



LICENSING AUTHORITY

Mid Sussex District Council, Oaklands, Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath RH16 1SS

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 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 Peter Aston, Trading Standards, Team Manager, West Sussex County Council Trading Standards Service 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 club premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description

Yowu Limited t/a London Road Food and Wine
65 London Road

Post town: East Grinstead

Post code (if known): RH19 1EQ

Name of Premises Licence holder or Club holding Club Premises Certificate (if known)

Mr Ibrahim Kahraman

Number of Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate (if known)

PWA0487

Part 2 – Applicant details

I am

Please tick ✓ yes

1) An individual, body or business which is not a Responsible Authority (please read guidance note 1, and complete (A) or (B) below)

☐

2) A Responsible Authority (please complete (C) below)

☒

3) A member of the Club to which this application relates (please complete (A) below)

☐

(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT (fill in as applicable)

Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms ☐ Other title (For example, Rev) ☐

Surname

First names

--	--

Please tick ✓ yes

I am over 18 years old or over

☐

Current postal address if different from premises address

--

Post town

Postcode

Daytime contact telephone number

Email address

(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT

Name and address

--

Telephone number (if any)

--

E-mail address (optional)

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address

FOR & ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
APPLICANT:
West Sussex County Council Trading Standards Service
Parkside
Chart Way
Horsham
RH12 1XH

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 2)

West Sussex County Council Trading Standards Service (the 'Responsible Authority') contends the following licensing objectives have been undermined by the carrying on of licensable activities at these premises:

- The prevention of crime and disorder.
- Public safety.
- The protection of children from harm.

Full particulars in support of the application are to be found in the next section, but in summary:

On the 14th November 2025 WSCC Trading Standards officers conducted an inspection at Yowu Limited t/a Bodrum, London Road Food and Wine, 65 London Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1EQ. This business was incorporated on 2nd February 2018, Mr Ibrahim KAHRAMAN is the sole director and manager of the business, a post he has held since the business was incorporated.

Officers met with Mr Ibrahim KAHRAMAN on arrival at the premises. During the inspection officers found 320 sticks (16 packets) of Benson & Hedges Switch cigarettes in non-standard packaging in the rear storage area of the shop.

Mr KAHRAMAN advised officers that these cigarettes were for his personal use and showed officers an open packet which he had in his pocket. Officers seized these along with the other packets and asked Mr KAHRAMAN why he was smoking illegal cigarettes when his shop had a gantry full of legal cigarettes. His response was that Officers 'did not understand.'

On further inspection of the storage area officers were able to locate boxes of single use vapes. Mr KAHRAMAN advised officers that he had removed these from sale as of the 1st June 2025 when The Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) (England) Regulations 2024 came into force and the sale of single use vapes was banned. Under these regulations a person who supplies, offers to supply or has in their possession for supply a single use vape is guilty of an offence.

He stated that he was at a loss as to how to dispose of them so just kept them in storage. However, officers noted they were not marked for disposal or not for sale. Officers counted these vapes and found a total of 1644. Mr KAHRAMAN signed these over to officers for disposal. Officers were also concerned that Mr KAHRAMAN had not taken reasonable steps to dispose of this quantity of vapes in a responsible manner.

Officers also found the fire escape at the rear of the premises blocked by stock and packaging which had been left in front of the designated fire exit door. The corridor leading to this exit was also constricted by further stock storage along both sides of the corridor.

Officers obtained photographs of the fire exit and corridor which were referred as a matter of urgency to WS Fire Safety Team who conducted an immediate inspection of the premises. This resulted in the Responsible Person clearing the fire escape routes and ensuring that the fire escape door was unlocked during trading hours.

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application (please read guidance note 3)

Previous History

The Responsible Authority received several complaints in 2023, alleging Yowu Limited t/a London Road Food and Wine, 65 London Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1EQ of selling e-cigarettes to individuals aged under 18.

