Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form. If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary. You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

Telford & Wrekin Council Trading Standards					
(Insert name of applicant) apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 / apply for the review of a club premises certificate under section 87 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in Part 1 below (delete as applicable)					
Part 1 – Premises or club premises details					
Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance	e survey map reference or description				
Newport Premier 99A High Street Newport					
Post town	Post code (if known)				
Telford	TF10 7AY				
Name of premises licence holder or club holding	ng club premises certificate (if known)				
Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known) Mr Ivor Alexander PARIS					
Number of premises licence or club premises c	ertificate (if known)				
BTWPRM0848					
Part 2 - Applicant details					
I am	Please tick ✓ yes				
1) an individual, body or business which is not a responsible authority (please read guidance note 1, and complete (A) or (B) below)					
2) a responsible authority (please complete (C) below)					
3) a member of the club to which this application relates					

(please complete (A) below) (A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT (fill in as applicable) Please tick ✓ yes Mrs Miss Other title Mr Ms (for example, Rev) Surname First names Please tick ✓ yes I am 18 years old or over **Current postal** address if different from premises address Post town **Post Code** Daytime contact telephone number E-mail address (optional) (B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT Name and address Telephone number (if any)

E-mail address (optional)

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address					
Telford & Wrekin Council Trading Standards Darby House Lawn Central Telford TF3 4JA					
Telephone number (if any)					
E-mail address (optional)					
This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)					
 the prevention of crime and disorder public safety the prevention of public nuisance the protection of children from harm 	Please tick one or more boxes ✓ □ □ □ □ □				

Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 2)

This review is being brought in respect of the 4th licensing objective: **The Protection of Children from Harm**.

- The local weights and measures authority is a 'responsible authority' under the Licensing Act 2003, by virtue of the Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licenses and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005.
- Newport Premier is the trading name of Newport Premier Limited (company number 15594697). The company registered office is 99A High Street, Newport – where the shop is located. The directors of the business are Ivor Alexander PARIS and Reena Kaur BHAKAR.
- 3. The shop is a small mini market selling prepacked foods, household goods, alcohol and tobacco products. The premises has a licence to sell alcohol which was issued on 11th December 2023. The business began trading in mid-March 2024.
- 4. The premises is located very close to Haberdashers' Adams Grammar School in Newport.
- 5. **Ivor Alexander PARIS** is the premises licence holder. He is also registered with Environmental Health as the Food Business Operator.

Catherine CHILTON is the designated premises supervisor (DPS).

- 6. Concerns regarding the sale of age-restricted products to children under the age of 18 were first raised with Trading Standards on 7th May 2024. Information receive from a mother who had been informed by her 16-year-old son that vapes and alcohol were being sold to children in school uniform.
- 7. On 8th May 2024, Hazell POWELL and Ross WILLIAMS of Telford and Wrekin Council's Night-Time Economy team visited the shop to conduct a new premises licence inspection. At this visit, it was noted that there were no staff training records instore. A letter was sent to Mr PARIS following the inspection.

- 8. Trading Standards received another complaint from a father was received on 2nd July 2024 that his 14-year-old son and friends were able to buy vapes and tobacco at the premises and the child also stated that the seller said he would just pay a fine if he got caught, and that he'd recently been reported for selling alcohol but would continue to sell vapes and tobacco.
- 9. A further complaint was received via a social worker, who reported that she had been advised the business was openly selling vapes and alcohol (vodka) to 14- & 15-year-old children. (10th July 2024).
- 10. An age-restricted sales exercise was undertaken by Trading Standards in August 2024. A 15-year-old female volunteer was sold a disposable ecigarette (vape). The seller of the vape was Vishal SINGH
 The Trading Standards

officer noted that Mr Vishal didn't appear to speak very good English. Mr Vishal indicated that it was only his second day working at the shop.

