

CHIEF CONSTABLE OF HUMBERSIDE POLICE

Applicant

-and-

BA RETAIL 2014 LTD

Respondent

**STATEMENT OF
PC 2360 GRANT JOHNSTON**

Introduction

1. My name is PC 2360 Grant JOHNSTON and I am a Licensing Officer in the Licensing Section of the Humberside Police based at Cromwell Road Police Station, Grimsby. I cover the county of North Lincolnshire. I am under the direction and control of the Chief Constable of Humberside Police ('the Chief Constable'). My duties include consideration of the impact of crime and disorder and the Chief Constable's response to licensing matters.
2. I have been a Police Constable since 2005. Prior to taking up my current role in the Licensing Team in July 2021, I worked as a neighbourhood beat officer for Grimsby Town Centre. I am therefore familiar with problems of alcohol related crime and disorder in both in my current and previous roles.
3. The Respondent, BA Retail 2014 Ltd, is the premises licence holder for the premises granted under Part 3 of the Licensing Act 2003 ('the Act') in respect of the premises known as H A STORES & POST OFFICE, situated at 11 HENDERSON AVENUE, SCUNTHORPE, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE, DN15 7RL. Premises Licence PRM0106 relates to the premises.

4. I make this statement in support of North Lincolnshire Council's application for the review of the premises licence under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003 and is in addition to those papers already served on the authority. The information in this statement is either within my personal knowledge or is taken from files maintained by the Chief Constable.

Background

5. The Respondent is the holder of the Premise Licence, having successfully applied for the licence in October 2018, with Bharat Singh applying to be the DPS, who is also one of the company directors.
6. Mr SINGH also holds a Personal Licence issued by Selby District Council, licence number LN00002973. Mr SINGH is the DPS for another licensed premises within the Scunthorpe area, BOOZE MASTER, FRODINGHAM ROAD – Licence number PRM0034 and is linked to LUXE SALON, 69 DONCASTER ROAD – Licence number PRM29954.
7. The premises licence at HA Stores permits the sale of alcohol off the premises from Monday to Sunday, 0600 hours to 2200 hours.
8. The premises is situated in a predominantly a residential area. There is only one other licensed shop on HENDERSON AVENUE.
9. The licence is subject to conditions in addition to those that are mandatory they are listed in Annex 2 of the licence.

History

10. During Mr SINGH's management, British Gas Revenue Protection Officer attended H A STORES as then was no actual meter readings retrieved from the electric meter since AUGUST 2019. But the Revenue Protection Officer was refused entry to inspect the electric meter on the 11th November 2021. A further visit was conducted on 16th November 2021, where entry was allowed and they could see the system had been bypassed and an engineer would need to revisit. A follow up phone call was made to Mr SINGH on 17th November 2021, where he was obstructive towards the Protection Officer.
11. On Wednesday 15th December 2021 British Gas tried to execute a warrant under the Rights of Entry (Gas and Electricity Boards) Act 1954 to examine the electric meter. Again, British Gas Revenue Protection Officers were refused to inspect the electric meter.
12. At 11:00 hours two Police Officers attended H A STORES and spoke with an obstructive male who they believed was Mr SINGH. Mr SINGH refused to allow the British Gas Revenue Protection Officers to read the electric meter despite there being a warrant in place that they were in possession of.
13. Due to Mr SINGH declining access and his obstructive behaviour, a locksmith had to be called in order to gain access. It was necessary for Police officers to remain to prevent a breach of the peace.
14. A further two Police Community Support Officers attended H A STORES because Mr SINGH indicated that he would press his panic button at the store when entry was gained. The premises was then closed due to the electricity being switched off.
15. British Gas Revenue Protection Officers confirmed that the electric meter had been bypassed and that without the correct safety

measures this would put the public's safety at risk when using the shop and Post office.

16. At 13:10 hours all parties left H A STORES after the warrant was executed and a new meter installed.
17. There was no requirement for Police to attend if Mr SINGH had adhered to British Gas Revenue Protection Officer requests. This incident had taken two Police Officers and two Police Community Support Officers away from their normal duties away from serving the community. This was waste of police time and resources due to Mr SINGH declining to comply with the warrant and permit access.

Submissions

18. The view of the Chief Constable is supporting of North Lincolnshire Councils review of this premises and the other premises he is associated with. It is the view of the Chief Constable that Mr Singh is highly likely to continue to undermine the licensing objectives in the future if he was to continue as the DPS, and for the company, or him, to continue running the other premises he is associated with.
19. In this case, Mr Singh has undermined the Licensing objective of Public Safety by bypassing the electricity meter, which could have caused serious injury to those using the store, and the residents in the area.
20. The Chief Constable requests that the Licensing Committee consider the points made within this statement and requests to remove Mr SINGH as being a Personal Licence Holder and a Designated Premise Supervisor.

I believe the contents of this statement to be true.

Signed:
PC Grant Johnston

Dated: ...11/03/2022.....