- On 18th April 2023 a complaint was received from a member of the public that their 14yr old son had been buying vapes from the premises.
- On 19th April 2023 a further complaint was received from a member of the public which alleged that the trader had been selling vapes to children as young as 13 on a regular basis.
- On 20th April 2023 a member of the public made a complaint that they had witnessed the sale of vapes to a child clearly under the age of 18.

On the 2nd June 2023, a Trading Standards Officer from the Responsible Authority conducted an advice visit in relation to selling age restricted products. The Trading Standards Officer spoke to one of the directors of the business, Mr Ibrahim KAHRAMAN on the phone about the underage sales advice visit. The advice visit continued with one of the shop employees. Several points around age restricted products and training were discussed during the advice visit.

On the 5th June 2023, a follow up advice letter, which reiterated what was discussed from the advice visit, was sent to Mr KAHRAMAN'S email address.

- On 9th June 2023 a member of the public made the following complaint 'Shop repeatedly selling vapes to 13+ year olds. This is happening on a daily basis with absolutely no age checks. This shop has been reported via this form many times by many concerned parents and it is still happening. Please help to help our children by stopping this.'
- On 25th June 2023 a member of the public complained that the shop was continuing to sell vapes to children under 13. That this situation had been going on for months and that the service had received multiple reports from concerned parents.

On the 27th of June 2023 as part of an underage sales operation the Responsible Authority were carrying out that day a 16-year-old volunteer under the instruction and supervision of the Responsible Authority entered Yowu Limited t/a London Road Food and Wine, 65 London Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1EQ. The child volunteer selected one bottle of WKD Blue vodka drink and took it to the till. A female working behind the till area sold the WKD Blue bottle of alcohol to the child volunteer, without asking them for any identification.

This was evidenced, and uncontested and a six-week licence suspension was issued by the Mid Sussex Licensing Committee at a hearing on 8th November 2023.

On 3rd January 2024 WSCC TS officers conducted an inspection at the premises and found 6780 sticks (339 packets) of Marlboro Touch and Parliament Blue cigarettes in non-standard packaging with foreign labelling contained within a bin bag which had been secreted behind the counter. Both brands were examined by a brand representative and were confirmed to be a genuine product which should have only been on sale in the Turkish Market.

Due to the packaging and print not being in English both branded items contravened the Tobacco Related Products Regs 2016, section 11, (4), (a), in that any health wording on tobacco products should be clearly displayed in English within the UK, resulting in these items being non-compliant.

These cigarettes should not have been in the UK and no duty or taxes would have been paid on them meaning that Mr KAHRAMA was allegedly committing an offence of fraudulently avoiding excise duty contrary to S170 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1972.

By having smuggled goods on his licensed premises, Mr KAHRAMA was also allegedly committing an offence under Section 144 of the Licensing Act 2003.

This matter resulted in the premises being the subject of a further Licence review.

- On 31st January 2024 a complaint was received from a member of the public who reported seeing a child being sold a vape in the shop. Enquiries with this complainant revealed that the child, a boy was wearing school uniform from Sackville School. That he was served by a dark-haired foreign male who did not request identification.

On 16th February 2024 WSCC TS officers conducted a UAS TP with a child volunteer who was directed to purchase alcohol. On this occasion the trader requested ID and the sale was refused.

On 22nd May 2024 Mid Sussex District Council held a review of the Premises Licence under S52 of the Licensing Act 2003. This resulted in a revocation of the alcohol licence as a reasonable, appropriate and proportionate response to uphold the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder, the promotion of public safety, and the protection of children from harm.

Mr Kahraman made an appeal against this revocation which was listed for hearing on 2nd and 3rd December 2024 and adjourned to 28th and 29th April 2025. After opening submissions at the hearing on 28th April the Appellant offered to settle the case with a 6-week suspension and costs which was agreed.