- 11. It is a criminal offence under Section 92(2) of the Children and Families Act 2014 by virtue of Regulation 3 of The Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations 2015. Trading Standards commenced an investigation into this offence.
- 12. On 23rd August 2024, Hazell POWELL and Ross WILLIAMS re-visited the premises to follow up on their inspection of 8th May. It was noted that there were still no records of staff training instore in relation to the sale of alcohol. A letter was sent to Mr PARIS following the inspection.
- 13. On 5th September, Mr PARIS was interviewed under caution regarding this sale. He brought along with him Mr Gurmale BHAKAR, who advised he was the business partner of Mr PARIS. At this interview Mr PARIS said he had dismissed the seller of the vape, however, it was established that he had dismissed a different member of staff.
- 14. The issue of staff training was raised in interview, Mr PARIS indicated that he had trained his staff on the sale of alcohol and ID checking "Obviously everything we need for the licence anyway." Yeah, all that sort of stuff.

There's a lot of training with Premier as well. Obviously before we could open, so we've got all the certificates". Mr PARIS later sent in training records dated after the date of the sale of the vape to the volunteer.

- 15. Following the sale to a child of an age-restricted product in August 2024, further complaints were received that the premises continued to sell alcohol, cigarettes and vapes to children (a full breakdown of complaints received is outlined later in this report).
- 16. In October and November, officers from Telford Council's Night-Time Economy team visited the shop along with the Police to raise concerns about complaints received.
- 17. In late November 2024 the Police and an officer from Telford Council's Night-Time Economy team attended the address given for the Designated Premises Supervisor (Catherine CHILTON). The purpose of the visit was to raise concerns about a number of reported incidents associated with the shop. She was advised that Ms CHILTON had "moved a few months ago and is now living in Wales with her partner". To date, she remains the DPS at the shop, no new application to replace her has been submitted.

Government guidance on the role of a DPS states:

"A designated premises supervisor (DPS) is the person who has day-to-day responsibility for the running of the business.

The person chosen to be designated premises supervisor (DPS) will act as primary contact for local government and the police. They must understand the social issues and potential problems associated with the sale of alcohol, and also have a good understanding of the business itself.

While they need not be on site at all times, they are expected to be involved enough with the business to be able to act as its representative, and they must be contactable at all times.

If the police or local government have any questions or concerns about the business, they will expect to be able to reach the designated supervisor."

(https://www.gov.uk/guidance/alcohol-licensing#designated-premises-supervisors)

18. On 17th March 2025, Ivor PARIS pleaded guilty on behalf of Newport Premier Ltd. to the underage vape sale from August 2024. Telford Magistrates issued the maximum fine of £2,500, which was reduced to £1,666 for an early guilty plea. The business was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £660 and the full prosecution costs.

19. Summary:

- The business is less than 50m away from a busy grammar school.
- This business has had several advisory visits from officers from Telford &
 Wrekin Council yet reports of underage sales of alcohol and other agerestricted products continue to be received, thereby strongly suggesting the
 business has not, and will not change the way it operates.
- This business has failed a test purchase for an age-restricted product (vape).
- The member of staff who sold to a 15-year-old had been left unsupervised after being employed for only 2 days and there was no evidence to show he had received any training at that point.
- This business does not appear to have an active or effective DPS.
- The current licence requires a 'Challenge 25' policy to be in operation. The
 only acceptable proof of age will be a passport, driving licence or PASS
 accredited ID card with a hologram. An incident and refusals log is required to
 be maintained and made available to the Police and authorised officers upon
 request. Staff are required to be alert to the possibility of secondary
 purchasing and will be vigilant at all times in order to prevent it.
- Since the business was interviewed regarding the underage sale, further reports of underage sales of alcohol continue to be received by Trading Standards.

20. Action Requested:

The current licence conditions should be robust enough to prevent the sale of alcohol to children – if they are followed. The issue is they are being ignored, seemingly wilfully. Given that the business has displayed conduct consistent with a total disregard for the licensing objectives, Telford & Wrekin Council Trading Standards seek a revocation of the alcohol licence.

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 3)

I have outlined below a list of complaints received by Telford Trading Standards, both directly and indirectly, concerning Newport Premier:

25th February 2025: A report received via police that:

Mother reports shop selling alcohol to underage persons. Her son, 17 years, has, for the third time, purchased a bottle of wine.

10th **February 2025**: Anonymous report received from member of the public:

Caller wanted to report trader for selling alcohol to underage children, caller wished to remain anonymous.

Caller says that trader has been selling alcohol to her son who is 16-years-old and he became unwell and became hospitalised.

