



Coventry City Council

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 that 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 Andrew Tandy, Trading Standards Officer, Coventry City Council

(Insert name of applicant)

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, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description

My Local Mini Market 431 St James Lane

Post town **Coventry**

Post code (if known) **CV3 3GZ**

Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)

Nehad Ahmad SAEED

Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known)

Premises Licence number LN/214000156

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)

Please tick ☐ yes

Mr ☐

Mrs ☐

Miss ☐

Ms ☐

Other title ☐
(for example, Rev)

Surname

First names

I am 18 years old or over

Please tick ☐ yes

☐

**Current postal
address if
different from
premises
address**

Post town

Post Code

Daytime contact telephone number

**E-mail 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 Andrew Tandy – Trading Standards Officer Trading Standards Regulatory Services Coventry City Council PO Box 7097 Council House COVENTRY CV6 9SL
Telephone number (if any)
E-mail address (optional) trading.standards@coventry.gov.uk

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)

The premises have been subject to a test purchase for cigarettes that do not comply with UK legislation on plain packaging, labelling and are sold at a price which indicates evasion of duty and VAT. Seizures of such cigarettes have been made from the outside of the premises but within its curtilage. There have been complaints that such cigarettes have been sold from the premises and even single cigarettes.

A condition agreed with Trading Standards states "All alcoholic, tobacco and nicotine containing products should be purchased from legitimate traceable sources (where applicable, registered with the Alcohol Wholesaler Registration Scheme (AWRS)) that provide receipts to confirm purchased items. Goods sold should not evade any duty or taxes and should be authentic goods that comply with legislation for sale in the UK market. Where required by legislation, all alcoholic products must contain a duty stamp on its label. All receipts and records will be made available to officers of Licensing or Trading Standards at Coventry City Council or West Midlands Police for inspection when requested by an authorised officer."

A warning letter was sent by the Trading Standards team of Coventry City Council on 17th March 2026 to Mr SAEED at the premises address and to his home address advising that on 2nd March 2026 806 packets of cigarettes and 30 packs of hand rolling tobacco were found in the curtilage of the premises and in March 2026 a covert test purchase of illegal cigarettes were made from the premises.

Offences have been committed under the;

The Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 regulation 48
The Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products Regulations 2015 regulation 15
Licensing Act 2003 – Section 144
Trade Marks Act 1994 section 92
Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024 – Part 4 – Section 226/237

The sales of these products undermine fair competition with legitimate local traders who are complying with the law.

The condition on the premises licence has been breached regarding the sale of tobacco products that were obtained from sources that are not legitimate or traceable.

A letter was taken to the premises for the premises licence holder on 22nd July 2026 seeking his comments on these matters. Mr Saeed has responded and he does not sell illegal cigarettes at his shop and the sale took place when he was not at the shop. He is 'happy to resolve this'.

The applicant on behalf of the trading standard team states the grounds for this review are therefore based upon a breach of the licence condition agreed with Trading Standards and the failure to comply with the licence objective 'the prevention of crime and disorder' in regard to the possession for sale and sale of illegal tobacco products,

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

The premises licence was issued to Mr Nehad Ahmad SAEED in November 2022

In February 2024 a complaint was received stating 'I seen these people selling counterfeit tobacco from behind the till where the store it in their carrier bag and their jackets, they also keep them hidden inside a vehicle behind the premises. Selling to children which is my main concern, but also have illegal Vapes and cigarettes behind the counter'.

Other complaints in February 2024 stated 'my son is 11-year-old he walked into the shop got a pack of beer and a pack of fake cigarettes between him and his friends' and another complaint stated that underage sales of cigarettes were taking place and drugs and illegal vapes were hidden under the shelf in boxes, jackets and inside vehicles outside the premises.

Later in February 2024, a test purchase was undertaken by a Trading Standards team member of a vape which exceeded the permitted volume of a nicotine inhaling product for £13. The permitted liquid volume for a vape is 2ml and the purchased item contained 10ml.

In September 2025 intelligence received from HMRC stated there were sales of illegal vapes and cigarettes from the premises.

On 02/03/2026 officers from Trading Standards visited the premises and found 806 packets of cigarettes and 30 packs of hand rolling tobacco in the curtilage of the premises. This was in areas of land surrounding the premises.

Later in March 2026, another test purchase was made from the premises of illegal cigarettes which cost £8. The purchaser was told to see the male outside of the premises who goes to the back of an adjoining open building to collect the cigarettes. The cigarettes had foreign language labelling and did not have plain packaging. The cheapest packet of cigarettes sold by Tesco as a comparison is £13.60. The minimum excise duty payable is £9.43, and VAT on this is £1.17 thus the selling price should be above £11.31 and at this price this would not provide any purchase cost or profit margin.

A warning letter was sent by Trading Standards team of Coventry City Council on 17th March 2026 to Mr SAEED at the premises address and to his home address advising that on 2nd March 2026 806 packets of cigarettes and 30 packs of hand rolling tobacco were found in the curtilage of the premises and in March 2026 a covert test purchase of illegal cigarettes were made from the premises. An advice letter was also sent to the landlord of the premises.

