

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a hearing of **LICENSING PANEL A** held on **THURSDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY, 2026** at 7.00 pm, which was held remotely via Microsoft Teams.

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL PRESENT

Councillors Sharon Hardwick and Patricia Leman

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL ABSENT

Councillors Shah Miah

The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the hearing. They are subject to approval and signature at the next hearing of Licensing Panel A and any corrections approved at that hearing will be recorded in those minutes.

MINUTES

1. GUIDANCE ON REMOTE MEETINGS HELD UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003 AND ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Following apologies for absence from the Chair of the Panel, it was:

RESOLVED –

- (i) THAT Councillor Sharon Hardwick be elected Chair of Licensing Panel A for this meeting only; and
- (ii) THAT the guidance on remote meetings be noted.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Shah Miah. It was confirmed that the Panel was quorate with two Members present.

3. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF STATUTORY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, COMPULSORY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND VOLUNTARY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Webcasting of the meeting

The Chair announced that the meeting was being broadcast live by the Council and would later be made available on the website. Those addressing the meeting were deemed to be consenting to having their contributions recorded and broadcast.

Supplementary Agenda

The Chair announced that a supplementary agenda had been published containing additional information for *Agenda Item 8: Charlotte Street Magazines*.

5. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

6. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the previous meeting.

RESOLVED –

THAT the Minutes for the meeting that took place on 18 December 2025 be agreed and signed as an accurate record.

7. IMPERIAL, GROUND FLOOR, 102 PARKWAY NW1 7AN

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Director Investment, Place and Opportunity, which outlined an application for a new premises licence under section 17 of the Licencing Act 2003.

The Licensing Officer introduced the report, outlining that the application sought a licence for the sale of alcohol, off the premises only, from 08:00 to 22:30 Mondays to Sundays. Two additional conditions requested by the Police Responsible Authority had been accepted by the applicant. Two relevant representations had been received from a resident association and a Safer Neighbourhood Team, opposing the application. It was noted that on 3 February 2026, Police and Trading Standards officers visited the premises, where alcohol was on display and illicit cigarettes were seized. These matters had only recently come to light and were not part of the initial consultation representations. A Temporary Event Notice (TEN) for alcohol off-sales had been granted from 27 January 2026 to 2 February 2026. The licencing objectives engaged were the prevention of public nuisance, prevention of crime and disorder, and protection of children from harm. The hours policy was engaged regarding proposed Sunday start times. The application did not include Women's Safety Principles. There were no questions of clarification.

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The applicant's representative, June Clarke, confirmed there were no further amendments to the application as it was robust.

Kate Gemmell, TRACT, an Interested Party, highlighted the points made in the written submission. In response to suggestions that a further condition was required to ensure alcohol was secured from the public, the applicant's representative advised that there already was a condition which had been drafted by the Police for this to be done. It was emphasised that the applicant had accepted the Police advice, given their expertise.

There was some confusion over the documentation, as wording of a condition appeared struck through in the agenda papers. Officers clarified that while mediation with the Police was noted earlier in the report, the final agreed list of conditions was set out on pages 92–93 of the agenda pack. The applicant confirmed that they would not sell single cans of lager or any lager over 6% ABV, and that this was already covered by an existing condition agreed with the Police. The applicant also indicated they had no objection to later start times for alcohol sales on Sundays, which would be addressed during their submission.

The applicant, Sarkawt Karimi and the applicant's representative, June Clarke, presented the application.

- The premises was a very small shop with a robust operating schedule, including 39 conditions agreed with the Police Responsible Authority.
- The premises was on the edge of the Camden Town cumulative impact zone.
- The applicant proposed 10% of display space for alcohol and offered to cover the window display, which was the back of the counter within the shop, if the Panel deemed it necessary.
- A robust risk assessment was conducted, and the applicant would operate several compliance books (CCTV, refusals, incident log, staff induction/training).
- Regarding interested party concerns, the applicant's representative noted that the Police were not concerned about single bottle sales, but the applicant had agreed to a condition regarding no lager over 6%.
- With regard to street drinking in the town centre, it was noted that the premises was not in the town centre but on the edge of the Camden Town cumulative impact zone here serious negative impacts had been found. It was suggested that the concerns were related to on licensed premises.
- The applicant addressed the illicit cigarette seizure, stating a friend who was covering in the shop had accidentally left them in the shop the day before the Police and Trading Standards visits.
- Significant financial hardship had been caused by a council error. An email on 7 December 2025 mistakenly confirmed the licence had been granted, leading to substantial investment of approximately £100,000 in lease, stock, and equipment. The applicant was then informed on 22 December 2025 that two representations had been received meaning that a hearing was required. The

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applicant expressed distress regarding the situation and stated that the friend was present at the hearing to corroborate the incident with the cigarettes.

