

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a hearing of **LICENSING PANEL B** held on **THURSDAY, 8TH JANUARY, 2026** at 7.00 pm, which was held remotely via Microsoft Teams.

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL PRESENT

Councillors Lorna Greenwood (Chair), Steve Adams and Jenny Headlam-Wells

The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the hearing. They are subject to approval and signature at the next hearing of Licensing Panel B and any corrections approved at that hearing will be recorded in those minutes.

MINUTES

1. GUIDANCE ON REMOTE MEETINGS HELD UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003 AND ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

RESOLVED –

THAT the guidance on remote meetings be noted.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF STATUTORY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, COMPULSORY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND VOLUNTARY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA

There were none.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Webcasting

The Chair announced that the meeting was being broadcast live to the internet and would be capable of repeated viewing and copies of the recording could be made available to those that requested them. Those participating in the meeting were deemed to be consenting to being filmed.

5. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There were none.

6. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the previous meeting.

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes for the meeting that took place on 5th June 2025 be agreed and signed as an accurate record.

7. GROCERY STORE, 47 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON, NW5 1AD

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Director Supporting Communities, which detailed an application to review a premises licence under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The Licensing Officer Steven Dormer introduced the report and explained that the review had been submitted by Trading Standards on the grounds of the licensing objectives of the protection of children from harm and the prevention of crime and disorder.

This followed multiple visits to the premises and intervention meetings with the licence holder and their representatives. The grounds for the review were detailed in the review statement contained within the agenda pack.

It was clarified that three relevant representations had been received, which were from the Licensing Responsible Authority and the Police Responsible Authority and one resident in support of the review. The Licensing Officer set out the options available to the Panel which were included in the report.

No amendments to the application were reported.

Christopher Allen representing Trading Standards, as applicant for the review, was seeking the revocation of the premises licence for the following reasons

Officers had seized illegal tobacco and illegal vapes from the shop on more than one occasion.

- April 2025: Officer bought foreign, non-duty-paid cigarettes.
- 16 April 2025: Multiple illicit tobacco products and illegal vapes were found hidden in the shop (inside sweet jars, empty whisky boxes, and other concealed places).
- 25 September 2025: A member of staff sold a 13.5% alcohol product to an under-18 in a test purchase.
- Trading Standards stated they had ongoing concerns about Mr Sadegi from a previous shop he controlled.

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- They had no confidence in him as a safe operator, as problems had continued despite repeated warnings.

The Panel was asked to take strong action to protect children and the wider community by revoking the premises licence.

The Police in support of the review were represented by PC Christopher Malone, who provided the following information to the Panel:

The police were seeking the revocation of the premises licence for the following reasons:

- Underage alcohol sale in April 2025
- An after-hours alcohol sale at 00:35am on 18 May 2025
- Repeated findings of illicit tobacco hidden around the premises
- The shop began attracting complaints from the public soon after Mr Sadegi took charge
- The Police believed adding conditions or reducing hours would be pointless, as the operator had repeatedly broken the law and it would not stop the problems
- They said Mr Sadegi blamed staff but the responsibility lay with him as Designated Premises Supervisor and owner.
- The Police recommended revocation of the licence.

The Licensing Responsible Authority, represented by Afshar Ahmad (Licensing Team Leader), outlined their representation, as set out in the written submission in the agenda pack, and provided the following information in support of the review:

The Licensing Authority focused on the protection of children from harm and said:

- A child was sold alcohol without any ID being asked for.
- CCTV footage requested after the incident was not provided.
- Officers later found the shop open and alcohol on display after the licence had lapsed.
- There were wider concerns about poor management and failure to follow the law.
- The pattern showed serious and repeated non-compliance.

They said lesser steps would not be enough and supported revocation.

The Licensing Authority Responsible Authority provided the following information in response to questions:

- The prevention of children from harm was the primary concern of the Licensing Authority and the application for review was due to the sale of alcohol to children and a focus on the findings from the joint visit with the

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other Responsible Authorities. However, the Licensing Authority had wider concerns about compliance and crime disorder.

