



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 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

Budgens Mini Supermarket
65 Lingfield Road

Post town: East Grinstead

Post code (if known): RH19 2EU

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

Pinky Bharat Patel

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

PWA0494

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 (optional)

(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 West Sussex County Council Trading Standards Service
Telephone number (if any)
E-mail (optional)

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 and
- the protection of children from harm

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

Prevention of crime and disorder

On the 10th April 2026, during a controlled Trading Standards test purchasing exercise, a staff member at Budgens Mini Supermarket sold alcohol to a Trading Standards volunteer who was under the age of 18. The sale of alcohol to a person under the age of 18 is a criminal offence under the Licensing Act 2003.

Protection of children from harm

Despite the store displaying Challenge 25 signage around the premises and claiming to operate such policy, the seller did not follow the guidance of such policy, contrary to the Licence Mandatory condition:

“The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol”

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

Introduction

1.1 This premises licence review application relates to the sale of alcohol to a person aged under 18 years of age, at Budgens Mini Supermarket 65 Lingfield Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 2EU on 10th April 2026. However, there was a previous instance of an underage sale of alcohol at this location in 2023 involving Mr Bharat Chaturbhai Patel. At that time, the shop was trading as Londis, Anish's Mini Supermarket, and following a licence review, the licensing committee decided that a formal warning would suffice rather than a suspension of the licence. The business has now changed its trading name to Budgens Mini Supermarket, 65 Lingfield Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 2EU. Mr Bharat Chaturbhai Patel has remained a partner of the business. The alcohol licence that was on display in the shop on 10th April 2026, was licence number PWA0494. It showed the licence holder to be Pinky Bharat PATEL of Mini Supermarket, 65 Lingfield Road, East Grinstead RH19 2EU. The current DPS was shown as Pinky Bharat PATEL, who also held a personal licence reference TAND/PERS/14/018. Pinky Bharat PATEL was also the licence holder at the time of the 2023 underage sale of alcohol incident, and Mr Bharat Patel was the seller on that occasion.

1.12 In January 2026, the Responsible Authority received intelligence, alleging Budgens Mini Supermarket, 65 Lingfield Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 2EU was selling vapes to individuals under the age of 18.

1.13 On 9th February 2026, 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 partners of the business, Mr Bharat Chaturbhai Patel. Key issues regarding best practice for the sale of age restricted products and training were discussed during the advice visit with Mr Bharat Chaturbhai Patel. On 16th February 2026,

a follow up advice letter, which reiterated what was discussed from the advice visit, was sent to Mr Bharat Chaturbhai Patel via e-mail.

1.14 On 10th April 2026, as part of the Underage Sales operation the Responsible Authority were carrying out that day, a 16-year Trading Standards volunteer as part of that operation under the instruction and supervision of the Responsible Authority was sold alcohol, a 250ml can of Malibu Cocktail for £2.65. The worker at the counter was an Asian female, who appeared to be approximately 20 to 25 years old. The worker took the alcohol from the volunteer and scanned it into the shop till system. The worker did not ask the volunteer any questions and rang the item up on the till, requesting the volunteer to pay £2.65 for the item. The volunteer purchased the alcohol and then left the shop.

1.15 A few minutes later having taken control of the alcohol purchased by the Under aged volunteer, two Trading Standards Officers entered the store and identified themselves to Mr Bharat Chaturbhai Patel. Mr Patel was shown the 250ml can of Malibu Cocktail and told that this item had just been sold to a 16-year-old volunteer. Mr Patel advised that he was the business owner, and that there were two female members of staff working in the shop who were in training, and that one of those members of staff had been responsible for selling the alcohol to our volunteer. The shop had a till prompt reminder system, which reminds the till operator to check for proof of age when an age restricted item is scanned prior to sale.

1.16 When scanned into the system the can of Malibu Cocktail activated the till prompt indicating that this was an age restricted product, and that the till operator should seek age verification. Unfortunately, the prompt reminder had not been acted upon at the time of the test purchase.

1.17 Mr Patel advised that the two new staff members were receiving on-line training with CPL Learning a company offering on-line Hospitality & Retail Training Courses in line with Budgens policies on staff training.

1.18 Mr Patel produced a compliance folder which had a visit report number 1765 issued by Trading Standards on the 9th of February 2026 which described an underage sales advice and education visit completed by Trading Standards on that date. This included advice in relation to the Challenge 25 policy and the best practice prevention methods to be used to avoid underage sales of restricted products.

1.19 The alcohol licence that was on display in the shop was licence number PWA0494 and showed the licence holder to be Pinky Bharat Patel of Mini Supermarket, 65 Lingfield Road, East Grinstead RH19 2EU. The current DPS was shown as Pinky Bharat Patel who also held a personal licence reference TAND/PERS/14/018.

Conclusion

1.20 Under Section 146 of the Licensing Act 2003, it is a criminal offence to sell alcohol to a child under the age of 18 years old. Section 146 (4) contains a defence 'that he believed the individual was 18 or over, and he had either taken all reasonable steps to find out the individual's age or that no one could reasonably suspect from their appearance that they were under 18.'

1.21 The responsible authority believes that the sale of alcohol to an underage person in the circumstances outlined is a breach of the licensing objective 'the protection of children from harm'. The licensee has failed in their responsibilities to promote this licensing objective.

1.22 In considering a review of this premises licence, the committee are reminded that the second licensing objective 'Prevention of Crime and Disorder' has also been failed by commission of the criminal offence that took place on 10th April 2026.

1.23 In view of the above, the Responsible Authority do not believe the licensing objectives are being continually upheld at Budgens Mini Supermarket, 65 Lingfield Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 2EU 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.

1.24 Given that underage age sales advice had recently been provided, prior to the sale of alcohol made to a Trading Standards underage volunteer on 10th of April 2026, combined with the previous sale of alcohol made to an underage volunteer on the 8th of February 2023, along with the subsequent formal warning awarded for that offence. The Responsible Authority recommends a suspension of the licence.

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 8th February 2023, as part of an underage sales operation the Responsible Authority were carrying out that day. A 17-year-old volunteer under the instruction and supervision of the Responsible Authority entered Londis, Anish's Mini Supermarket, 65 Lingfield Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 2EU. The volunteer selected a bottle of Blue WKD Cocktails and took it to the till. A male working behind the till area sold the bottle of Blue WKD Cocktails to the volunteer, without asking them for any identification.

This resulted in licence review application being submitted by the responsible authority. In this instance, the licensing panel decided that a formal warning should be issued. A formal warning was subsequently issued by the responsible authority.

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

☒
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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 09/09/2026

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.