- It was confirmed that alcohol had not been sold following the end of the TEN.

The Legal Adviser clarified that the Statement of Licensing Policy was revised in November 2025 and no longer designated any cumulative impact zones. The policy was published on the Council website. This was not to say that interested parties could not raise cumulative impact as an issue. The Licensing Officer was asked to check the applicant's allegation regarding a council error.

In response to questions about secure storage of alcohol, particularly given the small space and the photograph showing spirits in the window. The applicant's representative offered to move the spirits and instal a Perspex barrier.

The Chair questioned the events of 3 February 2026, after the TEN had expired. The applicant confirmed alcohol was on display but no sales were made, as staff were about to cover it. The shop opened late, at around 09:00 instead of 07:00, with the police arriving at 11:00. It was confirmed 170 illicit cigarettes (10 packs of Parliament, two of Richmond and five of Marlborough) were found.

It was confirmed that alcohol and cigarettes were bought from the cash and carry.

The Chair questioned the discrepancy between the application as a "grocery store" and the "off-licence" signage. The applicant stated the new sign was put up after the 7 December email confirming the licence grant.

It was clarified that there had been two TENs of seven days each. Alcohol was covered up when a TEN was not in operation.

The Licencing Officer confirmed an email from the licencing case officer on 7 December 2025 mistakenly said the licence had been granted. This was corrected on 22 December 2025 following receipt of representations. It was also confirmed that the police served a closure notice for alcohol removal and took photographs following their recent visit with Trading Standards. The applicant's representative confirmed that the client closed the shop.

The Interested Party, Kate Gemmell, asked for clarification about the categorisation of the business as a grocery store given the off-licence sign that indicated the business was primarily alcohol-led, not food-led. The applicant's representative considered that if the store only dedicated 10% of display space to alcohol and the rest to groceries it was not an off-licence. The Legal Adviser noted that the important issue was that an off sales licence was being applied for.

The Interested Party, Applicant and Agent then made closing remarks.

The Applicant confirmed that the conditions proposed by the Interested Party could be accepted and offered a later start time of 11:00 on Sundays.

Decision and Reasons

Panel Members confirmed that they had been able to follow and understand the submissions and discussion in relation to the application.

In deliberation, the Panel considered the representations by the Interested Parties and the information provided by the Applicant and applicant's representative.

Members acknowledged the Applicant's willingness to accept additional conditions and the unfortunate confusion caused by the council's initial email. However, significant concerns were expressed regarding secure storage of alcohol and the need for more detail on the proposed Perspex screen. The actions of the temporary staff member who arrived late and had not covered up the alcohol display prior to the Police visit on 3 February 2026 gave rise to concerns that conditions would be adhered to. The Chair commented that the alcohol should be covered at the end of the previous night. There was concern that staff had not been briefed or trained properly and could have sold alcohol without a licence in place.

There was also concern about the way the application was made for a grocery store but was being advertised as an off-licence. The signage prioritised alcohol, followed by tobacco. Concern was expressed about the number of illicit cigarettes found in the store during the police and trading standards visits.

If the licence was to be granted, further conditions as proposed by Kate Gemmell would need to be included and assurance given that staff would be trained and would follow the conditions. The Legal Adviser noted that the applicant had already agreed a condition on secure storage of alcohol with the police and highlighted the offer for a condition to screen off the display of alcohol in the window. It was noted that there was already a condition on staff training although a friend had been running the shop on a temporary basis when the police and trading standards visits took place. However, the licence holder would ultimately be responsible for any breach of conditions. Members could consider the need for additional staff members but should ask questions of the applicant with regard to any such requirement.

The Chair noted that the findings of the police and trading standards visits were serious matters for an unlicensed premises. The window display offered easy access for thieves given crime in the local area. The lack of the applicant or a trained member of staff on the premises at the time was also of concern.

Because of the concerns discussed, it was considered that granting the licence would not promote the licencing objectives regarding prevention of public nuisance, prevention of crime and disorder, and protection of children from harm.

With all Panel Members in agreement, it was

RESOLVED –

To refuse the new premises licence application in order to promote the licensing objectives.

8. CHARLOTTE STREET MAGAZINES, 66 CHARLOTTE STREET, LONDON, W1T 4QE

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Director Investment, Place and Opportunity, which outlined an application to vary a premises licence under section 34 of the Licencing Act 2003.

