacco and alcohol.
- 11.28 It is envisaged that licensing authorities, the police and other law enforcement agencies, which are responsible authorities, will use the review procedures effectively to deter such activities and crime. Where reviews arise and the licensing authority determines that the crime prevention objective is being undermined through the premises being used to further crimes, it is expected that revocation of the licence even in the first instance should be seriously considered.

Have you made a premises before	an application for rev	lew relating to the	ė		
If yes please stat	te the date of that app	olication	D	ay Month	Year
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If you have mad when you made	e representations b	efore relating to	the premises	please state w	hat they were and
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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 I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION 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 12 11 14 Capacity The Licensing Authority Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 6) Ar Andrew Ralph Service Manager The Licensing Authority – Premises Management Tity Hall 4 Victoria Street	Please tick ✓ yes	
SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION 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 12 11 14 Capacity The Licensing Authority Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 6) Air Andrew Ralph Service Manager The Licensing Authority – Premises Management City Hall	the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application	
Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 6) Ar Andrew Ralph Service Manager The Licensing Authority – Premises Management City Hall	SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION 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	OK.
vith this application (please read guidance note 6) Ar Andrew Ralph Service Manager The Licensing Authority – Premises Management Sity Hall		
	vith this application (please read guidance note 6) Ir Andrew Ralph Service Manager The Licensing Authority – Premises Management Sity Hall	

Notes for Guidance

Post town

London

1. A responsible authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.

Post Code

SW1E 6QP

- 2. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
- 3. Please list any additional information or detalls for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.

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

4. The application form must be signed.

Telephone number (if any) 020 7641 3385

(optional) mjohnson5@westminster.gov.uk

- 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.



City of Westminster 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E-6QP

Schedule 12 Part A WARD: Harrow Road UPRN: 999000058444

Premises licence

Regulation 33, 34

Premises licence number:	06/12298/WCC	MAP
Part 1 – Premises details		
Postal address of premises:	,	9
Top Look Food and Wine 528 Harrow Road		
London W9 3QF	*	
Telephone Number: 020 8960	2937	
Where the licence is time limit	ed, the dates:	
INIA	5 ¹	

Licensable activities authorised by the licence:

Regulated Entertainment

- Playing of Recorded Music

 Private Entertainment consisting of dancing, music or other entertainment of a like kind for consideration and with a view to profit

Sale by Retail of Alcohol

The times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities:

Regulated Entertainment:

Playing of Recorded Music: Unrestricted

 Private Entertainment consisting of dancing, music or other entertainment of a like kind for consideration and with a view to profit: Unrestricted

Sale by Retail of Alcohol: Monday to Saturday - 08:00 to 23:00

Sale by Retail of Alcohoi: Sunday - 10:00 to 22:30

For times authorised for Christmas and Good Friday see conditions at Annex 1

The opening hours of the premises:

Monday to Saturday - 08:00 to 23:00 Sunday - 10:00 to 22:30

Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol, whether these are on and/or off supplies:

Off

Part 2 Name, (registered) address, telephone number and email (where relevant) of holder of premises licence: Mr Veerasingam Arulananthan 21 Corfe Avenue South Harrow Middlesex HA2 8TA Telephone Number: 020 8960 2937 Mobile Phone Number: 078 0144 3356 Mr Saravani Rajaratnam 65 Shaftesbury Avenue South Harrow Middlesex Harrow HA2 OPP Telephone Number: 020 8423 8318 Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable) N/A Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol: Veerasingham Arulananthan Name: 21 Corfe Avenue Address: South Harrow Middlesex HA2 8TA Not Supplied Phone: Personal licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises for the supply of alcohol: Not Supplied Licence Number: Licensing Authority: Not Supplied Date:

Director of Legal & Administrative Services

Signed:

Annex 1 - Mandatory conditions

- 1. No supply of alcohol may be made at a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of this licence.
- 2. No supply of alcohol may be made at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or the personal licence is suspended.
- 3. Every supply of alcohol under this licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

Conditions which reproduce the effect of any restriction imposed on the use of the premises by specified enactments.

