

**From:** Dean, Andy (C2915) <andy.dean@thamesvalley.police.uk>  
**Sent:** 03 March 2022 11:50  
**To:** Licensing WYC  
**Cc:** Licensing  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TVP Application Response - Premises Licence for Best One Express, 8 Bridge Street, H/W: OBJECTION  
**Attachments:** Appendix A - Training record (002).docx; Licence application - Best One Express; 22-03-03 Objection report.docx; Best One report (sub committee briefing report).doc

[Please note this has been sent from an **external source** - treat with caution and **do not open** attachments / use links until you are sure this is a trusted communication see intranet/IT for advice.]

On 03/02/2022, we received a Premises Licence application relating to Best One Express, 8 Bridge Street, H/W

=====  
 Licence transferred now applying for new one, same hours, new CCTV reasonable conditions  
 =====

Based on the supplied information, the Thames Valley Police response is: **\*\*\* OBJECTION \*\*\***

Details of the objection and our rationale will be sent shortly by the Licensing Officer, who will also notify the applicant if appropriate.

\*\*\*\*Prevention of Crime and Disorder; It is felt that the application has been submitted in good stead by the agent although there are concerns regarding the truthfulness of the main applicant in so far as his original explanation of knowledge re the previous licence holder that wasn't fully expressed to the agent. Due to this doubt then it is believed that compliance moving forwards could also be detrimental to the Licensing Act 2003. I have attached a report of objection and Appendices in relation to pre knowledge documentation, previous licence holder friends with applicant – Licensing Subcommittee Briefing report and clarification email from Licensing Authority Officer. \*\*\*\*\*

Andy

**Andy Dean C2915 - Licensing Officer (Wycombe & South Oxfordshire);**  
 Address – Police Station, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1BE;  
 Telephone - (Ext) 01865 309275, (int) 312 6077 (mobile); 07970 145 565  
 Headquarters – [Licensing@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:Licensing@thamesvalley.police.uk)  
 (Hours – Mon – Thurs 0700 – 1500, Fri 0700 – 14.30)  
 NOT RESTRICTED;





\*\*\*\*\*  
This email contains information which is confidential and may also be privileged. It is for the exclusive use of the addressee(s) and any views or opinions expressed within are those of the originator and not necessarily those of the Force. If you are not the intended recipient(s) please note that any form of distribution, copying or use of this email or the information contained is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error please forward a copy to [informationsecurity@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:informationsecurity@thamesvalley.police.uk) and to the sender. Please then delete the email and destroy any copies of it. DO NOT use this email address for other enquiries as it will not be responded to, nor any action taken upon it. If you have a non-urgent enquiry, please call the Police non-emergency number 101. If it is an emergency, please call 999. Thank you.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## STAFF TRAINING ALCOHOL SALES

MEMBER OF STAFF: HARIRAM RAUBENDRAN

DATE OF BIRTH: 13-01-1973

POSITION IN COMPANY:

DATE OF TRAINING/UPDATE: 1/10/19

I HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS :

UNDERAGE SALES

CONSEQUENCES OF UNDERAGE SALES

LICENSING HOURS

PROXY SALES

DRUNKS PURCHASING

STREET DRINKERS

GROUP PURCHASES

REFUSAL REGISTER

I REALISE THAT IF I do not act at all times within company policy then it will be considered gross misconduct for which I could face instant dismissal.

DATE OF TRAINING 1/10/19

NAME OF STAFF HARIRAM RAUBENDRAN

DATE 1/10/19

SIGNED





**From:** Brian Whittal <Brian.Whittail@buckinghamshire.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 02 March 2022 16:51  
**To:** Andy.Dean  
**Subject:** Licence application - Best One Express  
**Attachments:** Training record.docx

Dear Andy,

Further to the briefing document circulated to the police in respect to the upcoming appeal to the revocation of the Premises Licence for Best One Express I can clarify the additional information following the transfer of this premise licence on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to Mr Raveendran. The latter having made an application under section 17 for a Premises Licence. The consultation date for this application shall expire on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.

