

RECEIVED 18 OCT 2022

Lucy Collier  
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To whom it may concern,

In regards to your recent Application for a review regarding the premise licence for Tonys Off Licence (50 Bolton Road, Chorley, PR73ET).

I wanted to write as I think it has been made to look like WE, as a community service are/have actively sold illegally to underage CHILDREN and are putting them at risk as you chose to state on the papers you have put on the shop front and lamppost.

I was the person who had the police arrive to help me after I was assaulted by a member of the public, who accused me of selling drugs to kids. This is NOT TRUE. Although we DID sell a whip, we ONLY sold them to people OVER 21, and to those who we knew were within the cooking/bakery industry.

on the 5th September, i was covering a 3-hour shift, starting at 7pm. whilst at work I sold ONE WHIP to a takeaway guy who works at BURGERBITES in Chorley - I knew who he was, because i ordered regularly and he recognised me - After a few minutes this, other person came in, and asked if we sold them, he looked too young so I said NO. I responded by telling him he looked high, he confirmed himself to be 'stoned as fxxx' before laughing, to which i replied with 'get yourself some water lad', he said 'Good idea!' and proceeded to buy water before leaving.

20-30 mins later, a large tall man came into the shop shaking his fists and being passive aggressive towards me, asking who is selling drugs to kids, i was highly confused and didn't really take any notice of it at first, until the door flew open and in came a woman screaming with the stoned lad from earlier but this time he barely looked at me and kept his head down, they knew I hadn't sold it to their son, they repeatedly said so in the shop, and said they didn't care, the woman was on the phone to the police saying we were selling drugs and they were going to smash up the shop, i tried to phone my boss to see what to do as i have anxiety and a fear of conflict due to my own history,

I remained amicable, civil, and told the truth throughout, that I did not sell to her son, I was out of my depth in this situation. I was attacked, punched, kneed, and had attempted kicks aimed towards my head whilst she held my head down by my jacket hood whilst having me cornered, before her partner pulled her off me screaming, 'there's cameras, there's cameras!', to which she replied, 'I don't give a shxt I'll do it again' and looked directly at the camera pointing to it.

The police arrived after I had activated the panic button, as she was still screaming at me and I didn't want to be attacked again. The police removed her, her partner, and her son from the shop, I ended up breaking down and going into shock, but I know, I did not sell anything to an underage person. I have always taken a proactive approach and have been on the ball with every person who have looked under 25 when purchasing age restricted items, I will admit on rear occasions I have forgotten to write them in the refusal register, because when the shop gets busy, you tell yourself to do it later and later just never arrived which was also MY mistake, since which I have rightly so corrected.

We had no idea, and upon getting home after the incident i googled it as i was worried i had broken the law and it said online, it was legal if they were legal age and you did not have suspicion.

In regards to the Elux, we had no idea as many other shops sell them around Chorley and the customers had been asking for us to get them in, so we did, we never hid them they were displayed out for all to see, so that shows our ignorance on the legality of it. The Whips were stored in the back as we never advertised, we sold them, we only sold them to those who knew about them and who we knew to work in catering. We had only had them for about 4 weeks and to be frank we didn't even sell many maybe 2 or 3 max.

Charat and Bhama Ve kana do amazing things for our community, myself included, they hired me when my mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer so I could help her pay off the mortgage as she was forced to stop working before, she passed away, I will forever be grateful for them for the opportunity to be able to help my mother in her last years and help my anxiety around meeting/being around people. They have had my kids for me on my down days, they will never let you go without food or drink, and we are being portrayed unfairly like monsters who put children in danger for the sake of sales and that is not the case at all. We look after everyone, adult, or child, despite their circumstances, they all leave that shop smiling more than when they came in after a lovely chat with the staff, some do not even come to buy anything, they come for advice, just a chat etc.

The customers who come in regularly are testament of that and are willing to do character references and representation to show how respected and loved Tonys is to our regulars. We are not just shop workers, we look after everyone who comes in, and treat everyone with love and respect like we know them personally, and we would never knowingly sell something illegal and/or harmful to anybody.

Since this incident that led to this licence review, I and the shop, have been made the target of a hate campaign on social media by the woman who attacked me, who continues to be adamant that "UC - OLIVER SELL'S DRUGS TO KIDS" when it could not be further from the truth. Looking back, I feel the takeaway worker must have bought it to sell to this boy, but unfortunately, it is me that has been named the scapegoat in this whole mess.

All we can do is acknowledge that we should have researched more to prove that we are people of morals and integrity, who genuinely just made a mistake and are now suffering the consequences of those mistakes.

Thank you for taking the time to read.

Lucy Collier