

MEMORANDUM



Date: 14.03.2024.
From: Bob Brown Snr Licensing Officer
To: Stuart Bryant. Licensing Lead Officer.
My Ref: BB/2024/BH 2024
Your Ref:

Review of Premises Licence. Balti Hut, 72 Queens Road, Hastings. TN34 1RL. (HOP50313)

I am employed as a Senior Licensing Officer (Part Time) for Hastings Borough Council, I have held this position since July 2022, previously I was the Licensing Manager for Hastings Borough Council from 5th February 2004 to 30th June 2020.

Part of my remit is to administer all matters related to the enforcement of the Licensing Act 2003, to do so I regularly undertake inspection and enforcement visits both on behalf of Hastings Borough Council and jointly with partner agencies, including the Police and Home Office Immigration Enforcement.

Geographically Balti Hut is situated on the East side of Queens Road, Hastings, opposite the junction of Cornwallis Street, Hastings.

Data trail for premises licence HOP 50313

On Tuesday 12th March 2024, an application for a review of premises licence HOP 50313, for Balti Hut, 72 Queens Road, Hastings was received by this licensing authority from Inspector Burroughs, Sussex Police on behalf of the Chief Constable. The application for review was properly made under the licensing objective "Prevention of Crime and Disorder". We hold the following information on the property;

October 2005 -The premises applied for a licence for Late Night Refreshment under the new Licensing Act 2003.

25TH November 2005 – The licence was issued to Mr Atikur Rahman operating as Balti Hut for Late Night Refreshment.

12th December 2007 – The premises operator was served with a letter of suspension for non-payment of the annual fee as required by the Licensing Act 2003. The fee was paid shortly afterwards and the licence re-instated.

3rd July 2012 – The licence was transferred to Mr K Islam.

8th August 2014 – The licence was transferred to Mr Shahanur Rahman who has remained the premises licence holder (PLH) to-date.



Hastings Borough Council fully support the review application made by Sussex Police, the management of this premises and another managed by the same family (Ocean Spice) shows a history of non-compliance over employment issues of persons not properly registered to work in the UK.

The guidance issued under Sec 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 gives clear advice on such matters at;

11.27. "There is certain criminal activity that may arise in connection with licensed premises which should be treated particularly seriously. These are the use of the licensed premises;

For employing a person who is disqualified from that work by reason of their immigration status in the UK"

It continues at 11.28;

"It is envisaged that licensing authorities, the police, the Home Office (immigration enforcement) and other law enforcement agencies, which are responsible authorities, will use the review procedures effectively to deter such activities and crime. Where reviews arise and the licensing authority determines that the crime prevention objective is being undermined through the premises being used to further crimes, it is expected that revocation of the licence even in the first instance, should be seriously considered."

In addition, their family history clearly shows very poor management interactions with the responsible Authorities and the evidence of violence by the Premises Licence Holder contained within this review application is totally unacceptable and not the type of action we would expect to see from a responsible premises licence holder.



Bob Brown

Snr Licensing Officer.