

**Licensing Authority representation**  
**Ryan Newsagent Ltd 208 Shaw Heath Stockport**

An application for a new premises licence was received on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022, in respect of Ryan Newsagent Ltd at 208 Shaw Heath Stockport.

A search of companies house records show that Ryan Newsagent Ltd is an active company incorporated on 16 August 2021, with the registered office given as 3 Penny Lane Stockport SK5 7RP. The company has one director Ms Monika Pyka. The application details that in the event of the application being granted the designated premises supervisor (DPS) will be Ms Monika Pyka

The application relates to the licensable activity of the sale of alcohol from 0700 to 2300 hours 7 days per week.

A number of relevant and appropriate conditions for this type of licence have been detailed by the applicants' agent in the operating schedule of the application.

As a responsible authority the licensing authority is submitting this representation to object to the granting of this licence as it considers the Director of the Ltd Company and the DPS Ms Monika Pyka is not able to support or uphold the licensing objectives and therefore the Licensing Authority consider this application should be refused.

The reasons for this are as follows

Ms Monika Pyka and her husband Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu (Ms Pykas email to the licensing officer J Hicks on 19 September 2021 1118 hours detailed that Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu was her husband) have links to several licensed premises (convenience type stores) within Stockport where there has been and continues to be concerns regarding compliance with licensing and other regulatory standards in particular

**103 Bloom Street, Stockport**  
**Ms Pyka is the premises licence holder and DPS at the premises**

Ms Pyka applied for and was granted a licence at this premises on 11 February 2021.

The licensing team received a complaint about littering at the premises and wrote to Ms Pyka on 24 February 2021 to remind her of the conditions attached to her licence.

In August 2021 Ms Pyka applied to vary the premises licence, namely to extend the hours the premises could sell alcohol. Representations were received from 8 parties, namely 7 local residents and one representation submitted jointly by all 3 ward councillors. The representations focussed on the licensing objectives of public nuisance and raised concerns about noise and the potential for late night noise associated with people entering and leaving the premises, car doors and shop shutters. The representations also made reference to anti-social behaviour already experienced from people loitering outside the shop, allegations of rowdy behaviour and an increase in litter in the area

In preparation for the subcommittee hearing regarding the variation application, a Council licensing officer visited the premises on the afternoon of 28 September 2021, findings from that visit were documented in a letter sent to Ms Pyka on 27 October 2021, a copy of the letter is attached as exhibit L1. The findings were that a number of conditions on the licence were not complied with. The

licensing officers perception was that the staff member Mr Amor Singh and Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu who arrived at the premises shortly after the officer were obstructive and choose to speak to each other in the officers presence in a language not familiar to the officer, it was clear that they both spoke and had a good understanding of English.

The decision of the sub committee was to refuse to grant the variation to extend the licensable hours at the premises

In November 2021 the Councils licensing team were contacted by Home Office Immigration officials who following receipt of intelligence were intending to visit premises associated with Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu. Licensing Officers were invited to accompany the Home Office officials and the visits took place on 24 November 2021. Home Office officials found the staff member in 103 Bloom street shop did not have the appropriate right to work in the shop. The staff member denied working in the shop but home office officials checked the CCTV which clearly showed him working in the shop on a regular basis. The staff member advised that Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu had live CCTV footage from the shop accessible via his mobile phone providing both verbal and visual footage, the staff member indicated that Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu had told him to say he wasn't working at the premises. Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu was uncooperative and aggressive with Home Office Officials. Once again documentation required in respect of premises licence conditions was absent. During the site visit Mr Singh Sandhu indicated that he was in the process of selling all his shops. Ms Pyka was not working as she had a baby in September 2021.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 as part of Operation Avro licensing officers visited this premises. Again the conditions of the licence were not being complied with.

#### **25-27 Castle Street Edgeley**

**Premises Licence holder Gurinder Singh Sandhu**  
**DPS Ms Monika Pyka**

This premises was first licensed in 2013, and in January 2020 the licence was transferred to Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu.