In May 2026 another complaint was received about the premises, 'Seeing with my own eyes handy out cheap counterfeit cigarettes from under the counter and selling individual cigarettes'.

In June 2026 another test purchase was undertaken at the premises. A packet of L&M cigarettes was sold for £9 and the cigarettes were taken from the rear yard of the premises. Again, these cigarettes were foreign language labelled.

Offences have been committed by virtue of the: -

The Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 regulation 48
The Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products Regulations 2015 regulation 15
Licensing Act 2003 – Section 144
Trade Marks Act 1994 section 92
Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024 – Part 4 – Section 226/237

The premises licence includes conditions agreed with responsible authorities.

A condition agreed with Trading Standards states "All alcoholic, tobacco and nicotine containing products should be purchased from legitimate traceable sources (where applicable, registered with the Alcohol Wholesaler Registration Scheme (AWRS)) that provide receipts to confirm purchased items. Goods sold should not evade any duty or taxes and should be authentic goods that comply with legislation for sale in the UK market. Where required by legislation, all alcoholic products must contain a duty stamp on its label. All receipts and records will be made available to officers of Licensing or Trading Standards at Coventry City Council or West Midlands Police for inspection when requested by an authorised officer."

The comments of the premises licence holder were sought in a letter taken to the premises on 22nd July 2026.

On 24th July 2026 a response was received and stated that 'I just want to clarify that I don't sell any illegal cigarettes at my shop and the sale took place when I was not at the shop. Hence, please consider this letter, as I am happy to resolve this. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.'

Photographs relating to the visits by Trading standards are in the schedule to this application.

Conclusion

The premises licence holder, Nehad Ahmad SAEED, has failed to adhere to the condition agreed with Trading Standards that was aimed at preventing the sale of illegal products, including cigarettes from the premises. Seizures and sales from the premises support the allegations of complainants who have registered their concerns about the sales taking place. The allegations include sales to a 11-year-old child. The letter advising Mr SAEED of seizures from his premises appear to have been ignored as another test purchase of illegal cigarettes occurred shortly after the seizure. This demonstrates a blatant disregard to comply with the licence objective 'the prevention of crime and disorder' in regard to the possession for sale and sale of illegal tobacco products

The [statutory guidance](#) in paragraph 11.27 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 (and includes): -

- to the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and alcohol.

Paragraph 11.28 states '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 cigarettes seized or purchased are considered smuggled as they do not comply with UK legislation on labelling, obligatory warnings, or the requirement for plain packaging. The calculated cost of duty and VAT payment is greater than the selling price experience when test purchases are made.

The officer requests the following action to be considered in this instance

1. Revocation of the premises licence

Have you made an application for review relating to the
no
Premises before?

Please tick ☒ ☐

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

tick ☐ yes

Please

- 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, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003, TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION. THOSE WHO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT MAY BE LIABLE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO A FINE OF ANY AMOUNT.

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 03/08/2026

Capacity Trading Standards Officer (Agency)

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 using an e-mail address 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.

Schedule

Image 1 – Vape sold having 3500 puffs (10 ml)



Image 2 – Items seized on 02/03/2026



Image 3 – Test Purchase March 2026



Image 4 – Test Purchase June 2026

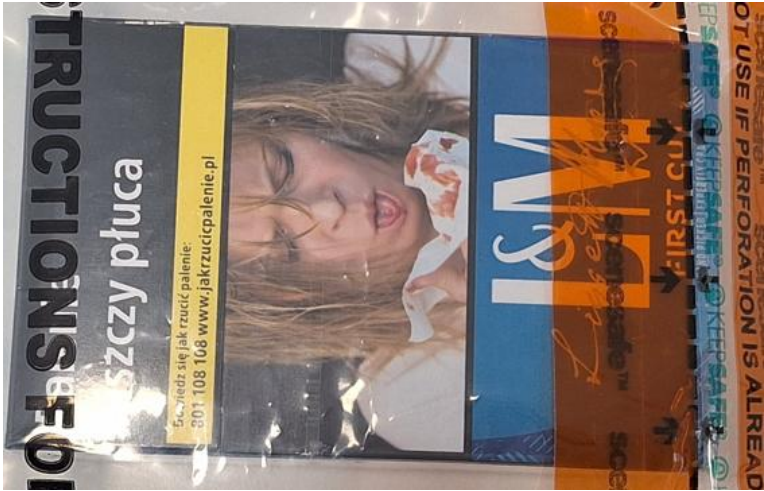


Image 5 – Google Satellite View (2026)

