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Public Health

Portsmouth City Council
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Phone: [REDACTED]

Ref: 17/03844/LAREVI

Dear Mr Stone

Re : LICENSING ACT 2003 - REVIEW APPLICATION - LOCO OM SAI

This is a representation in support of the Licensing Review instigated by Portsmouth City Council Trading Standards service in regard of Loco/Om Sai 139 Queen Street Portsmouth.

This representation is made on behalf of the Director for Public Health at Portsmouth City Council in his role as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003.

The Public Health team in Portsmouth works closely with Trading Standards in the City, to reduce underage sales and undue harm caused by the sale and consumption of alcohol. One of the methods used to insure compliance with the Act and high standards of due diligence is conducting juvenile test purchases. I have been involved in several of these operations this year including the failures relating to LOCO Om Sai provided as evidence in Mrs Greaves review application.

I can also confirm that I took part in the licensing condition compliance test Mrs Greaves mentions in her review on 09/03/2017, and that I was sold high strength, white cider by the staff member Mr Satish Kumar who had no personal licence, and when no personal licence holder was present on the premises thus breaching a licence condition attached to the premises licence after a hearing by the Licensing authority.

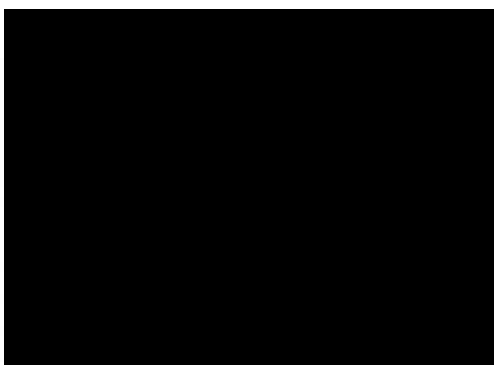
Public Health's role as a responsible authority is to support or apply a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate, where problems associated with one or more of the licensing objectives arise - the evidence provided by Trading Standards and witnessed in person by myself constitute a serious failure to support or promote the licensing objectives and I would recommend that the stores licence be revoked as previous conditions attached by committee have not been effective.

In addition to the large amount of evidence provided by Trading Standards to support their review, I also attach several images taken inside the premises after one of the failed test purchases (appendix .a).

These photos show the point of sale materials that promote a 'Challenge 25' policy that is not adhered to, Cannabis grinders and paraphernalia that is permanently on display for sale providing a moral threat in an already irresponsible environment and a shelf of products that I believe are targeted at street drinkers or those with little money looking for the strongest alcoholic products available - children. These products include Buckfast in different size servings, Frosty Jacks Cider in different size servings, White Strike Cider, Lambrini , 3 Hammers White Cider, Desperados - a strong lager featuring tequila and large discounted bottles of Strongbow Cider. This 'Budget Shelf' is low enough to be seen and reached by all and is located outside of the large area already given over to alcohol sales.

The problems with LOCO/Om Sai are both historical and recent and illustrate serious problems with both the management and day to day operation of the store. Attempts to address these problems through conditioning and engagement have failed repeatedly; it is with this in mind that I would ask the committee to revoke the stores licence in line with recommendations form Portsmouth City Council Trading Standards Service

Yours sincerely



Rob Anderson-Weaver PCC Public Health Project Officer

On behalf of the Director for Public Health at Portsmouth City Council Dr Jason Horsley

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