Mr Singh Sandhu applied to be the premises licence holder and Ms Pyka as designated premises supervisor.

In November 2021 officers visited the premises. Conditions of the licence were not being complied with. Mr Singh Sandhu was advised of each condition and his role and responsibilities as the premises licence holder. Mr Singh Sandhu also had a large amount of drug paraphernalia on display. Mr Singh Sandhu was advised that as a responsible licence holder he must promote the prevention of crime and disorder licensing objective. Mr Singh Sandhu agreed to take this off sale.

In January 2022 officers visited the premises. Whilst some attempt had been made to demonstrate staff had received training this was extremely basic and not all staff present were shown in the training record. The drug paraphernalia was still on display despite the earlier assurances it would be removed.

Again, during this visit Mr Singh Sandhu told officers he only now had two shops and that 3 Penny Lane and the Lincoln Tower store had been sold and he had nothing to do with the premises.

In February 2022 the Councils licensing team was contacted by the GMP Licensing Officer who asked for a copy of the premises licence in respect of 25/27 Castle Street. The police were undertaking investigations in respect of an allegation of serious sexual assault in the vicinity of the Castle Street area and were requesting CCTV footage from local retailers. The Police reported that whilst they had

generally received cooperation from shopkeepers in the area Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu had been uncooperative and indicated that he had no CCTV footage, officers checked the CCTV system at the premises and found that there was no hard drive to the CCTV system, it monitored real time data only and did not record any data. There is a condition on the premises licence regarding CCTV at the premises requiring CCTV footage to be stored for 28 days .

### **Mottram Mini Market**

#### **3 Lincoln Towers**

#### **SK1 3 PG**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 following a visit to the Castle Street Store officers attended 3 Lincoln Towers. When officers arrived, to their surprise Mr Singh Sandhu was present and was frantically getting the member of staff to complete the training records.

Mr Singh Sandhu then admitted he did own both stores he previously denied having anything to do with.

The conditions of the licence were not being complied with.

The licence for the premises was still in the previous owners name as Mr Singh Sandhu had failed to transfer. The transfer forms were given to Mr Singh Sandhu at the time of the visit. To date no transfer forms have been received.

### **3 Penny Lane Edgeley**

#### **Premises licence holder and DPS Shamraz Akhtar**

Home office intelligence indicated that Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu is involved in the management / ownership of this licensed premises. Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu has repeatedly denied any involvement with this premises. The current licence has been in place for a number of years without any amendments.

On 27 January 2022 as part of a borough wide initiative "Operation Avro" police and council licensing officers visited a number of licensed premises including 3 Penny lane, shortly after officers arrived at the premises Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu arrived at the premises and accepted that he was operating the premises, he was provided with application forms to transfer the premises licence these have not been completed and returned to the licensing office and the licence remain held by Mr Akhtar.

**It is noted that the registered office for Ryan Newsagent Ltd is shown on company house records as this premises ie 3 Penny Lane**

### **In Summary**

The councils licensing team are concerned about Ms Monika Pykas ability to manage licensed premises, she appears to have little involvement at premises where she is DPS and or premises licence holder. The day to day operation of the licensed premises' is very much driven by her husband Gurinder Singh Sandhu who always promptly appears at premises shortly after licensing officers arrive, this is despite no effort being made by officers to contact him.

- Mr Singh Sandhu has provided inaccurate information to officers regarding his involvement with specific premises.

- 103 Bloom street and 25-27 Castle street have been found to be operating in ways that are not compliant with the premises licence conditions, Ms Monika Pyka has legal responsibilities regarding both these premises
- Investigations into Mr Singh Sandhu's business operations are still very much ongoing and may in the future be subject to formal action by any one of a number of enforcement agencies.
- Officers have no confidence that Ms Monika Pyke has any effective control over any premises which she is DPS or premises licence holder and Mr Gurinder Singh Sandhu remains, uncooperative, obstructive and untrustworthy in the information he provides to officers during visits to premises which he may/ may not have any legitimate business interest