

Lambeth Licensing

**LX - Lambeth Borough
Licensing and Night-time
Economy**

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Your ref: PREM1593

Our ref:

3 March 2017

Dear Sir

I am a Police Sergeant employed in the role of Licensing Officer for the Metropolitan Police Service, Lambeth Borough. I am authorised by a delegation given by the Commissioner to act on her behalf in all matters pertaining to the Licensing Act 2003.

The Metropolitan Police Service objects to **both** applications to transfer the Premises Licence **and** Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor received by us on 7th March 2017 from Magazin Romanesc, 420 Streatham High Road, SW16.

The MPS is satisfied under sections 37(5) and 42(6) Licensing Act 2003 that the exceptional circumstances of the case are such that granting the application would undermine the crime prevention objectives.

The premises is currently subject to an application to review the premises licence, following the conviction, in late 2016, of the current Premises Licence Holder of offences of possessing smuggled goods contrary to sec 144 Licensing Act 2003, and possessing tobacco products not bearing the required health warnings contrary to sec 12 Consumer Protection Act 1987. This followed an operation by Trading Standards Officers in which a large amount of foreign tobacco products, which were not for the UK market, were seized from the premises.

The MPS contends that the present application to transfer the licence and vary the DPS will be cited by the premises as an indication that they have 'brought in new management', and that the new management will represent a 'fresh start'. This is, in my experience, a tactic often used by premises who are facing review proceedings.

On 17th December 2014 Police received an anonymous telephone call alleging that non duty-paid cigarettes were being delivered to the premises in the early hours of the morning, and that they could be purchased 'under the counter'.

On 24th December 2014 Police Officers visited the premises in response to this call, and seized 266 boxes of non-duty paid cigarettes which were found in a box under the counter.

On that occasion, two persons were present working at the premises. One of those two people was Marius COSTRASEL, who is the applicant in this case.

The MPS contends that Mr Costrasel's presence in the premises on 24th December 2014, in those circumstances, shows that he is linked to the premises at a time that illegal activity, of a similar type that led to the conviction of the present Premises Licence Holder, was taking place.

It is this connection which leads the MPS to be satisfied that granting the application would undermine the crime prevention objectives.

In support of this objection, I have attached the following documents:-

Crime report number 1240246/14 detailing events on 24th December 2014.

Grounds for Review submitted by Lambeth Trading Standards in support of the review application (for ease of reference)

Yours sincerely,

David Smith