Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form
If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all
cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use
additional sheets if necessary.

You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records. I Kent County Council Trading Standards (Insert name of applicant) apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 / apply for the review of a club premises certificate under section 87 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in Part 1 below (delete as applicable) Part 1 - Premises or club premises details Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description Beluga Bar 73 Bank Street Post town Maidstone Post code (if known) ME14 1SN Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known) Mr Hamid Javadi and Mr Majid Javadi Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known MAID0185/LPRM/3989 Part 2 - Applicant details I am Please tick yes 1) an interested party (please complete (A) or (B) below) a) a person living in the vicinity of the premises b) a body representing persons living in the vicinity of the premises c) a person involved in business in the vicinity of the premises

d) a body representing persons involved in business in the vicinity of the

premises

2) a responsible a	uthority	(please comp	olete (C)	below)		\boxtimes
3) a member of th below)	e club t	o which this a	pplication	on relates	(please complete	(A) 🗆
(A) DETAILS OF	INDIVID	UAL APPLIC	ANT (fi	ll in as ap	plicable)	
Please tick Mr ☐ Mrs		Miss	Ms		Other title (for example, I	Rev)
Surname			F	irst name	9S	
						,
I am 18 years old	l or ove	er			Please	tick yes
Current postal address if different from premises address						
Post town				Post (Code	
Daytime contact	teleph	one number				
E-mail address (optional)						
(B) DETAILS OF	OTHE	R APPLICAN	т			
Name and address	SS					•
Telephone numb	er (if an	у)				
E-mail address (optional)				

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address Richard Strawson Area Manager Kent County Council Trading Standards PO Box 286 West Malling Kent ME19 4HW
Telephone number (if any) 01732 525291
E-mail address (optional) Richard.strawson@kent.gov.uk
This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s) Please tick one or more boxes 1) the prevention of crime and disorder 2) public safety 3) the prevention of public nuisance 4) the protection of children from harm
Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 1) As per the information provided below, the licence holders of the Beluga Bar are believed to have failed the Licensing Act objectives of prevention of crime and disorder and public safety, in that 954 bottles of counterfeit Selekt vodka were found in their possession on the premises.

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application

Trading Standards, Police and HMRC have been made aware over the past two years in particular of premises selling illegal alcohol. This includes counterfeit alcohol, non duty paid (smuggled and diverted) alcohol, incorrectly described alcohol, incorrectly labelled alcohol and alcohol which has incomplete or no traceability.

Trading Standards have previously prosecuted businesses in relation to this matter, and issued a number of press releases relating to illegal alcohol, in an attempt to inform both the general public and the trade of the problem and also the potential risks to any business found to have illegal alcohol on their premises.

Non payment of duty and VAT has an impact on both the local and national economy. Businesses willing to stock illegal alcohol receive an unfair trading advantage over other businesses. There is also a risk of counterfeit products entering the market with the inherent risks to the public's health as a result of the use of industrial alcohol and other chemicals not intended for human consumption, poor production methods and quality control and no traceability of the products.

On the 9th May 2012 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs conducted an inspection at Beluga Bar, Bank Street, Maidstone, Kent. During the visit, officers seized 954 70cl bottles of Selekt vodka bearing incorrect duty stamps. The proprietor was unable to produce invoices or receipts to prove payment of UK exercise Duty and VAT.

Trading Standards were made aware of the seizure on the 18th May 2012 and were concerned that the vodka may be counterfeit and well as non duty paid. Officers liaised with Janice Bailey, an Officer of HM Revenue and Customs and an arrangement was made for 3 bottles of the seized spirit to be handed to Trading Standards for further investigation. (Item 1- statement of Janice Bailey)

On the 15th June 2012 one of the three bottles handed to Trading Standards, were sent to the Trade Mark Holder for Selekt vodka (G&J Greenall). A second sample bottle was sent to Kent Scientific Services to test the contents.

An email was received from Elizabeth Maguire from G&J Greenall on the 21st June 2012 confirming that the product was not genuine Selekt vodka (Item 2- Email from Elizabeth Maguire).

A report was received from Kent Scientific Services in relation to the bottle of Selekt vodka that had been submitted for testing (**Item 3**). It was confirmed that the product was not vodka. The spirit contained 32.2% alcohol, as opposed to the 37.5% (standard) claimed on the label.

The sample also contained traces of isopropyl alcohol which is not a component of vodka - instead it is a component of nail polish remover. Although the individual bottle tested was not found to contain butanol, methanol or harmful levels of isopropyl alcohol, it cannot be confirmed that this was the case in the other 953 bottles seized by HMRC.

