

THE LICENSING ACT 2003 - REPRESENTATION FROM RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE

I am Jason Middleton, Principal Officer employed by Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Service.

I have delegated authority to exercise the County Council's powers and duties under relevant Trading Standards related Acts of Parliament and in this capacity to provide written and oral representations on behalf of the Lancashire County Council Head of Service for Trading Standards.

I make this statement using facts and matters within my own knowledge. Any facts and matters that are not within my own knowledge are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Service wishes to make representations in support of the application from Lancashire Police to review the premises licence at Vinny's Off Licence, 83-85 Water Street, Chorley PR7 1EX.

On 17th May 2023 an underage test purchasing operation for knives was conducted by Lancashire Police and Lancashire Trading Standards. The premises failed and a trimming knife was sold to the 13 year old test purchaser. A Trading Standards Officer was present in the shop at the time and witnessed the sale take place. The Officer heard the member of staff ask the test purchaser his age. He replied '13'. She then asked him what he was buying it for and he replied to say that it was for his mum. She then proceeded to sell the knife to the child.

Immediately after the failed test purchase the shop was revisited by Trading Standards and Police, and the member of staff informed of the failure and given relevant and proportionate advice. She claimed to have been unaware that the item was age restricted and that she was more familiar with the laws around alcohol sales. She stated that if the test purchase had been for alcohol she would not have made the sale.

On 2nd June 2023 a further test purchasing operation was carried out, this time for alcohol. The same member of staff who sold the knife on 17th May 2023 sold alcohol to the 16 and 17 year old test purchasers.

In the opinion of Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Service, the information presented is evidence that the prevention of crime and disorder and protection of children from harm licensing objectives have been disregarded at these premises.

I reserve the right to bring further evidence to any hearing, should any arise between now and then.

I believe the contents of this statement to be true.

Signed: 

Date: 16/06/2023

Jason Middleton (Principal Officer)
4th Floor Lancashire Point
County Hall
Pitt Street
Preston
PR1 0LD

Contact telephone number: 01772 538107

Email address: jason.middleton@lancashire.gov.uk