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**To:** [Licensing](#)  
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**Subject:** Mila, Belmont Road, Hereford - licensing review  
**Date:** 22 September 2017 09:57:00

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## NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

West Mercia Police has the following representations with regards to the review application for **Mila Convenience Store, Belmont Road, Hereford.**

This premises has been subject to a previous licensing review in 2016. The review concerned criminal activity with regards to the sale of contraband or smuggled tobacco. The matter was deemed as serious and was subject to the expedited process. The review was granted and the premises licence was revoked in November 2016.

As you are aware an application was made to re-licence the premises in March 2017. Initially West Mercia Police objected to this application, however during the consultation period an agreement was met with the applicant with regards to applying proportionate conditions to the premises licence in order to promote the licensing objectives. These conditions are attached to the current premises licence and therefore are required to be complied with.

The premises is located on a busy road leading into Hereford. It attracts large numbers of walk in customers. Due to the previous serious criminal conduct, it was agreed that a condition be applied to the premises licence to allow clear and unobstructed view into the premises at the front of the premises in order to address the concerns of West Mercia Police and in order to promote the licensing objectives. This was very simple to address and purely involved removing window and door coverings that were blocking out all sight into the premises. This has not happened and is still the current position, albeit some of the window coverings have been removed.

West Mercia Police can say that they have undertaken the following observations/interventions in order to address their concerns:

12/05/2017 - police visit to the premises - windows coverings still in place - licence breach.

03/07/2017 - police observed windows and door coverings still in place

12/07/2017 - police observed windows and door coverings still in place

27/07/2017 - police observed windows and door coverings still in place.

30/07/2017 - police visit to the premises with regards to a theft allegation, staff member unable to operate CCTV system. Windows and door still covered and view into the premises obstructed.

West Mercia Police came to an agreement with the applicant in good faith and on an understanding and expectation that those conditions applied to the premises licence would be adhered to at all times. This is not the case and as such it is clear that there a number of breaches of the law - evidenced by the police and the Licensing Authority - that show that the premises licence holder has had scant regard to complying with the premises licence and therefore effectively promoting the licensing objectives. It is our view that with exception to the expedited review process a summary licensing review is only undertaken usually as a last resort when all other avenues have been exhausted with regards to advice, support and warnings.

The police position remains the same with regards to the current conditions applied to the premises licence - that is they were agreed by the applicant when he applied for the premises licence and that they are proportionate, achievable and enforceable in order to promote the licensing objectives. They should all remain in place in order to promote the licensing objectives.

With regards to disposing of the licensing review, West Mercia Police are of the opinion it should be granted and as such, the premises licence holder be compelled to comply with all of the current conditions attached to the premises licence immediately. Consideration should be given to suspend the premises licence due to the serious nature of the breaches that have been caused totally by the premises licence holder who has refused to comply with the law.

Regards

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