On the 10th July 2012 a telephone call was made between a Police Licensing Officer and a Trading Standards Officer, where it was confirmed that the first intelligence received regarding possible non duty paid vodka being supplied by Beluga Bar was received on the 13th January 2012. A subsequent intelligence report was also received on the 13th May 2012 that counterfeit vodka may have been supplied at the premises (Item 4- statement of Police Licensing Officer).

On the 17th August 2012 Mr Hamid Javadi and Mr Majid Javadi attended a meeting at

Kent Trading Standards, 8 Abbey Wood Road, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4YT in order to ascertain how and why the counterfeit vodka was found at the Beluga Bar.

Mr Hamid Javadi admitted he had made a mistake and bought the alcohol from a man off the street. He did not receive any invoices and did not make any checks to see if the vodka was genuine. He thought it was a cheap product and therefore purchased over 1000 bottles in one consignment. Mr Javadi was unable to give any details of the supplier.

He further stated that he paid £7 per bottle for the vodka. The excise duty on the bottles alone would be £7.04 on a 70cl bottle of vodka, let alone the cost price and VAT; therefore being sold well below the amount one could reasonably expect to pay for a genuine bottle of vodka. (Item 5 - information from the Wine and Spirit Trade Association website)

He also claimed that this price was an introductory offer, yet a purchase of 1000 bottles would be excessive in any situation for such first time buyer offers. Also, the fact that the transaction was in cash is also indicative of its' dubious nature

It should be noted that even though he claimed to have only purchased one consignment, intelligence that was received suggested that purchases of counterfeit alcohol were taking back as early as January 2012. Mr Javadi also stated that the order he placed would have lasted around three months in the premises.

As an established nightclub in the centre of Kent's County Town, with another nightclub in Tunbridge Wells and the premises licence holder having 30 years of experience in the industry; this lack of compliance with the objectives of the Licensing Act has shown recklessness and irresponsibility.

This is not the first licence review taken against the premises. In a review of the licence on the 12th January 2010 the licence committee noted that this is the second licence review undertaken against the establishment in 12 months. (**Item 6-Previous Notice of Determination from January 2010**).

The safety of the public is paramount to the objectives of the Act, and the supply of counterfeit spirits has in the past resulted in death and personal injury to consumers. By not purchasing the vodka from a reputable source, Mr Javadi put at risk the health and safety of his customers for the sake of increased profit. Without the intervention of HMRC, one can not know what the effects would have been.

Maidstone Town Centre's night time economy is very important to Kent County Council and its' regulation is held in high regard by many. Incidents such as this threaten both its reputation and the safety of the public.

Revocations of licences have taken place before in other areas where minimal amounts of bottles have been found, and a case such as this where nearly 1000 bottles are in question is unprecedented.

The Secretary of States licensing guidance (Section 182 paragraph 11.26) states that certain activities such as the sale of bootleg alcohol; the risk put upon the public, resulting risk of crime and disorder and disregard for the warning given in a previous licence review; can be taken into account in any decision. It is recommended by this service that the premises licence should be revoked.

	Please tick yes
Have you made an application for review relating to this	
If yes please state the date of that application	Day Month Year
If you have made representations before relating to what they were and when you made them	this premises please state
What they were and when you made them	
	!

 I have sent copies of this form and authorities and the premises licence premises certificate, as appropriated I understand that if I do not comply my application will be rejected 	e holder or club holding the club
IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVIC THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECT TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR APPLICATION	ION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003
Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidan	ce note 3)
Signature of applicant or applicant's so (See guidance note 4). If signing on behacapacity. Signature	
Date 11912	
Capacity TODING ITANDARY MAT	VAGER
Contact name (where not previously give correspondence associated with this appearemy Marsh Kent County Council Trading Standards PO Box 286	, -
Post town West Malling	Post Code ME19 4HW

Notes for Guidance

Telephone number (if any)

1. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.

If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-

- 2. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.

mail address (optional) Jeremy.marsh@kent.gov.uk

- 3. The application form must be signed.4. An applicant's agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
- 5. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.