On the 14th November 2025 WSCC Trading Standards officers conducted an inspection at Yowu Limited t/a Bodrum, London Road Food and Wine, 65 London Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1EQ. During the inspection officers found 320 sticks (16 packets) of Benson & Hedges Switch cigarettes in non-standard packaging in the rear storage area of the shop. The sole director of the company Mr Ibrahim KAHRAMAN advised officers that these cigarettes were for his personal use and showed officers an open packet which he had in his pocket.

Officers seized these along with the other packets and asked Mr KAHRAMAN why he was smoking illegal cigarettes when his shop had a gantry full of legal cigarettes.

His response was that Officers 'did not understand.'

The Benson & Hedges Switch cigarettes have been sent to the brand holder for analysis, the brand holder has stated that these cigarettes were made by British American Tobacco for the Nigerian market.

Officers were dismayed to find these cigarettes on the premises following the lengthy and expensive appeal that Mr KAHRMAN had made against the revocation of his alcohol licence after illegal cigarettes were last found on his premises in January 2024.

A person found guilty of an offence under the Tobacco Product Regulations 2016 may be liable, on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or a fine or both, or on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or a fine, or both.

Under Section 144 of the Licensing Act 2003 regarding the keeping of smuggled goods namely tobacco on licence premises it states:

(1) A person to whom subsection (2) applies commits an offence if he knowingly keeps or allows to be kept, on any relevant premises, any goods which have been imported without payment of duty or which have otherwise been unlawfully imported.

(2) This subsection applies

(a) to any person who works at the premises in a capacity, whether paid or unpaid, which gives him authority to prevent the keeping of the goods on the premises,

(b) in the case of licensed premises, to

(i) the holder of a premises licence in respect of the premises, and

(ii) the designated premises supervisor (if any) under such a licence

Under the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 any person knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of duty chargeable on tobacco products commits an offence which has a maximum 7-year imprisonment.

Officers were also dismayed to find 1644 single use vapes stored on the premises. Retailers who sell vapes (or other electronic equipment) must comply with their distributor obligations under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2013.

The requirements for the instore takeback scheme are:

- 1) Retailers must keep records of their stock for 4 years, and these must be available for inspection, and
- 2) Retailers must have information about the scheme instore e.g.: posters displayed, and
- 3) A waste bin must be in store for disposal of disposable vapes, and
- 4) Retailers must arrange for an approved waste contractor to collect and dispose of the vapes.

Mr Kahraman continues to sell vapes and has failed in his obligations to provide a takeback scheme and arrange for an approved waste contractor to collect and dispose of old and returned vapes. Had he met his obligations he would not have been at a loss as to how to dispose of the large quantity of disposable vapes, he was storing.

The 1644 vapes found are not refillable, not rechargeable and as such come under the meaning of single-use vape as set out S3 (1) The Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) (England) Regulations 2024.

A person is guilty of an offence under S4 (1) The Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) (England) Regulations 2024. If they supply, offers to supply or has in their possession for supply a single use vape.

S4 (2) A person guilty of an offence under paragraph (1) is liable on summary conviction to a fine.

Also, during the visit on 14th November 2025, officers seized 11 bottles of after shave which, according to the label, contained the ingredient butylphenyl methylpropional. This is a synthetic fragrance ingredient which was formerly widely used in cosmetic products, but which has been banned in the UK and EU since 2022 because of evidence it can harm the human reproductive system. According to the label, the products had been manufactured in 2017.

Mr Kahraman was not able to provide an invoice for the products, although he did identify two wholesalers in north London whom he said sold it. One of the businesses named has already responded to enquiries and have stated that they do not sell the product. The other business has yet to respond to enquiries.

The lack of traceability of this product is a breach of Article 7 of assimilated Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009, a distributor of cosmetic products must, at the request of trading standards, identify the trader who supplied them with a cosmetic product. Non-compliance with Article 7 of assimilated Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 is an offence contrary to Regulation 12(1) of the Cosmetic Products Enforcement Regulations 2013.