Conditions for Sale of Alcohol

4. Alcohol shall not be sold or supplied except during permitted hours.

In this condition, permitted hours means:

- (a) On weekdays, other than Christmas Day, 08:00 to 23:00
- (b) On Sundays, other than Christmas Day, 10:00 to 22:30
- (c) On Christmas Day, 12:00 to 15:00 and 19:00 to 22:30
- (d) On Good Friday, 08:00 to 22:30

The above restrictions do not prohibit:

- (a) during the first twenty minutes after the above hours, the taking of the alcohol from the premises unless the alcohol is supplied or taken in an open vessel;
- (b) ordering of alcohol to be consumed off the premises, or the despatch by the vendor of the alcohol so ordered;
- (c) sale of alcohol to a trader or club for the purposes of the trade or club;
- (d) the sale or supply of alcohol to any canteen or mess, being a canteen in which the sale or supply of alcohol is carried out under the authority of the Secretary of State or an authorised mess of members of Her Majesty's naval, military or air forces.
- 5. Alcohol shall not be sold in an open container or be consumed in the licensed premises.

Annex 2 – Conditions consistent with the operating Schedule

None

Annex 3 – Conditions attached after a hearing by the licensing authority

None

Annex 4 - Plans

Attached



City of Westminster

64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP

Schedule 12 Part B

WARD: Harrow Road UPRN: 999000058444

Premises licence summary

Regulation 33, 34

Premises licence number:	06/12298/WCCMAP

Part 1 - Premises details

Postal address of premises:

Top Look Food and Wine 528 Harrow Road London W9 3QF

Telephone Number: 020 8960 2937

Where the licence is time limited, the dates:

N/A

Licensable activities authorised by the licence:

Regulated Entertainment

Playing of Recorded Music

Private Entertainment consisting of dancing, music or other entertainment of a like kind for consideration and with a view to profit

Sale by Retail of Alcohol

The times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities:

Regulated Entertainment:

Playing of Recorded Music: Unrestricted

Private Entertainment consisting of dancing, music or other entertainment of a like kind for consideration and with a view to profit: Unrestricted

Sale by Retail of Alcohol: Monday to Saturday - 08:00 to 23:00

Sale by Retail of Alcohol: Sunday - 10:00 to 22:30

For times authorised for Christmas and Good Friday see conditions at Annex 1.

The opening hours of the premises:

Monday to Saturday - 08:00 to 23:00 Sunday - 10:00 to 22:30

APPENDIX 2

WITNESS STATEMENT OF NICHOLAS PARKER

Visit to Top Look Food & Wine, 528 Harrow Road, London W9 3QF

I, Nicholas Parker, Officer of Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs, (HMRC) based at Custom House, 20 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EE WILL SAY as follows:

- 1. On 8th May 2014, accompanied by other Officers of HMRC and Officers from City Of Westminster Trading Standards, I attended Top Look Food & Wine at 528 Harrow Road, London W9 3QF under the authority of section 112 of the Customs & Excise Management Act. I entered the premises at 14:10 hours.
- During the course of the visit I identified a quantity of canned beers in the storeroom at the rear of the premises. I asked Mr Premananthan Sachitharanthasarma, the owner, to provide purchase records in respect of these canned beers. Mr Sachitharanthasarma subsequently admitted that many of the beers in the storeroom were purchased from a 'delivery van' without an invoice. This admission led me to believe, on the balance of probabilities that UK duty had not been paid on the alcohol in question.
 - I also queried a quantity of wine on the shelves and found in a downstairs storeroom. Mr Sachitharanthasarma admitted that this wine came from the same 'delivery van' without an invoice. This further admission led me to believe, on the balance of probabilities that UK duty had not been paid on the wine in question.
 - 4. As a result of these admissions I made the decision to seize the canned beers in the storeroom for which no invoice could be found and the wine that Mr Sachitharanthasarma admitted he did not have purchase invoices for, pursuant to section 139 of the Customs & Excise Management Act 1979 as the goods were liable to forfeiture on the basis that, on the balance of probabilities, the UK excise duty had not been paid.