WITNESS STATEMENT

ENGLAND AND WALES ONLY

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.27, CP Rules Part 27.1)

Statement of: Janice Margaret Bailey

Age if under 18: Over 18 (If over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: H M Revenue & Customs

This statement (consisting of page(s) each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature:

possailes

Date: 14.08.12

I am an Officer of HM Revenue & Customs based at Southern House, Wellesley Grove, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 1TR, where I am employed as a Law Enforcement Coordinator (LEC). In my role as an LEC, I am responsible for exchanging information with the Police and other agencies relating to matters of mutual interest.

I have been asked by Kent Trading Standards Officer __to supply details of an inspection made by HMRC Officers on 9th May 2012 at Beluga Bar, Bank Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1SN. This is to support possible action against the proprietor, namely their suitability to attain / retain an Alcohol Licence.

I have examined the reports concerning the visit and can confirm that Officers seized a total of 954 70cl bottles of Select Vodka, totalling 667.8 litres.

Several bottles where found on the shelves and the bulk was found in a locked room in the basement, which was only visible through the key hole.

Mr Emir Reka, said to be the Assistant Manager, was present at the time of the seizure and was issued with a Seizure Notice (ENF156).

The goods were seized under section 139 of Customs & Excise Management Act 1979, due to the proprietor's inability to produce invoices or receipts to prove payment of UK Excise Duty and VAT. The revenue due on the seized goods is £9,393.27.

No notice of claim against forfeiture was received within the statutory time limit, therefore the goods were condemned as forfeited in accordance with schedule 3 to the Customs & Excise Management Act 1979.

On 15th June 2012 I delivered 3 of the bottles to Officer at Trading Standards, 8 Abbeywood Road, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, who took receipt of the alcohol for testing.

Date: 14.08.12
Signature: MBa'lly
(signature of witness)

Signature: ______

(signature witnessed by)

STATEMENT OF WITNESS: ENGLAND AND WALES ONLY

From:

Sent: 21 June 2012 14:26

To:

Subject: Selekt Vodka

Dear

Further to our telephone conversation I can confirm the following:

 The label on the sample does not have a varnish layer; it appears matt whereas the label for genuine Selekt Vodka is varnished giving a gloss appearance.



- 3. The sample bottle is manufactured by O-I, shown by details on bottom edge of the bottle, 1255 700 ml 66 mm O-I C3 E08, whilst the bottles used by G&J Greenall are manufactured by Allied Glass Containers Ltd. as shown by the letters AGC on the bottle base.
- 4. The sample has no lot mark etched on the bottle. All products manufactured at G&J
- 5. The liquid does not smell of vodka



I will arrange for the bottle to be returned to you and if you need anything further let me know.

With kind regards







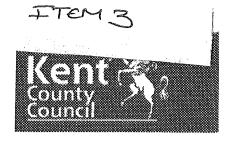
29615061201 12 July 2012 Page 1 of 2 E

KSS No: 120651

Opinion Not Satisfactory



1398

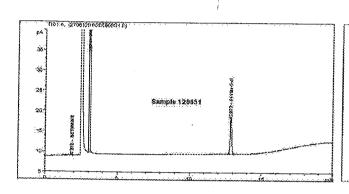


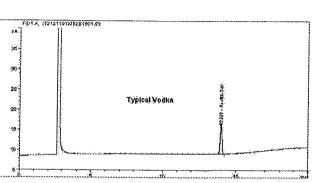
Kent Scientific Services

Public Analyst
Peter Maynard
MChemA CChem MRSC



ards





REPORT OF ANALYSIS

Sample: VODKA

Submitted on 15 June 2012, taken at: Beluga Bar, Survey no: CAREQ1213, Brand: SELEKT, Manufacturer: G&J DISTILLERS LTD

My opinion and observations are:

A drink with a declared alcoholic strength of 37.5% vol is permitted under Regulation 30 of The Food Labelling Regulations 1996 to contain not less than 37.2% by volume of alcohol.

The alcohol content was low and outside the permitted range.

Isopropyl alcohol (iso-propanol, propan-2-ol) was present at 0.79g/100mL Genuine vodka does not contain any detectable isopropyl alcohol. The amount found was not however harmful.

The duty stamp fluoresced under ultra-violet light, but the magenta on the label appeared (under magnification) to be solid rather than dot-matrix printed, as it should be.

The label was matt, but should be glossy.

There was a lot mark on the bottle, (which was probably 21:330.3F1) but this was dot-matrix printed under the collar, and should be etched into the glass.

In my opinion the sample was not vodka, and was counterfeit.

