

I would like to make the following representations on behalf of Herefordshire Council Trading Standards:

Consumer protection is of the utmost importance to Trading Standards and recent events seriously draw into question the ability of the premises and licence holder to meet the licencing objectives set out in s182 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The sale of stolen electrical items, whilst not only illegal, demonstrates the lack of due diligence on behalf of the business to ensure the goods being sold to members of the public have been purchased from a legitimate source and meet electrical safety requirements.

In addition, the sale of prescription only medicines and controlled drugs, without a licence, is illegal and should be taken particularly seriously. Anyone selling medicines without the correct licence, training or expertise, is putting consumers' health and wellbeing at risk in order to make money.

During the summer of 2020, Trading Standards launched a review of the premises when Trading Standards Officers found over 220 packets of illegal cigarettes being stored behind the counter area of the shop - subsequently Committee suspended the premises alcohol licence for 3 months.

Herefordshire Trading Standards have a duty to help protect legitimate businesses and ensure there is a level playing field, especially in tough economic times.

For the reasons outlined above, I fully support the licence review launched by West Mercia Police in relation to the stated premises. It is clear the premises is failing to meet at least two of the four licensing objectives, namely 'the prevention of crime and disorder' and ensuring 'public safety'.

Principal Trading Standards Officer