The Licensing Officer introduced the report, outlining that the application sought to vary an existing premises licence. Current hours for off-sales of alcohol were 08:00 to 17:00 Monday to Saturday. The variation sought to amend these hours to 08:00 to 23:00 Monday to Sunday. One relevant representation opposing the application was received from the Charlotte Street Association. The licencing objective engaged was the prevention of public nuisance. The hours policy was engaged regarding proposed Sunday start times. The application included the Women's Safety Principles.

A late submission from the interested party was circulated in the supplementary agenda. The interested party, Linus Rees on behalf of the Charlotte Street Association, explained its relevance to the history of engagement with the applicant and concerns about cumulative impact. The applicant and applicant's representative confirmed that they had seen the supplementary paper. The Panel agreed to accept the late paper.

The applicant's representative, Arlene auf der Mauer, informed the Panel that the applicant was willing to accept a reduction in hours with supply of alcohol ending at 21:00 Monday to Sunday. There were no questions for clarification.

Linus Rees, Charlotte Street Association, an Interested Party, highlighted the points made in the written submission. In response to a question, Mr. Rees confirmed no specific issues had arisen from the business since the current licence was granted in June 2025. In response to a question from the applicant's representative about whether there had been an increase in public nuisance between 2019 and 2023 when there had been a 20% increase in licences granted in the area, the interested party stated there had been an increase in noise nuisance and general antisocial behaviour in the area, attributing this to the evening and night-time economy. The area was known to be a public nuisance hotspot.

The applicant, Aniket Patel, and applicant's representative, Arlene auf der Mauer, presented the application.

- The shop had been part of the Charlotte Street community for 34 years with no past problems.
- Existing licence conditions, including no miniatures, 5.5% cap on beer/cider, and no single cans/bottles, were being maintained to mitigate public nuisance.

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- The reason for the variation was to capture commuter trade, as the current 18:30 closing time meant missing customers leaving work.
- Most licensed premises in the area were on-licences, and 21:00 was a reasonable closing time, avoiding late-night drunken crowds.
- The applicant had taken over the business from a family member and needed to increase revenue. The previous application should have been for longer hours. The applicant highlighted having ten years of experience selling alcohol in another shop, holding a personal licence, and having trained staff. A strong record of compliance was maintained in the other business with no thefts or underage sales.
- Local residents supported the later hours. It was planned to sell quality wines and spirits.

In response to questions for clarification, it was confirmed that the applicant was accepting an amendment to close at 21:00. On Sundays it was accepted that while opening hours would remain at 08:00, the application for a licence for supply of alcohol would be amended to 10:00.

The Interested Party and applicant then made closing remarks.

Decision and Reasons

Panel Members confirmed that they had been able to follow and understand the submissions and discussion in relation to the application.

In deliberation, Members found the applicant's offer to amend the proposed hours very positive. There was no evidence presented that the current operation of the premises had caused any public nuisance. The applicant's experience and responsible approach were noted. The Panel concluded that, with the amended hours, the application would promote the licencing objectives and would not add to public nuisance. Therefore, it was:

RESOLVED –

- i) THAT the application to vary a premises licence under section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003 be granted for:
 - a) **Supply of Alcohol (For consumption OFF the premises)**
08:00 – 21:00 Monday to Saturday
10:00 – 21:00 Sunday
 - b) **Opening hours**
08:00 – 21:00 Monday to Sunday
- ii) THAT the following conditions be applied to the licence:

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1. All front of house staff shall be trained in Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE), "Ask for Angela", drink spiking. Records of staff training shall be provided to an authorised officer upon request.
2. Strong beer and cider above 5.5% ABV shall not be sold.
3. A refusals book shall be kept at the premises to record details of all refusals to sell alcohol. This book shall contain the date and time of the incident, a description of the customer, the name of the staff member who refused the sale, and the reason the sale was refused. The book shall be made available to police and authorised Council officers on request.
4. Shutters shall be closed and locked at the end of the permitted hours for the sale of alcohol. They shall remain locked until the start of the permitted hours on the following day.
5. Posters shall be displayed in prominent positions around the till advising customers of the proof of age policy in force at the premises. No proof, no sale.
6. No miniature or quarter bottles of spirits shall be sold at the premises.
7. A Challenge 25 policy will be enforced, where any person reasonably looking under the age of 25 shall be asked to prove their age when attempting to purchase alcohol and signs to this effect will be displayed at the premises. The only acceptable forms of identity will be those with photographic identification documents recognised in the Home Office guidance; including passports, photocard driving licence or proof of age card bearing the PASS hologram.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

The hearing ended at 9.10 pm.

CHAIR

Contact Officer: Cheryl Hardman

Telephone No: 020 7974 8543

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E-Mail: **licensing.committee@camden.gov.uk**

MINUTES END