Test Name

Test Result

Method Code Method Recovery %

Alcohol

32.2 %vol

KSS M6

Methanol

3.9 g/100L alc

KSS M61

29615061201 12 July 2012 Page 2 of 2 E KSS No: 120651

Total Solids

0.030 g/100mL

The test result for a contaminant has been corrected for recovery using the average method recovery indicated and consists of the analytical result followed by the measurement uncertainty value that is based on a coverage factor of 2 providing a level of confidence of approximately 95%. Test methods not in the UKAS Accreditation schedule are marked *. Subcontracted tests are marked +. Labels will be disposed of in 30 days unless KSS are instructed otherwise.

PETER MAYNARD

12 July 2012 pdf 09:42

FSS E

Public Analyst

Kent Scientific Services, 8 Abbey Wood Rd Kings Hill. Kent. ME194YT Telephone: 01732220001 email: kss@kent.gov.uk

RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11

WITNESS STATEMENT

ITEM4

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s. 30

URN 46 Statement of: **PC Neil Barnes** 10051 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation; Age if under 18: Over 18 **Police Officer** This statement (consisting of page each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true. Signature: Date: 24/08/2012 Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am currently employed as the Police Licensing Officer for Maidstone and as such I deal with all aspects to do with licensed premises within the Maidstone area. One such aspect is the receipt and processing of information given to the Police regarding licensed premises, a role typically referred to as "intel". I can state that Kent Police have received 2 pieces of relevant intelligence regarding the Beluga Bar. The first piece is dated the 13/01/2012 and is in the form of an intelligence report (5x5x5). It reports that a male was importing alcohol in a boat at the docks and it was being distributed to locations around Maidstone. The piece of intel specifically named Hamid Javadi as one of his customers and mentioned the Beluga Bar in Maidstone. The second piece of intel is dated the 7th April 2012 and is in the form of a call from a member of the public (CAD). The report states that the Beluga Bar had a shipment of vodka bottles which were very cheap. The informant reported that they believed that the shipment was suspicious. I phoned the informant and established that their information was hearsay as they had heard it from a relative. However they stated that they were in the trade and when they had questioned their relative about the bottles they believed that the bottles were missing the duty paid stickers as they had asked about

them.

Signature: (CC)

Signature witnessed by:

Typed by:

ITEM 5

USCO SECTION ASSOCIATION

The voice of the wine und april non-

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Trade Diary

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21 August 2012 No events

Mara

Current rates per bottle (excluding VAT @ 20%) (Figures are approximate due to rounding up - from 26/03/12)

Wine (75cl) £1.90

Sparkling Wine Exceeding 5.5% not exceeding 8.5% abv - (75cl) £1.84 Sparkling Wine Exceeding 8.5% not exceeding 15% abv - (75cl) £2.43

Fortified wines (75cl) £2.53

Spirits (per 70cl @37.5%abv) £7.04

Spirit based RTDs (27.5cl @5.5%) £0.41

Cider (per pint) £0.21

Beer (per pint @4%) £0.44

of strength per 100 litres

Current rates per 100 litres (set by the March 2012 Budget -from 26.03.12)

Wine (Exceeding 5.5% not exceeding 15% abv) £253.39 per 100 litres

Sparkling Wine (Exceeding 5.5% not exceeding 8.5% abv) £245.32 per 100 litres

Sparkling Wine (Exceeding 8.5% not exceeding 15% abv) £324.56 per 100 litres

Fortified wines (exceeding 15% - not exceeding 22%) £337.82 per 100 litres

Spirits and spirit based - RTDs (Ready to Drink Products)" £26.81 for every 1%

Beer £19.51 for every 1% of strength per 100 litres Cider and Perry of up to 7.5% £37.68 per 100 litres

Previous rates (from 2000 onwards):

Click here to download the UK Excise duty rates from 2000 to 2011.

The Wine and Spirit Trade Association - International Wine & Spirit Centre -39-45 Bermondsey Street / LONDON / SEI DXF - Registered number: 410660 England Limited by Guarantee

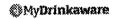
Search...

WELLINGTON















Dear !

I can confirm that the excise duty payable on a 70cl bottle of vodka at 37.5% is £7.03. 0.7l \times 0.375 = 0.2625 litres of alcohol Current duty rate is £26.81 per litre of alcohol Therefore 0.2625 \times £26.81 = £7.03

VAT is also payable on the cost + duty.

VAT on the duty alone is 20% of £7.03 = £1.40

Therefore duty & VAT due on 70cl bottle of vodka at 37.5% ABV = £8.43.

I hope this makes sense but if you need clarification please call.

