

Before the Haringey Licensing Committee

In the matter of an application for a review of the premises licence for The Firat Supermarket, 38 Bounds Green Road, London, N11 2EU pursuant to Licensing Act 2003

Witness statement of Mr Hurcem Merkan

1. My name is Hurcem Merkan.
2. I am the business owner of Firat supermarket. I make this statement for the purpose of the review hearing.
3. Before I continue may I apologise for my errors in this, and may I assure the committee that what is said to have happened will not happen now that I am in charge.
4. I cannot address the specific incidents referred to in the application because I was not in control of the shop and did not take over the shop until 17th November 2023.
5. I propose to explain the circumstances and my background to assist the committee.
6. I am a Turkish citizen with indefinite leave to remain in the UK. I was born on 14th February 1981.
7. I consider that Bounds Green is my area as I have lived many years here. My current address is in Bounds Green.
8. My father owned a supermarket underneath the Haringey Snooker Club in Green Lanes in the early 2000's. I worked at the supermarket with my father for a number of years before moving into imports and exports. I have also worked abroad for a few years before moving back to Bounds Green.
9. I live with my wife and child aged 2.
10. My Grandparents are in Malatya, Turkey. I had gone to visit them in March 2023 as there had been a large earthquake in February causing a lot of

damage to my Grandfather's farm. I arranged that I would return to help repair and rebuild parts of the farm in the summer.

11. I returned to Bounds Green and Firat Supermarket is a local store and I used regularly. I have used the shop over many years whilst I have lived in the area, probably around 20 years. I knew Ali and we had talked a lot and I had indicated that I was looking for a shop.
12. In March Ali spoke to me and asked if I wanted his shop. We talked about it over a month and we both knew each other and decided to do the deal. We approached NARTS to draw up the agreement.
13. Because I had arranged to return to Kazakhstan/Turkey for some time in the summer and also I had arranged to spend some time with family in Turkey during the summer too we put into the agreement that whilst we would sign the agreement in May we would not complete and transfer everything over until October 2023. This is reflected in the agreement. Ali said he had other people interested in the premises and so this was to show trust and good faith between us.
14. As part of the trust I became a director of the company as Ali said it would be a good idea.
15. I did not have any control over the shop or the bank account because my understanding was that the agreement would not be completed until I had paid for the stock. Ali was running the business.
16. This was signed on 4th May at NARTS office?
17. I have produced my passport and flight details to show that I left England on July 1st with my wife and child and returned on October 26th.
18. I was not aware of any of the incidents with Mr Ali. My view was that the running of the shop was not my responsibility at the time.
19. We arranged for the stock take assessment to be carried out on 17th November and a copy is provided. I also transferred the funds in 2 parts. This was transferred on 20th November and 21st November 2023. I also took a sub lease with effect from 1st November 2023 for 10 years. The agreement was completed on 21st November.
20. Ali told me about the incidents in May, August and October after the stock count on 17th November 2023.
21. I arranged with NARTS to deal with the transfer of the premises licence. I understood the licence needed to be in my personal name but there was a difficulty with documentation to support my indefinite leave to remain and therefore the transfer did not take place until 13th December. I have since

learnt that the licence could have been transferred to my company which would have avoided this problem but I was not aware of that option at the time.

22. I did not hold a personal licence and so Ali agreed to continue as dps whilst I obtained the personal licence. This was not my preferred situation but as I was in charge and Ali promised me he would only do as I instructed and would not do anything illegal we continued to operate with him as DPS.
23. The variation of the dps was lodged by NARTS and was approved 16th February 2024.
24. I have operated in line with my licence since taking over and I have ensured my staff are trained.
25. I was not aware of the situation on the business rates because of the small business relief there is nothing to pay on the business rates and therefore I had not applied for it to be transferred to my company. I have started that process.
26. I have one permanent employee and I am in the process of taking on someone new as a previous employee has left. If it helps I am prepared to not employ anyone who was connected to the incidents, if the names are provided to me.
27. I am in the process of changing the shop name because of the bad association with these incidents and so I will change the name to Station Supermarket.
28. The premises need a premises licence because without a premises licence the business is not viable.
29. If there are any questions I will do my best to answer them.