- 5. In total 683.616 litres of canned beers and 103.5 litres of wine were seized. The duty attributed to the seized stock amounted to £1396.41, including VAT.
- 6. Mr Sachitharanthasarma was issued with a seizure information notice, a warning letter and a booklet explaining his right to appeal the seizure after which Officers of HMRC left the premises, at 15:36 hours. To date I am not aware of any appeal against the seizure.

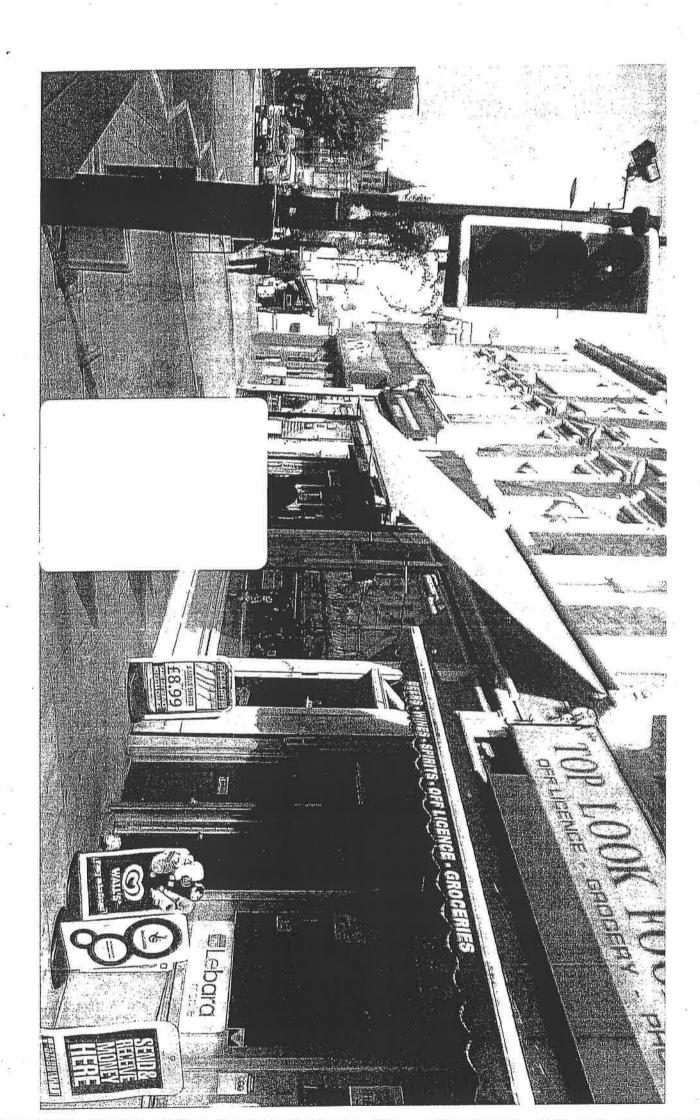
Statement of Truth

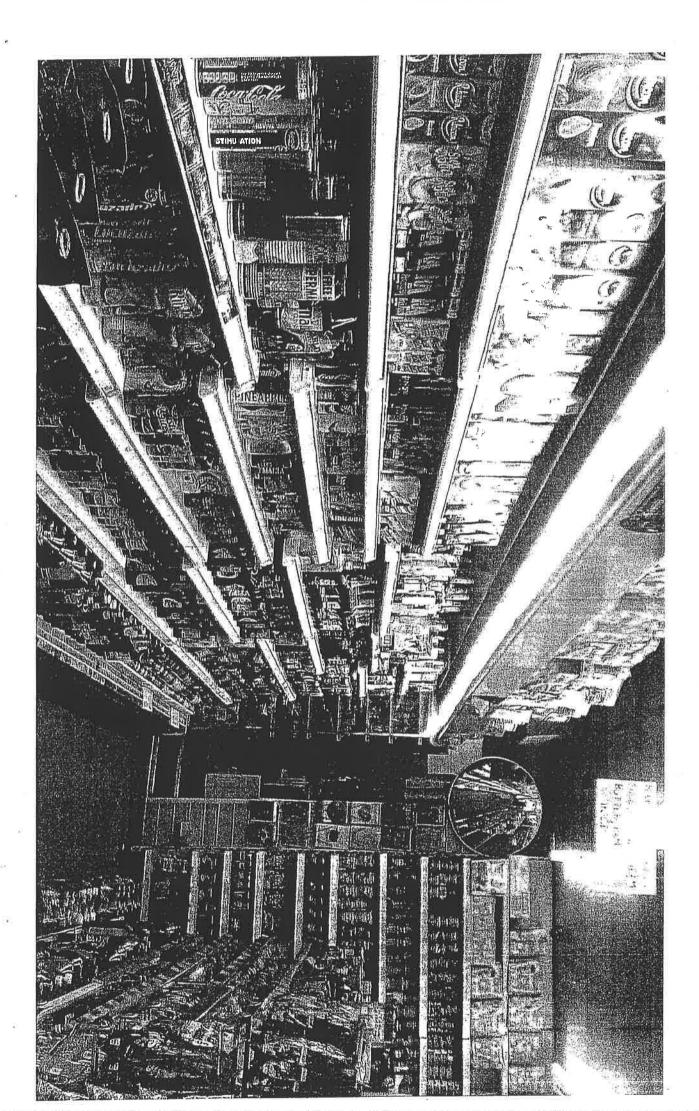
I believe that the facts contained in this witness statement are true.

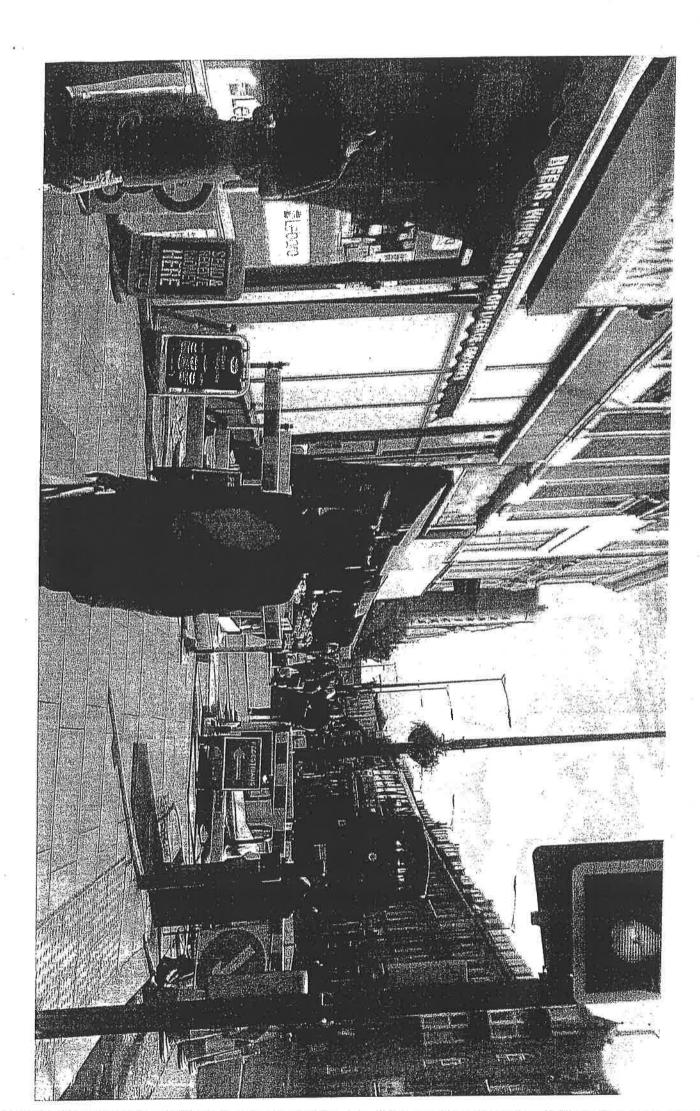
Signed:

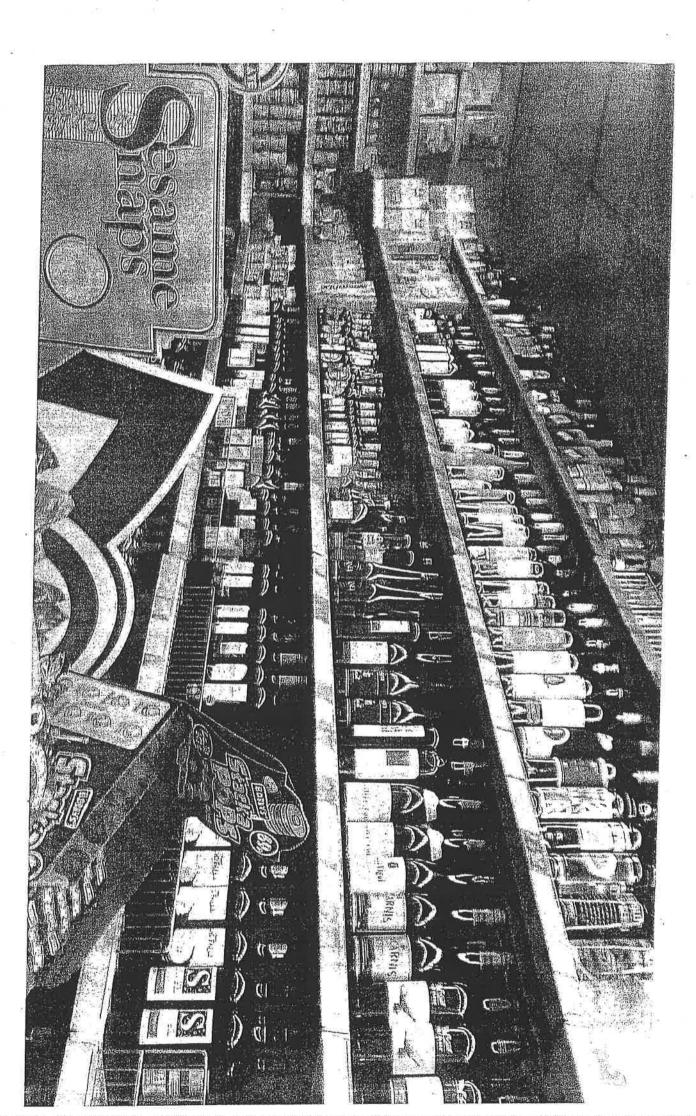
NICHOLAS PARKER

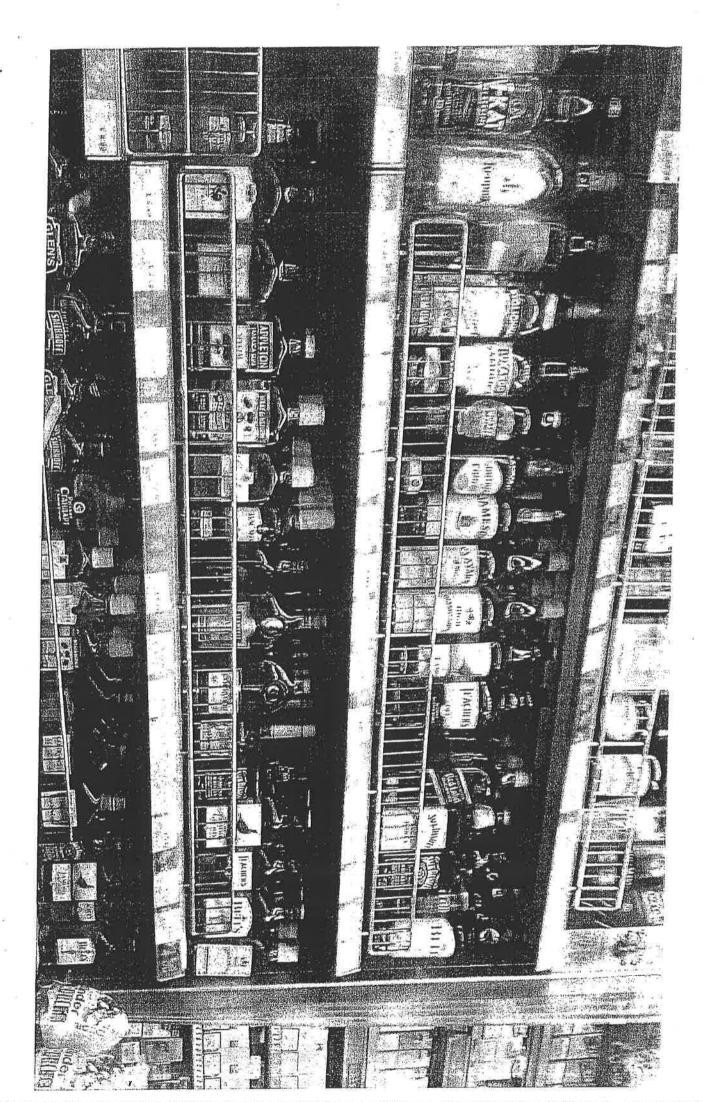
Dated 24th July 2014











APPENDIX 3

WITNESS STATEMENT

(C.J. Act, 1967, s.9; M.C. Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, r.27.1 (1))

Statement of:

Maria Johnson

Age if under 18

Over 18 (if over 18 insert

Occupation

Licensing Inspector

'over 18')

Address and Telephone Number:

Westminster City Council Premises Management Licensing Inspectorate City Hall, Fourth Floor 64 Victoria Street LONDON SW1E 6QP

Tel: 0207 641 3385

This statement (consisting of 3 pages 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.

Dated:

17 September 2014

Signature:

I am employed by Westminster City Council as a Licensing Inspector for Premises Management and I have held this position since November 2006. I am authorised to enter and inspect premises, make enquiries within these premises, then to exercise the functions and powers as contained under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.

A statement was passed to me dated 24 July 2014, from Nicholas Parker, Officer of Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs, which is attached as Annex A. The statement provides details that a visit was made to Top Look Food and Wine which is situated at 528 Harrow Road, London, W9 3QF. It states that during the course of the visit Mr Nicholas Parker identified a quantity of canned