With kind regards



Hi 💽

Further to our telephone call this morning, I was wondering whether you would be able to send me an email just confirming the cost price of a genuine bottle of Selekt Vodka? This may help to clarify further that including VAT etc the vodka could not have in anyway been bought for £7 for a 70cl bottle.

Kind regards,



West Malling Kent ME19 4UL

Tel.: 01732 525291 Int: 7003 5291



Annex 1

LICENSING AUTHORITY: MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING ACT 2003 LICENSING ACT 2003 (HEARINGS) REGULATIONS 2005

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF REVIEW HEARING

Application Ref No:

Applicant for Review:

Chief Inspector David Pascoe on behalf of the Chief

Officer of Police

Regarding the premises or club: The Beluga Bar

Bank Street Maidstone

Kent

Licence Holder:

Hamid Javadi and Majid Javadi

Date of hearing:

12th January 2010

Date of determination:

12th January 2010

Committee Members: [Chairman]:

Councillor: P. Sellar

Councillor: Mrs. W. Hinder

Councillor: Mrs. D. Joy

Legal Advisor in attendance at hearing: M. Hawkins (Solicitor, Swale BC)

Senior Licensing Officer in attendance at hearing: L. Neale

This is an application for:

☑ Review

of a:

☑ Premises Licence

A: Representations, evidence and submissions:

The Committee considered the representations, evidence and submissions of the following parties:

Applicant for Review:

- Name: Chief Officer of Police
- Witness (1): Peter Hedges Kent Fire & Rescue Service Fire Officer
- Witness (2):
- Legal or other representative: PC Barbara Murray

Licence Holder:

- Name: Hamid Javadi and Majid Javadi
- Witness (1): Mr Robin Giles fire Safety Officer
- Witness (2):
- Legal or other representative: Mr lain Reed Solicitor

Representations considered in the absence of a party to the hearing:
N/A

B: Consideration of the Licensing Act 2003, the Guidance under s. 182 of the Act and the Statement of Licensing Policy of Maidstone Borough Council

The Committee has taken into account the following provisions of the <u>Licensing Act</u> 2003 and the Regulations thereto:

Sections 51 – 53 inclusive which relate to the review of a premises licence;

The Sub-Committee has decided, having regard to the application and the relevant representations, taken the following step(s) members consider necessary for the

Determination:

promotion of the licensing objectives:

C.

□ take no action in respect of the premises licence/club premises certificate;
$\hfill\Box$ issue a warning to the premises or club in the following words:
N/A
☑ Take one or more of the following steps under s. 52 (4) (premises) or 88(4) (clubs) of the Act:
☑ To modify the conditions of the licence. (Note: conditions may be modified for a set period of time up to 3 months if considered appropriate). If so, state the modified conditions and if it is time limited:
In order to promote the licensing objectives of the prevention of Crime and Disorder and the promotion of Public Safety the sub-committee decided to amend the premises license to add the following conditions:
1. An electronic system will be installed at the premises that accurately counts how many persons are in the premises. This system will be installed with the agreement of the police and the fire safety officer. It will be available for inspection by any responsible authority at any time that the premises is open to staff or members of the public.
The club shall not be opened to the public at any time that the electronic system is not installed and operating.
To <u>exclude</u> a licensable activity from the scope of the licence (or qualifying club activity from the certificate). (Note: activities can be excluded from the licence for a period of time up to 3 months if considered appropriate. Activities can also be excluded from certain parts of the premises if appropriate). If so, state the activities excluded and if the exclusion is time limited or limited to certain parts of the premises:

To remove the Designated Premises Supervisor
To suspend the licence for a period of not exceeding 3 months
To revoke the licence or withdraw the club premises certificate.

Reasons for determination:
☑Prevention of Crime and Disorder ☑Promotion of Public Safety
Reasons (state in full): for both objectives
In relation to the promotion of the licensing objectives of prevention of crime and disorder and public safety the Sub-Committee after considering the evidence presented decided that it is a necessary and proportionate response to impose conditions on the licence to address the issues as stated by the Police.
N.B. The Sub-Committee wished it be noted that they acknowledge the fact that this is the 2 nd occasion that there has been a review of this establishment's premise licence in the last 12 months.
Prevention of Public Nuisance Reasons (state in full):
N/A
Children from Harm Reasons (state in full):
N/A
PRINT NAME (CHAIRMAN): Councillor Mr Patrick Sellar

Signed [Chairman]: A copy of the original document is held on file

Date: 15.1.2010