

**Middlesbrough Council
The Licensing Act 2003 - Responsible Authority (RA) Representation**

Name of RA Representative: Fiona Helyer

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Licence holder details

Name and Address of Premises European Deli Ltd Address: 242-244 Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 3QP
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Name of licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known) N/A
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Number of premises licence or club premise certificate (if known) N/A
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Representation

It is my opinion that the application fails to adequately satisfy the following licensing objectives:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prevention of Crime and Disorder
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prevention of Public Nuisance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protection of Children from Harm

Evidence presented by Middlesbrough Council, responsible authority for health, against the application for a premises licence in respect of premises situated at 242-244 Linthorpe Road under the Licensing Act 2003

This representation is being made by the Responsible Authority for Public Health on the grounds of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety and Protection of Children from Harm.

The application made is for the grant of a new premises licence from 0900 – 2200 hours seven days a week for the supply of alcohol. The application is made by European Deli Ltd

who is the proposed Premises Licence holder. Mr Karim Samir Hassan Jafar Aidross the sole Director of the company is the proposed Designated Premises Supervisor.

This premises is situated within the Central ward but also within close proximity to the boundary of Newport ward, Linthorpe Road being the only dividing road between this premise and Newport ward. Both wards are within the top 5 out of 20 wards in Middlesbrough for being the most deprived. There is high unemployment, low education attainments, a high predominance of privately rented properties, some of the poorest in Middlesbrough and a high prevalence of ill health.

There is a high density of premises within both wards – approximately 30 in Central ward and a further 20 in Newport ward. Approximately 60% of off licensed premises are situated within 5 ward areas of Middlesbrough: Central, Newport, Park, Longlands and Beechwood and North Ormesby. During 2014/2015 a high proportion of the alcohol related crimes, wholly attributable hospital admissions and crime and disorder incidents were recorded from these ward areas.

Alcohol arrest data shows that both Central and Newport wards are both hotspot areas for alcohol related crime and disorder and that a high number of these cases has involved people drinking in the home. There has been a high number of problems with street drinking and begging issues within both wards which has involved individuals congregating in community areas including nearby children's play areas.

This, together with the high density of off licence premises prompted the need for a Cumulative Impact Policy to be included in Middlesbrough Council's Licensing Policy 2016-2021. This Policy ensures that further off licence premises applications do not add to existing crime and disorder issues within these wards. It will also assist in the promotion of all licensing objectives and responsible and effective retailing.

Recent information received suggests that there are a number of issues including crime and anti-social behaviour occurring at the front and rear of this premises and neighbouring premises. Such issues include thefts, alcohol and substance misuse, rough sleeping and prostitution. Fire Safety risks are also of concern due to the people who are sleeping at the rear of the premises lighting fires. There has also been a number of assaults on members of staff working at nearby premises reported to Police. Such assaults have occurred when members of staff challenge those that steal from their premises.

It is our opinion that the granting of a new premises licence in respect of these premises would undermine the Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, and Protection of Children from Harm licensing objectives and will exacerbate the problems already experienced.

In 2017/18 Central Ward was recorded as being the 4th most deprived ward out of 20 wards in Middlesbrough. It had the highest number of hospital stays for alcohol related harm and the highest number of alcohol related incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour. It also had the highest number of clients in treatment. Newport was recorded as being the 5th most deprived ward in Middlesbrough, the 4th highest for alcohol related

hospital stays and the 2nd highest for alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour.

A survey carried out over the last 12 months obtained information regarding the type of alcohol sold, in particular higher strength beers, lagers and ciders sold from the off licences in the Newport ward. Some of these products cost as little 13p per unit of alcohol. (The Chief Medical Officer recommends a minimum unit price of 50 p per unit) and are highly attractive to risky or dependent drinkers. There are clear links between the availability of cheap alcohol, antisocial behaviour and crime and disorder. Whilst it is not illegal to sell high strength alcoholic products there is clearly a need to ensure that all alcohol products are sold responsibly to ensure the licensing objectives are upheld.

Nationally and out of the 326 Local Authority areas, Middlesbrough is ranked number 2 for alcohol related mortality. Middlesbrough is also ranked within the top 12 for the highest numbers of hospital admissions which relate to the following alcohol related disorders -: cardio vascular disease, mental and behavioural disorders, self-poisoning and exposure and unintentional injuries. Such alcohol related illnesses/disorders have a huge impact on the National Health Service.

On Tuesday 23 April 2019 a meeting was held with the applicant and director of European Deli Ltd, Mr Aidross. Representatives from Public Health, Cleveland Police, Trading Standards and Licensing were present. The meeting was to discuss this application due to the application failing to fully demonstrate how the proposed premises will not negatively impact on the licensing objectives.

During the meeting Mr Aidross confirmed that he was the Director of European Deli Ltd and was the proposed Designated Premises Licence Holder for the premises. He also provided the following information:

- He is currently employed by the Immigration Advice Centre as a Senior Legal Advisor.
- He had recently passed a personal licence holders course and had been granted a Personal Licence by Middlesbrough Council's Licensing department
- He had very little knowledge and experience of working in off licensed premises. He had previously worked in shops and bars. His role within the bar was that of a glass collector.
- He had no previous experience of owning and running a business.
- He advised that a company named Relec Investment Ltd is the current landlord of 242 -244 Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough and that a fifteen year lease, including a large deposit had been agreed by all parties concerned.
- He is aware of the problems surrounding this premises and others that had led to the revocation of their premises licence by Middlesbrough Council's Licensing Committee.

- He has no association with previous owners of this premises.
- It is his intention to manage the business
- It is his intention to place an advert with the local job centre to seek suitable and experienced members of staff to be employed at this premises.
- He confirmed that training will be completed with all staff regarding licensing legislation relating to underage sales and sales of alcohol to those that are drunk. Such training will be documented.

When asked about the alcohol products that he would be selling from the premise he advised that he would not be selling products that had an alcohol content of 6.5% and above, including white ciders and high strength beers however he had failed to submit this within his application. He advised that he would be selling a number of European wines and spirits but was unable to pass any information on as this was still being researched.

This premise is located within the Cumulative Impact Policy area and it is our opinion that the granting of this premises off licence will have a negative impact on the licensing objectives in an area which already has a high density of off licensed premises and suffers from high levels of alcohol related Crime and Disorder, Anti- Social behaviour and Public Health issues.