

## Additional Information – Licensing Authority

I make this additional information following a visit to the premises of 311-313 High Street, Gateshead.

On 8<sup>th</sup> October at around 11:10, I was meeting a colleague outside of the premises to carry out a follow up visit in relation to covid compliance and also for the other officer to carry out her food hygiene risk rating of the Shake & Cake business.

As I approached the premises there was some confrontation going on with 3 males outside of the premises, one brandishing what appeared to be a broom shank waving it aggressively towards two men who were passing by. I recognised the male holding the broom shank as Mr Sajaad ALI. I heard him shout out to the men in an aggressive manner the words, “tramps” and “nonce.” He followed the men a way up the street then returned to his shop. The men appeared to be walking away but then Mr ALI came out of his shop again and ran at them again, waving the broom about and shouting at them.

I’d called for police assistance as I did not feel safe going into the premises in order to carry out the visit. A while later, police arrived, and we went into the premises. I explained who I was and introduced everyone else. I confirmed that I’d brought the police following the incident that we’d just witnessed out the front of the shop and also so they could confirm the identity of the man in the shop. It was Mr Sajaad ALI.

I asked Mr ALI where he was going to put the alcohol in the premises and he showed me the area that he had kept free to display it. I checked the cameras he had in use but I am concerned that currently there are no cameras showing the corner of the store where alcohol will be displayed. There are a couple of cameras near the far wall but there’s blind spots in the areas where the alcohol will be displayed. I’m concerned for Mr ALI as I believe this might encourage thefts from the premises should this not be resolved.

I advised that Mr ALI also needed to display a statutory tobacco notice “It’s illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18” as currently there was not one on display. I also asked if I could view Mr ALI’s refusals register to which he got argumentative saying that he didn’t need one as he didn’t sell alcohol. I advised him that he does sell other age restricted products such as tobacco and vape liquids so he should be using one unless his till keeps this record. Currently it does not. Mr ALI does not currently have such a record and didn’t see why he needed it. He confirmed to me that he just doesn’t sell if they’re underage. I tried to explain that it would be useful for him, should there ever be any sales to underage children or any incidents that Mr ALI could then show us that he does take precautions and he does refuse sales on occasions. Without such a record he has no way to prove to us that he does refuse any sales.

Mr ALI had put in place all the necessary measures that had been advised from the Covid visit on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. He was displaying a notice for face coverings, maximum occupancy noted and had hand sanitiser available. At one point he even asked one of us to leave the shop so he could allow a customer to come inside.

My colleague asked about the Shake & Cake business. Mr ALI confirmed that it's not really operating at the minute as he still needs to get things like food hygiene etc. There were no items on display in that area of the shop but there were lots of products in a freezer behind the counter.

I have concerns in relation to the businesses operating and who/which business is applying for the premises licence. The application is in the name of Mr Sajaad ALI for the premises known as Your Local Store at 311-313 High Street. I asked Mr ALI about the two businesses and he confirmed that he owns Shake & Cake which I know from the previous meeting and his sister is a director of Your Local Stores Limited. They planned on running the premises together.

My overall concern is that a lot of emphasis was placed on the deli side of the business that Mr ALI owns and runs, Shake & Cake when in actual fact it doesn't appear that this is doing anything at all currently. I'd like to be clear that Shake & Cake are not involved in this licence application and that it is not that business that will be licensed to sell the alcohol.