

Trading Standards Representation 24.07.2020

Herefordshire Council Environmental Health and Trading Standards are an authorised body under the Licensing Act 2003 and have the responsibility for enforcing the act in relation to under age sales of alcohol, as well as other legislation relating to under age sales of products such as tobacco.

This Department received two complaints regarding underage sales at the premises of Oval Wine & Spirits, 14 the Oval, Hereford, HR2 7HG. The first, received on 2/10/2019, alleged that spirits were sold to an underage member of the complainant's family, the second received from the same complainant on 2/12/2019, alleged that a sale of tobacco had taken place, again to an underage (15 year old) member of the complainant's family. As a result of the second complaint, an advisory visit was carried out by Richard Alsop, Principal Trading Standards Officer on the 4/12/2019. During this visit it was made clear to the staff present, namely the man on duty behind the serving counter and the apparently new owner/manager, of their responsibilities under the Licensing Act, the Challenge 25 condition on the licence and general advice regarding the need to ask for proof of age for all age restricted products including tobacco.

It is with disappointment and concern that we now have actual evidence from West Mercia police regarding the breach of licence conditions and the Act itself on 19/5/2020. This would strongly indicate shortcomings in the management/training of staff at this premises.

Trading Standards therefore support and agree with the application to the committee, that the alcohol licence be suspended for the maximum of three months to allow time for adequate staff training to take place regarding their age verification policy.

Principal Trading Standards Officer

Herefordshire Council