beers in the storeroom at the rear of the premises and a quantify of wine on the shelves found in the downstairs storeroom. Mr Nicholas Parker spoke to the person on the premises, Mr Sachitharanthasarma, who identified himself as the owner of the premises. Mr Nicholas Parker asked Mr Sachitharanthasarma where the alcohol had been purchased from and he replied that it had been purchased from a delivery man and no invoice was available.

Signature

Signature witnessed by:

lic450/2-ds/0 07/08/01

WITNESS STATEMENT

(C.J. Act, 1967, s.9; M.C. Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, r.27.1 (1))

Continuation of statement of: Maria Johnson

The alcohol was seized, pursuant to section 139 of the Customs & Excise Management Act 1979 as the goods were liable to forfeiture on the basis that, on the balance of probabilities, the UK excise duty ad not been paid.

Upon receipt of this information I checked the licence status of the premises. A premise licence is held for the sale of alcohol from 08:00 to 23:00 Monday to Saturday and from 10:00 to 22:30 on Sunday. The licence holders are Mr Veerasingam Arulananthan and Mr Saravani Rajaratnam and the Designated Premises Supervisor is Veerasingham Arulananthan. I wrote to both licence holders (Mr Arulananthan is both licence holder and DPS) and invited them to attend an interview at Westminster Council. A copy of the licence is attached as Annex B.

