

Timeline of events relating to Ledbury Mini Market, 10 New Street, Ledbury, HR8 2DX

1. 1st week of August 2021 - Trading Standards purchase 2 x packets of illegal counterfeit Benson and Hedges gold cigarettes – cost per packet £5.50 each – sold by male known to Trading Standards.
2. 4th week of August 2021 - Trading Standards purchase 2 x packets of illegal counterfeit Benson and Hedges gold cigarettes – cost per packet £5.50 – sold by male known to Trading Standards.
3. 3rd week of September 2021 - Trading Standards purchase 2 x packets of illegal counterfeit Benson and Hedges gold cigarettes – cost per packet £5.50 – sold by female known to trading standards.
4. 2nd October 2021 - Trading Standards led enforcement operation where 8,560 illegal cigarettes were seized from a vehicle used (owned and/or insured) by the same male and female who sold illegal tobacco to Trading Standards on three separate occasions.
5. October 2021 – illegal cigarettes purchased from Ledbury Mini Market sent to brand holder for Benson and Hedges (Japan Tobacco International) for analysis and confirmed to be counterfeit and a non-genuine product.
6. Criminal investigation escalated by Trading Standards.
7. October 2021 - Male detailed above arrested and intervened under caution by Trading Standards. All evidence put to the male in PACE interview, who, aside from confirming he owned the shop, gave a 'no comment' interview and declined to comment on photographs and videos showing him clearly selling illegal tobacco to Trading Standards in Ledbury Mini Market.
8. December 2021 – Female detailed above interviewed under caution by Trading Standards. She refused to comment on photographs showing her selling illegal tobacco to Trading Standards.
9. January 2022 - Criminal investigation at its conclusion - There is clear and reliable evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction.

Signed: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] – Principal Trading Standards Officer – 07/01/2022

From: [REDACTED]@westmercia.police.uk>
Sent: 05 January 2022 20:32
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Subject: Ledbury Mini Market

I am aware that Ledbury Mini Market are to have their License to sell Alcohol at a Review Hearing in the next couple of weeks as a result of selling Counterfeit tobacco.

I would like to make the following representation on behalf of West Mercia Police

West Mercia Police support the License Review brought by Trading Standards of Herefordshire Council for the revocation of the Alcohol license for the above stated premises.

The sale of counterfeit tobacco whilst being illegal brings into question how legitimate this business is.

When a license to sell alcohol is granted following careful consideration it is expected that the premises will promote all the licensing objectives which includes the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, this premises has clearly failed to do this this. The selling of counterfeit tobacco has clear links to organised crime and also fails legitimate businesses that pay full duty on the products they sell.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Harm Hub Hereford Police Station
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]