- The initial visits by the Responsible Authorities to the premises were initiated due to complaints from residents about the operation of the premises and the attraction of people exhibiting anti-social behaviour at the premises.
- The premises licence holder demonstrated that the CCTV was working at the premises but had problems relating to how long the CCTV recorded for.

Mr Naeem Sadegi, Premises Licence Holder, addressed the Panel providing the following information:

- He said he was a “family man” and would never knowingly sell alcohol or cigarettes to young people.
- He said any problems were caused by previous shop operators or by his staff.
- He stated he had dismissed the worker who sold alcohol to the minor.
- He insisted he had CCTV but said the technician had caused problems with retrieving footage.
- He said he had now employed a more experienced worker and checked the cameras more regularly.
- He apologised and asked for “one more chance”.
- He, however, did not provide a clear plan showing how issues would be prevented in future.

In response to questions Mr Sadegi, provided the following information:

- He accepted that the witness statements from the Police and Trading Standards were correct, but said the incidents were not his fault and blamed staff rather than taking responsibility.
- Was unable to clearly explain what steps would be taken to prevent problems happening again and did not offer any improvement plan or suggested licence conditions.
- The licence holder said CCTV existed but there were problems retrieving the footage.

Trading Standards as applicant for the review made some closing remarks.

The Licensing Responsible Authority and the Police Responsible Authority made some closing remarks.

The Premises Licence Holder made some closing remarks.

Decision and Reasons

Panel Members confirmed that they had been able to follow and understand the submissions and discussion in relation to the application for review of a premises license in respect of the Grocery Store, 47 Fortess Road.

In deliberation, the Panel noted the information provided by the applicant for review, Trading Standards, and the representations from the Licencing Responsible Authority, Police Responsible Authority and the Licence Holder.

The Panel considered all legal options, including:

- Taking no action
- Adding or changing licence conditions
- Removing the Designated Premises Supervisor
- Suspending the licence
- Revoking the licence

The Panel gave clear reasons for rejecting the lesser steps of:

- No Action
- Modify Conditions
- Change DPS
- Suspend Licence

The Panel agreed these would not be suitable because:

- The premises already had a simple licence but still breached it.
- Adding conditions would not help because the operator had already failed to follow basic rules.
- Removing the DPS would not help because the DPS was also the owner.
- There was no evidence of meaningful improvement, no structured plan, and no acceptance of responsibility.
- Repeated offences showed a long-term pattern, not a single mistake.
- Underage sales and illicit goods posed serious risks to the public, especially children.

Revocation

All Panel Members agreed that:

- There had been serious and repeated breaches over a long period.
- The premises licence holder showed poor understanding of licensing law and had failed to take responsibility for his premises or his staff.
- There was no confidence that the problems would stop.

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Panel Members agreed, having deliberated on all evidence available to them, that the licence should be revoked for the following reasons:

- Protection of children from harm had been seriously undermined by the underage sale.
- Crime and disorder had been promoted through illicit tobacco, illegal vapes and attempted sales without a valid licence.
- The premises had a history of poor management and continued non-compliance.
- The licence holder failed to provide CCTV when lawfully requested.
- The Panel had no confidence that the operator could improve or uphold the licensing objectives.
- Lesser steps were not appropriate or sufficient due to the seriousness and repeated nature of the breaches.
- Revocation was appropriate and proportionate.

Given all the reasons above and having deliberated on all evidence available to them, the Panel was of the view and agreed that the licence should be revoked.

Therefore, it was

RESOLVED –

THAT the premises licence in respect of Grocery Store, 47 Fortess Road be revoked pursuant to Section 53 of the Licensing Act 2003.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There was none.

The hearing ended at 8.10 pm.

CHAIR

Contact Officer: Sola Odusina

Telephone No: 020 7974 8543

E-Mail: licensing.committee@camden.gov.uk

MINUTES END