An interview took place on 16 September 2014 and Mr Veerasingham Arulananthan attended the interview. I cautioned Mr Arulananthan. During the interview Mr Arulananthan confirmed that he was join owner of the premises with Mr Sachitharanthasarma, who was at the premises during the Customs and Excise visit on 8 May 2014. Mr Arulananthan confirmed that he was the Designated Premises Supervisor. I asked Mr Arulananthan if he was aware of the Customs and Excise visit on 8 May 2014 and he confirmed that he was. I asked if he was in a position to produce the invoices that had been requested by Customs and Excise during their visit and he said that he was not.

Mr Arulananthan confirmed that Mr Sachitharanthasarma was on duty during the visit on 8 May 2014 and he was a personal licence holder and joint owner of the premises and was left in charge of the premises on that basis.

Mr Arulananthan said that Mr Sachitharanthasarma worked at the shop five days a week and that he, Mr Arulananthan, worked at the shop two days a week. He said that Mr Sachitharanthasarma has the authority to take money from the till and make cash purchases if required, which is often does.

I asked who was in charge of the purchase of alcohol and Mr Arulananthan said that Mr Sachitharanthasarma was in charge of any cash purchases and he was in charge of making purchases from cash and carry outlets and usually made purchases from Bestway, Crown and Hote.

I asked how Mr Sachitharanthasarma made sure that alcohol purchased in cash had full duty paid and he said that he had made purchases without being clear that duty had been paid.

Signature Signature

Signature witnessed by:

WITNESS STATEMENT

(C.J. Act, 1967, s.9; M.C. Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, r.27.1 (1))

Continuation of statement of: Maria Johnson

I asked Mr Arulananthan if he was aware that purchasing alcohol that duty had not been paid was an offence and he confirmed that he did know that. I told Mr Arulananthan that Mr Sachitharanthasarma told Customs Officials that he had purchased the seized alcohol from a "delivery man" and that there was no invoice available. Mr Arulananthan said that it had happened in the past, that alcohol was purchased without any paper work.

I asked why the purchase was made under these circumstances and Mr Arulananthan said that it was a good offer but that the vast quantity of alcohol was purchased from the cash and carry and that invoices are available. There is a folder of invoices available for inspection at the shop. Mr Arulananthan said that he was responsible for the sales cash and carry purchases and goes to the cash and carry almost every day. Any additional purchase are made by Mr Sachitharanthasarma.

I asked Mr Arulananthan if he had anything further to add and he said that he had been involved with the establishment for more than 11 years and there have been no previous issues with the police or any complaints. He said that in future all purchases will be made at cash and carry outlets only and all invoices will be available for inspection by the relevant authorities. The Council records confirm that there have been no recorded incidents or complaints regarding the premises.

Bamborough, Sharon

ANNEX B

To: Subject: Bamborough, Sharon FW: 528 Harrow Road

----Original Message-----

From: Bec Smith [mailto:rbec99@hotmail.com]

Sent: 17 November 2014 22:20

To: Premises Licensing
Subject: 528 Harrow Road

Top Look Food & Wine, 528 Harrow Road, W9 3QF

There is considerable illegal street alcohol drinking in this area, which the authorities do not appear to act on. For this reason, personally I would prefer less alcohol to be sold in this area as too many people have major alcohol problems, which cause anti social behaviour and crime outside my front door.

I suppose this representation relates to Prevention of Crime and Disorder, and Prevention of Public Nuisance.