Caller's son told caller that his friends who are also 16 buy alcohol from trader.

24th January 2025: Report received from member of the public:

Dear Trading Standards,

I would like to report the selling of alcohol and vapes to underage kids at the Premier shop located near Adam's Grammar school in Newport Shropshire. Please can you advise how best to report this?

Address:

Newport Premier

99A High St

Newport

TF10 7AY

5th **December 2024**: Report received from Newport Town Council:

During the Christmas Light Switch on in Newport on 22nd November 2024, it was reported that Newport Premier was selling alcohol to under aged young people. I also witnessed a number of young people leaving the premises and quickly concealing items within their coats.

I cannot say what the items were as I didn't see them but the behaviour was very suspicious. I believe that the police were also concerned about these premises and will also be reporting this to you. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information. I look forward to your response

26th **November 2024**: Email from PC Richard EDWARD (Newport Safer Neighbourhood Team):

This store was causing issues on the night of the light switch on. I confiscated and disposed of a nice bottle of rose from a kid. I couldn't confirm that he had purchased it in Premier, but he was stood right outside, words of advice given to Ivor and his Bobby (I think that was his name).

We had reports of kids running amok in the town, starting fights and having to be dragged away by friends. No offences reported or observed, but by far the worst light switch that I can recall.

Further reports from members of the public of kids coming out of Premier with alcohol, so we revisited and <u>again</u> gave strong words of advice. We positioned ourselves outside the store for the remainder of the evening and kids seemed to be very interested in if we would leave as we were clearly upsetting their plans.

I have since spoken to someone I know (16yrs old) and he said that's where all the kids in Newport go to purchase alcohol.

24th **November 2024**: Email from PCSO LISTON regarding the Christmas Lights switch on:

"... They specifically mentioned the Premier Store and the number of underaged young people drinking alcohol or seemingly drunk. They believe the alcohol had been sold to them by staff working at the Premier Store, in fact they had been told this by people that night. They also witnessed drunk and aggressive youths whilst going to their cars that night and said they had never experienced this in all the years the event had been running. School students have been seen buying Vapes and Alcohol from the store and are constantly hanging around outside. This is concerning for the

residents as this has only been an issue since the store opened."

17th October 2024: Email from Social Worker in CATE Team Hi all

A parent has raised with me today that

are? Says her son said he bought a pack of 20 L&B cigarettes for £4.

8th October 2024: Report received from Police:

The person named Ivor (or Ivory) and another employee who both work at The Premier Shop, High Street, Newport, Shropshire TF10 sells vapes, alcohol and other age restricted items to minors. The shop is near the Church. Ivor is around 20 years old, has a medium build and has dark hair.

7th August 2024:

Report that trader is selling vapes and alcohol to minors. Children come in school uniform and are served and trader does not ask for ID.

10th July 2024:

A complaint from a social worker that the business was openly selling vapes and alcohol (vodka) to 14 & 15-year-old children.

2nd July 2024:

A complaint from a father that his 14-year-old son and friends were able to buy vapes and tobacco at the premises and the child also stated that the seller said he would just pay a fine if he got caught, and that he'd recently been reported for selling

alcohol but would continue to sell vapes and tobacco.					
7 th May 2024:					
Information received anonymously from a mother who had been informed by her 16-					
year-old son that vapes and alcohol were being sold to kids in uniform.					

Have you made an application for review relating to the premises before	Please tick ✓ yes
If yes please state the date of that application Day Month Day Month	Year
If you have made representations before relating to the premises please sta and when you made them	te what they were
No previous representations have been made relating to this premise	es.

Please tick ✓	ves
 I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected 	
IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAI A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION	
Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 4)	
Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent (please read guidance note 5). If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.	
Signatur	
Date 20/03/2025	
Capacity Trading Standards Manager	
Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 6)	
Andrew BISHOP	
Telford & Wrekin Council Trading Standards Darby House Lawn Central	

Post Code TF3 4JA

If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address

Post town

(optional)

Telephone number (if any)

Telford

Notes for Guidance

- 1. A responsible authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.
- 2. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
- 3. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
- 4. The application form must be signed.
- 5. An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
- 6. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.