- I visited the premises after the transfer of the premises licence to Mr Hariram Raveendran from Mr Shanthakumar on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The premises were closed to the public and undertaking refurbishment works. Mr Shanthakumar was on the premises at the time of this visit and stated to me that he was helping out the new licence holder Mr Hariram Raveendran. The latter was not on the premises.
- Mobile and email contact details were requested on a number of occasions from Mr Raveendran's licensing agent Gill Sherratt via email and this information has thus far not been forthcoming. Details have instead been provided directly from Mr Raveendran on my visit to the premises of the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022.
- An enforcement visit was made to the premises on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. Mr Raveendran the new licence holder was on the premises at the time of this visit. I requested to see CCTV recordings to ensure the system was compliant with the conditions attached to the premises licence and noted at approx. 16:26 hours for the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 that Mr Shanthakumar was working on the premises. The premises were open to the general public.
- It was requested of Mr Raveendran if the image on the screen was that of Mr Kanaganayagam Shanthakumar of 14 Hodges Mews, High Wycombe. He confirmed to that it was. Further, Mr Raveendran confirmed that Mr Shanthakumar was "A friend". He confirmed that Mr Shanthakumar is employed at the premises and "Only works when I need him". Mr Raveendran confirmed he works twice a day for 4-5 hours and is unsupervised during this time as Mr Raveendran does not currently have any other staff to work at the premises when he is unable to be there. It was confirmed that Mr Shanthakumar's wife also works for Mr Raveendran.
- A request was made of Mr Raveendran to provide CCTV recordings so that I could validate his ability to provide recording on a removable media. Mr Raveendran stated that he wished to work in partnership with the authority and that he would provide the requested CCTV recordings for the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 between the hours of 15:00 to 18:00.
- Mr Raveendran's licensing agent advised her client that these recordings do not be provided as requested in accordance with GDPR.

- The appellants bundle provided to the Council in respect to the ongoing appeal in respect to Best One Express has confirmed that Mr Raveendran was an employee of Mr Shanthakumar, as attached, dating back to 2019.
- The Licensing authority has requested evidence that the business has been sold by Mr Shanthakumar to Mr Raveendran as part of the ongoing appeal. To date no evidence has been provided.

Please let me know if you have any additional queries or questions in respect to any of the above.

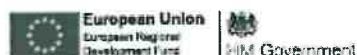
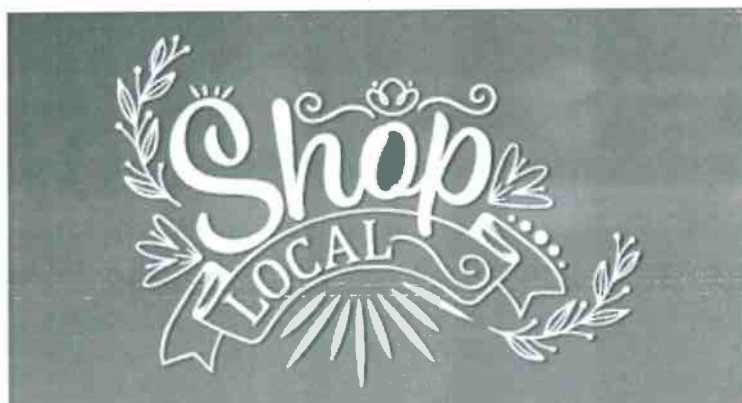
Regards,

Brian Whittall  
Licensing Officer  
Communities Directorate  
Buckinghamshire Council

Tel: 01494 421346

Email: [Brian.Whittall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Brian.Whittall@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Address: Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP11 1BB



## DISCLAIMER FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender and are not necessarily those of Buckinghamshire Council unless explicitly stated.

This email and any attachments may contain confidential or privileged information and is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. Any confidential, sensitive or protectively marked material must be handled accordingly.

If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, distribute, copy, print or rely on any of the information contained in the email or attachments, and all copies must be deleted immediately. If you do receive this email in error please notify the sender immediately and note that confidentiality or privilege is not waived or lost.

Buckinghamshire Council may monitor the contents of emails sent and received via its network for the purposes of ensuring compliance with relevant legislation and the Council's policies and procedures. All such monitoring will take place in accordance with relevant legislation including

privacy and data protection legislation. For details of how Buckinghamshire Council uses personal information please see the Council's website.

Buckinghamshire Council has scanned this email and attachments for viruses but does not accept any responsibilities for viruses once this email has been transmitted. You should therefore carry out your own anti-virus checks before opening any documents.





# THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Division/Station : High Wycombe

From : Andy Dean c2915  
Licensing Officer

To : Licensing Authority

Ref :

Date : 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

Tel.No. 01865 309275

Subject :

Premises Licence Application – Best One Express, Bridge Street, High Wycombe

I am employed as a Licenising Officer for Thames Valley Police and I represent the Chief Officer of Police in licensing matters for the area in which I work – Wycombe and South Oxfordshire.

We have received an application for a new premises licence in relation to the above address. At the time of writing there is a premises licence in being for these premises although a couple of years ago Thames Valley Police requested a Review of such which went to Panel and the licence was revoked pending an appeal – Since that time the premises have had significant time to continue to trade due to Covid 19 and the appeal is to be held at Court on the 4<sup>th</sup> March. The premises licence holder at that time was Mr Shanthakumar.