Regards,

Rebecca Smith

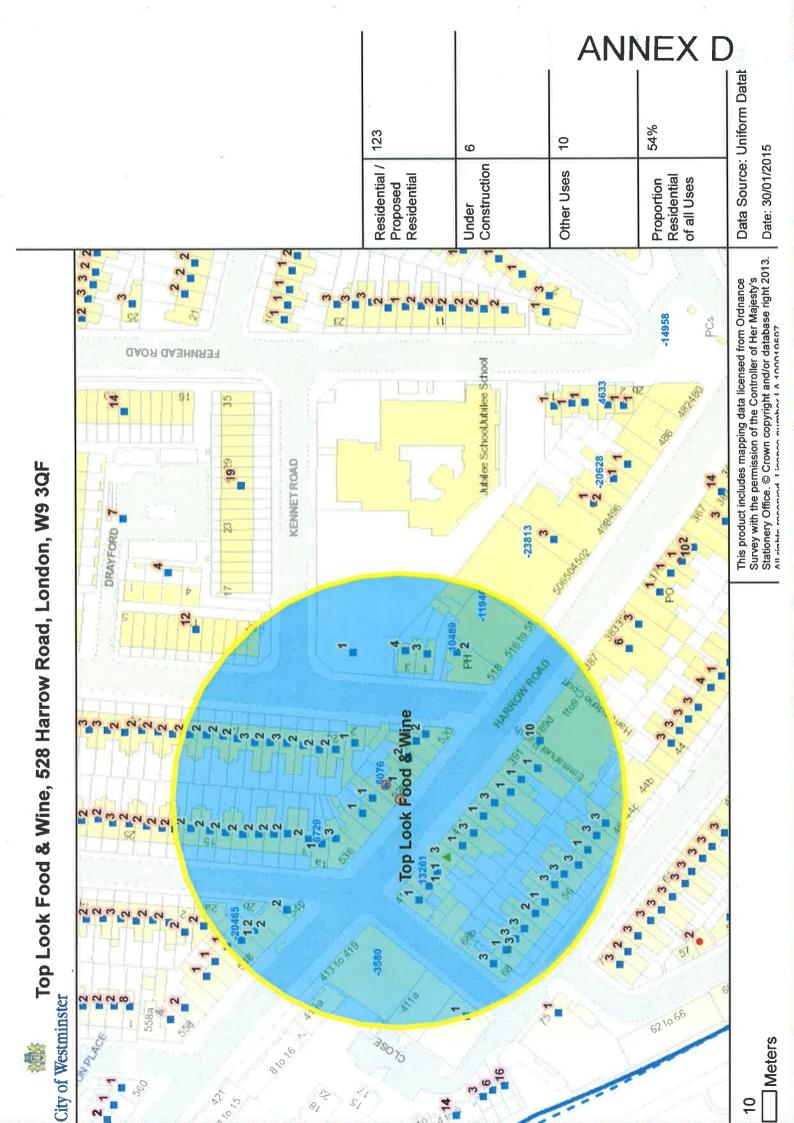
Sent from my iPad

Annex C

Licence History and Appeal Information

Application	Details of Application	Date Determined	Decision
Conversion	To convert the existing Licence	29.09.2005	Granted under delegated authority
05/08064/LIPC	existing Licence		Licence later re-issued under ref 06/12298/WCCMAP in 2006 (no changes)

There is no appeal history for this premise.



Premises Address	Licensed Hours
417-419 Harrow Road London W9 3QJ	Monday to Saturday 08:00 - 19:0 Sunday 10:00 - 18:00
1 Portnall Road London W9 3BA	Monday to Sunday 08:00 - 19:00
528 Harrow Road London W9 3QF	Monday to Saturday 08:00 - 23:0 Sunday 10:00 - 22:30
546 Harrow Road London W9 3QG	Monday to Sunday 10:00 - 01:00
409 Harrow Road London W9 3NF	Monday to Saturday 08:00 - 23:0 Sunday 10:00 - 22:30
518 Harrow Road London W9 3QA	Monday to Saturday 10:00 - 00:3 Sunday 12:00 - 00:00
	528 Harrow Road London W9 3QF 546 Harrow Road London W9 3QG 409 Harrow Road London W9 3NF

ANNEX E

