Environment & Neighbourhoods

Regulatory Services Manager: Gavin Douglas



Ahmad BARIZ 50 Eaton Valley Road Luton LU2 OSW Your ref:

Date: 21st April 2020 Our ref: WK/452795

Dear Sir,

Re: Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016: The Standardised Packaging of Tobacco products Regulations 2015: The Licensing Act 2003:

I write further to my visit to your shop premises trading as Bucky's Off Licence and Grocery situated at 1 Moorefield Road, Tottenham, London N17 6PX, accompanied by officers of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on 12th November 2019.

During the visit quantities of tobacco products namely 11,200 cigarettes and 350g of hand rolling tobacco were seized. These products did not carry the correct UK health warnings, were not Duty Paid and were not in standardised packaging as required for the UK market. These products were found behind the counter and in a cellar area beneath a trap door situated behind the counter of the shop. These facts can constitute offences under the above mentioned legislation.

Keeping tobacco on a Licensed Premises which is not Duty Paid can also be an offence under the Licensing Act 2003. HMRC have informed me that the seizure has not been appealed therefore it is deemed to have been non Duty Paid as you have been unable to provide evidence that the goods were purchased legitimately.

In order to complete my investigation I wish to put some questions to you as the Licensee and as I believe the owner of the business. When replying please ensure that this letter is answered by you and you sign and date it to approve its content. Before I ask any questions I must caution you that is, You do not have to say anything. But it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in Court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence. You are also advised that you may wish to seek legal advice or consult a solicitor before replying to this letter.

- 1. Can you state your full name?
- 2. What is your date and place of birth?
- 3. What is your home address?

- 4. Were you the owner of Bucky's Off Licnece and Grocery 1 Moorefield Road, 'London N176PX on 12th November 2019?
- 5. Are you a sole trader a partner or a Director of a Limited company.?
- 6. If you are a partner what is the name and address of the other partners?
- 7. If you are trading as a Limited company what is the name of the company and are you a Director?
- 8. Would you agree you are active in the management of the business?
- 9. How long have you been trading as Bucky's off Licence and Grocery.
- 10. Do you agree that you had 11,200 cigarettes and 350g of hand rolling tobacco which were not Duty paid and were not packaged in UK standardised packaging behind the Counter of the shop and in a cellar area 12th November 2019?
- 11. How much were you selling these cigarettes and tobacco products for?
- 12. Where did you buy these tobacco products?
- 13. Do you have any invoices for them? If yes please enclose a copy with your reply?
- 14. Do you know it is illegal to sell cigarettes and tobacco without payment of UK Duty?
- 15. Do you know it is illegal to sell cigarettes and tobacco in the UK in non-standardised packaging?
- 16. Do you know it is illegal to sell cigarettes and tobacco with non UK approved health warnings?
- 17. Do you know it is an offence under the Licensing Act 2003 to keep non Duty Paid cigarettes and tobacco on a Licenced Premises?
- 18. Does A Mr HASHIMI work for you in the shop?
- 19. Mr HASHIMI stated he was selling the cigarettes for £4-5 a packet and the hand rolling tobacco for £8 a packet. Do you agree this was the case.
- 20. Mr HASHIMI stated you had brought this stock to the shop for him to sell. Do you agree?
- 21. How much time do you spend at the business in an average week?
- 22. Do you have anything you would like to say in respect of the large quantity of non Duty Paid tobacco found at the Licensed Premises?
- 23. Is there anything you want to say in respect of this matter or to clarify anything you have already said in this letter in response to other questions?

I would be grateful if you could respond to my questions within 14 days so that I can complete my investigation. Please respond by post and sign and date your reply. You may also provide a copy of your response by E Mail to Michael.squire@haringey.gov.uk which will assist me.

I thank you for your attention

Yours faithfully,

M Squire

Tactical Trading Standards Enforcement Officer

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