This product has also been the subject of a safety alert on the EU Safety Gate – Rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products - <https://ec.europa.eu/safety-gate/alerts/screen/webReport/alertDetail/10097038?lang=en> It has also now been published as a UK product safety alert issued by the Government's Office of Product Safety & Standards [Product Safety Report: Arko Comfort After Shave Cologne \(2507-0038\) - GOV.UK](#)

Section 11.27 of The Home Office document 'Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003' last revision November 2025 it states:

'There is certain criminal activity that may arise in connection with licensed premises which should be treated particularly seriously. These are the use of the licensed premises:

'for the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and alcohol.'

Section 11.28 of that Home Office document goes on to say. "It is envisaged that licensing authorities, the police, the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) and other law enforcement agencies, which are responsible authorities, will use the review procedures effectively to deter such activities and crime. Where reviews arise and the licensing authority determines that the crime prevention objective is being undermined through the premises being used to further crimes, it is expected that revocation of the licence – even in the first instance – should be seriously considered.'

The trade in illegal tobacco harms local communities, affects honest businesses operating within the law and undermines local and national efforts that have been made to reduce smoking and improve health. The availability and typically lower price of illicit tobacco products also encourages young people to take up smoking.

In view of the above, the Responsible Authority do not believe the licensing objectives are being continually upheld at Yowu Limited t/a London Road Food and Wine, 65 London Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1EQ, and deem it both proportionate and necessary to invite the committee to consider a review of the premises licence, to limit further criminal activity by this licence holder and to act as a deterrent to other operators considering such illegal conduct.

No meaningful conditions can be put on a premises licence to deal with smuggled goods and illegal products. Therefore, the Responsible Authority seek a revocation of the licence. This would send a clear message that the licensing authority will not tolerate the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and the sale or storage of illegal goods within any licensed premises in Mid Sussex.

Please tick ✓ yes

Have you made an application for review relating to the premises before

☒

If yes please state the date of that application

Day	Month	Year

If you have made representations before relating to the premises, please state what they were and when you made them

On 22nd September 2023 WSCC Trading Standards submitted a Licence Review Application following a controlled Trading Standards Test purchasing exercise, on 27th June 2023 during which a shop employee at Yowu Limited t/a London Road Food and Wine, 65 London Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1EQ, sold alcohol to a Trading Standards volunteer who was under the age of 18.

On 8th November 2023 this resulted in a six-week licence suspension being issued by the Mid Sussex Licensing Committee.

On 8th April 2024 WSCC Trading Standards submitted a further Licence Review Application following an unannounced inspection visit carried out on 4th January 2024, during which Trading Standards Enforcement Officers recovered a quantity of what was believed to be illicit or unpaid duty tobacco in the way of packaged cigarettes without the standard packaging and health warnings that are required in law.

On 22nd May 2024 Mid Sussex District Council held a review of the Premises Licence under S52 of the Licensing Act 2003. This resulted in a revocation of the alcohol licence as a reasonable, appropriate and proportionate response to uphold the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder, the promotion of public safety, and the protection of children from harm.

Mr Kahraman appealed against this revocation which was listed for hearing on 2nd and 3rd December 2024 and then adjourned to 28th and 29th April 2025. After opening submissions at the hearing on 28th April the Appellant offered to settle the case with a 6-week suspension and pay Mid Sussex District Council costs which was agreed.

- Please tick ✓ yes**
- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the Responsible Authorities and the Premises Licence holder or Club holding the Club Premises Certificate, as appropriate ✓ ☐
 - I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected ✓ ☐

IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION.

Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 4)

Signature of applicant or applicant's Solicitor or other duly authorised agent (please read guidance note 5). **If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

Signature 

Date: 22nd December 2025

Capacity Trading Standards Team Manager

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 6)	
Post town	Post code
Telephone number (if any)	
If you would prefer us to correspond with you by e-mail your e-mail address (optional)	

Notes for Guidance

1. A Responsible Authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.
2. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
3. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
4. The application form must be signed.
5. An applicant's agent (for example Solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
6. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.