The contents of this my statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed

Hurcem Merkan

Dated

38 Bounds Green Road London N11 2EU



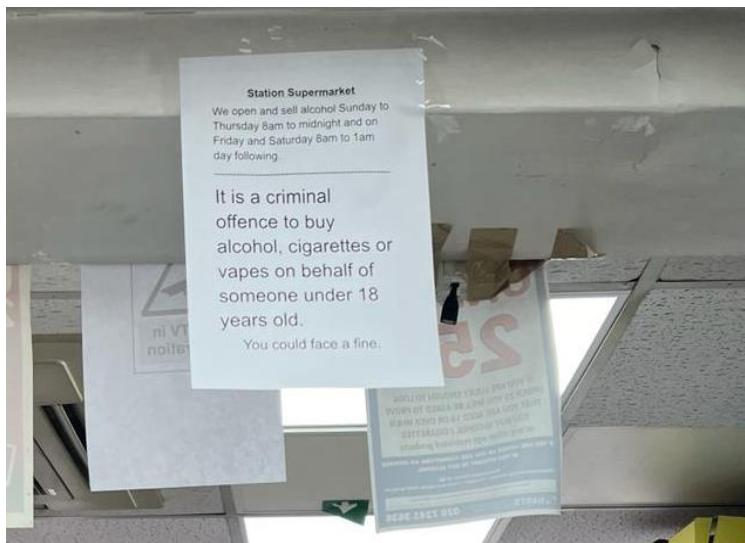
1.



2.



3.



4.

Time of Challenge	Date of Challenge	Product asked for	Result of Challenge	Description of person	Any other relevant comments	DPS signature & date monitored
Example: 19:30	21/04/09	10 pack of silkcut cigarettes	No id	Male, short brown hair, looked aprx 15 years old	Shouted abuse following refusal	30/10/2017
Saat	Tarih	Satın alınmak istenen ürün	Sonuç	Kişiyi tanımlarmısınız?	Diğer ilgili olabilecek notlar	Kişisel Ruhsat sahibinin kontrol ettiği tarih/imza
Örnek: 19:30	21/04/09	1 Paket 10'luk silkcut marka sigara	Kimlik ibraz edilmedi	Erkek, kısa kahverengi saç, yaklaşık 15 yaşlarında	Bağırarak küfür etti	30/10/2017
20:17	05/03/24	1 pack Marlboro Gold	ID Shown	Short, brown NHS identification aged 23	Salin compliant	05/03/24
15:39	06/03/24	Vape	No ID	White, Blue eyes hidden school uniform underneath	Persistent requested to leave premises	08/03/24
19:57	01/03/24	Vape	No ID	Blacker hair (white) around 15 long hair loose clothing	Compliant	09/03/24
12:00	09/03/24	Alcohol	ID shown	M2. Penelope Green Born 2002 Blonde 5.5 approx	Compliant	09/03/24

DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR (DPS) LETTER OF AUTHORISATION

To whom it may concern:

HUR EM MERKAN being the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS),

the holder of a Personal Licence am the person in a position of authority

the premises known as: STATION SUPERMARKET

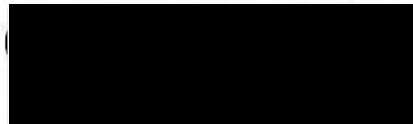
6 BOUNDS GREEN ROAD

LONDON N11 2EU

Personal Licence Number: 000027550

Personal Licence Issued by: HARINGEY COUNCIL

I hereby authorise the following named personnel to sell and supply alcohol,
to comply with the licensing law and the licence conditions attached to the
licence. This being either when I am present on the premises or in my
absence when I am away from the premises. I can always be contactable
on the following telephone number:



NAMES OF AUTHORISED PERSONS

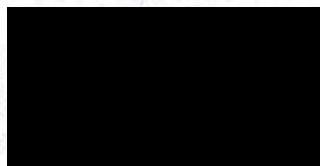
I, being a person named below am aware of and accept my responsibilities
under the Licensing Act 2003 and will endeavour to comply in accordance
with the licensing law and the licence conditions attached to the licence.

Name	Personal Licence Number (If Applicable)	Non Personal Licence Holder (Please Tick)
<u>UGURCAN KARADUMAN</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DPS Name:

HUR EM
MERKAN

Signature:



Date:

20/2/2024