In the mean time the applicants (Mr Raveendran) agent Gill Sherritt has been in touch and was concerned about the old licence and what might happen to it should it go to appeal as it is due to do so. I advised her that maybe the applicant should go down the route of applying for a new licence just in case. We had a discussion surrounding the conditions that Thames Valley Police would want. I also asked whether her client and Mr Shanthakumar knew each other and her response was they didn't until now due to this process.

Once the licence was transferred to Mr Raveendran visits were made by the licensing authority to the shop in which it was found that Mr Shanthakumar was helping Mr Raveendran in refurbishing the premises. It also was found that Mr Raveendran had been an employee of Mr Shanthakumar back in 2019 (See Appendix A – training record). This therefore brings into question the fact that both parties didn't know each other before the process. This therefore also brings in to questions the legitimacy of the agreed Transfer because if the police had known this at that stage then the transfer would have been objected to.

Mr Raveendran has been honset with Mr Whittall of the Licensing Authority in relation to them knowing each other as shown in his Licensing Sub Committee Briefing Report (Appendix B) and further confirmed by the email from Mr Whittall to myself on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. (Appendix C)

Thames Valley Police firmly believe under the prevention of crime and disorder that this premises licence application is being made by the applicant utilising the agents to circumvent due process and thereby allowing Mr Shanthakumar some control over and within the business which in our view is being deceitful. With him still working in the premises how can we be assured that compliance of the licence and the necessary Due Diligence is carried out within the spirit of the Licensing Act 2003.

If however Mr Raveendran is willing to add a condition to the licence that Mr or Mrs Shanthakumar is prevented from entering the premises at any time then this is a possible way forward. There is still some concern that if Mr Raveendran is willing to 'go along' with Mr Shanthakumar in this respect then what else is he prepared to do to make his money?



Buckinghamshire Council

Licensing Sub-Committee Briefing report: 28 February 2022

Agenda Item No: .....

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>APPEAL FOR THE REVOCATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE at:</b> Best One Express, 8 Bridge Street, High Wycombe
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Under section 51, Review of a Premises Licence, Licensing Act 2003
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Brian Whittall - Licensing Officer
<b>Report Author</b>	Brian Whittall - Licensing Officer
<b>Ward/s Affected</b>	Abbey

### 1. Purpose of Report

To provide a summary of information to the Licensing Sub-Committee in respect to an appeal of their decision to revoke a Premises Licence in respect to Best One Express, High Wycombe

### 2. History

Best One Express had their premises licence revoked by a Licensing subcommittee on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 subsequent to an application by Thames Valley police to review the premises licence. Police Officers had witnessed the sale of alcohol to an intoxicated person on the premises. A Decision Notice was sent on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to Mr Shanthakumar (The Premises Licence Holder).

This decision of the Licensing Authority was appealed, with the matter to be heard by the Magistrates Court.

During the period of the appeal, Licensing Officers have continued to make enforcement visits to the premises.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 officer witnessed a number of breaches to the conditions attached to the Premises Licence.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 Trading Standard Officers conducted an enforcement visit and found counterfeit vodka on the premises

On the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 an application was made under Section 42 to transfer the Premises Licence to a Mr RAVEENDRAN, who also applied to be nominated as the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS). The police had no objection to the transfer and appointment of Mr RAVEENDRAN as DPS and a new Premises Licence was issued on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Licensing Officers conducted an enforcement visit to the premises. It was closed to the general public but Mr SHANTHAKUMAR was found to be on the premises. He stated he was assisting Mr RAVEENDRAN with the refurbishment of the premises.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February I witnessed CCTV recordings for the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 in which Mr Shathakumar was observed working on the premises. The current licence holder Mr RAVEENDRAN confirmed that he employed Mr SHANTHAKUMAR and that they were friends. This raises the question of if Mr SHANTHAKUMAR has a controlling influence in the business, even though the licence is no longer in his name (Case law: Retrobars Limited v Bridgend Borough Council)

Given the pandemic there has been an unusually long delay in obtaining a listing of this appeal before the courts, which is now due to be heard at the magistrates court on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### 3. Licensing Officer Observations

Parallel to this appeal. Mr RAVEENDEN has applied for a new Premises Licence, the consultation period for which ends on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March (The day before this appeal hearing).

However, Mr SHANTHAKUMAR, the licence holder at the time of the revocation is seeking to continue his appeal, but wishes to settle the original decision to revoke the Premises Licence to be overturned so that the premises licence is allowed to continue.

Counsel are instructed in this matter and is currently negotiating a possible settlement with Mr SHANTHAKUMAR's representatives. Conditional on this settlement is the approval of the Licensing Subcommittee and Thames Valley Police to the following:

1. A copy of a completed lease agreement with Mr RAVEENDRAN, to evidence to this authority that Mr SHANTHAKUMAR has no business connection to the premises
2. A condition that Mr SHANTHAKUMAR will not enter the premises.
3. A contribution of costs in the sum of £9,000.