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POLICE OBJECTION - Transfer Premises Licence and vary DPS applications relating to Europa Stores, Barkerhouse Road, Nelson, BB9 9EU.

Please accept this email as a police objection to the recent applications received by us in relation to Europa Stores at 94 Barkerhouse Road, Nelson. One application relates to a transfer premises licence to Euro Foods (Nelson) Ltd and the other is a vary Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) to a Arshad Javed.

I am satisfied there are exceptional circumstances in this case and that the granting of these applications would seriously undermine the prevention of crime licensing objective and therefore I would like to object to these applications.

Brief reasons detailed below.

Lancashire County Council Trading Standards are currently investigating five offences relating to the offer or supply of illicit tobacco products at these premises. These offences are recent and have occurred between April 2015 and July 2016 and represent a flagrant and systematic disregard to the licensing objectives. In the recent updated Guidance published under s182 of the Licensing Act it states the use of licensed premises for the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco should be treated particularly seriously. It's my view that these recent applications are a clear attempt by those involved at the store to distance themselves from any prosecutions.

Despite many recent attempts by the Local Authority, Trading Standards and the Police to contact and meet with those responsible for Europa Stores there's been a persistent reluctance to speak and meet with the agencies involved. Details of those involved are sketchy with a some names being mentioned and then when contacted these people deny any involvement. Non-attendance at meetings and evasive answers to questions can be evidenced throughout. This constant avoidance of anybody stepping forward to accept responsibility at the premises portrays a premises that cannot be trusted to promote the licensing objectives.

It's been established that the proposed DPS (Arshad Javed) for the DPS variation does not know anything about the application and has no intention of being involved in the running of the Europa Stores. The signature on the application does not match his. There are possible criminal offences apparent in this recent application and to allow the DPS variations application and the premise licence transfer application to proceed would be unjustifiable if a criminal offence has been committed during the application process. There is evidence available that indicates this may not be the first time this as occurred with an application for these premises. Again this portrays a premises that cannot be trusted and relied on to work in with the enforcement agencies or promote the licensing objectives.

It's my view there are significant reasons to prove that the allowing of these application would seriously undermine the prevention of crime licensing objective and therefore lodge a police objection to them both.

Submitted for your consideration.

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