

RECENT POLICE INVOLVEMENT – EUROPA STORE

TIMELINE

28 June 2016 – Email from Pendle Council to say a Tasleem Balesaria had requested to be removed as the DPS (Designated Premises Supervisor) from the premises. She subsequently informed Trading Standards that she had allegedly not had any involvement with Europa Store since the 1st August 2015. Therefore it appears that no one had been authorising alcohol sales or doing the important things such as giving staff training for nearly 10 months.

29 June 2016 – Visit by a Police Community Support officer who stated that it appeared alcohol was available to be bought and was on open sale. This is despite them being told the day previously that nobody can authorise the sale of alcohol so should therefore stop serving alcohol until a new DPS was in place.

30 June 2016 – Joint visit with Mick Armfield from Pendle Licensing to check they were not selling alcohol. Plenty of alcohol on display in a stock room which would be accessible by customers but no sales witnessed. East European member of staff spoke very little English and had no way of contacting the owner.

4 July 2016 – Visited an address in Burnley to speak to an Azhar Iqbal. Iqbal is on the premises licence as the Premises Licence holder for Europa and I managed to trace him due to him also being the PLH for a Polish shop in Accrington. Azhar Iqbal denied being the PLH for Europa and stated he had never been involved in this store or any other.

8 July 2016 – Visited to check no alcohol being sold. Spoke to an East European member of staff who stated her name was Indre. She wasn't sure who the owner for the shop was or how to contact them.

11 August 2016 – Application to transfer the premises licence to Euro Foods (Nelson) Ltd received as well as an application to vary the DPS to an Arshad Javed. Subsequent enquiries have revealed that the Arshad Javed referred to in the application is not aware of his details being used in this application, he did not sign the application and therefore his details have been used fraudulently.

18 August 2016 – Joint visit with LCC Trading Standards and Pendle Licensing. Alcohol being sold after recent application. There was evidence of cannabis drug cultivation in the upstairs flat above the premises. The flat is apparently owned by whoever owns the shop and is rented out to an East European member of staff at Europa.

20 August 2016 – Compliance visit to premises. Spoke to same member of staff I had spoken to during the visit on 8 July 2016 but she now stated her name was Orinta. She also could not provide me with any details on how to contact the shop owner.