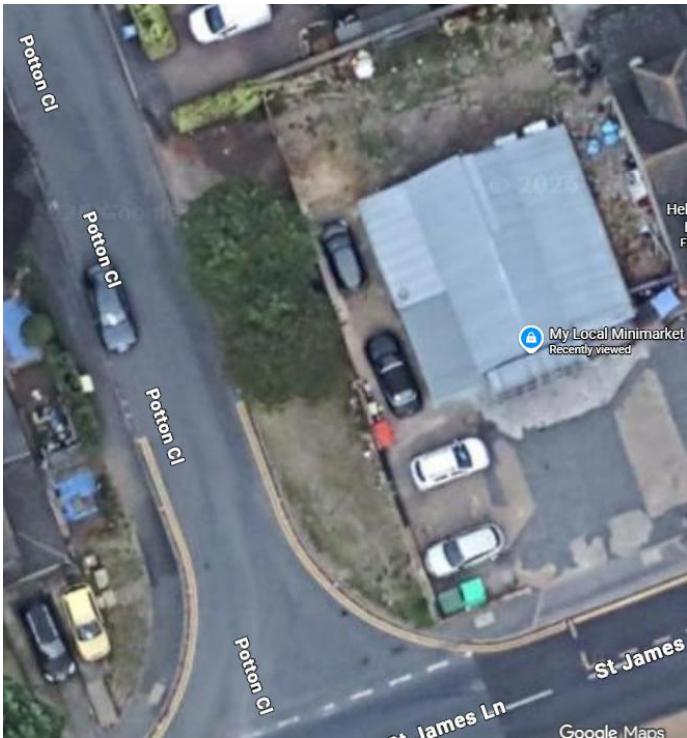
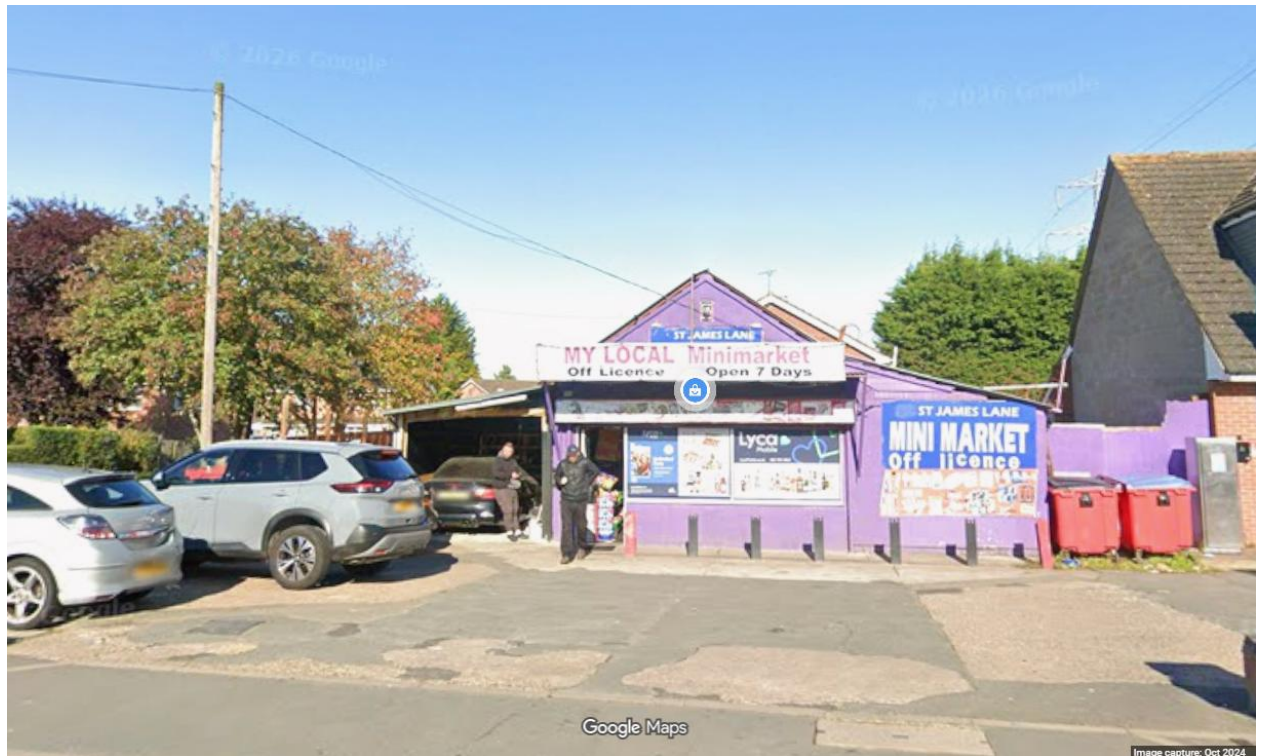


Image 6 Google Streetview of Premises (October 2024)



Comments made by the Premises Licence Holder

To: Trading Standards <trading.standards@coventry.gov.uk>
Subject: CX 330710

Dear Sir/Madam,

Good morning, I am writing this email regarding a letter dated 22nd July 2026, which explains that there had been an illegal sale of Cigarettes at my premises.

I just want to clarify that I don't sell any illegal cigarettes at my shop and the sale took place when I was not at the shop.

Hence, please consider this letter, as I am happy to resolve this.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

N A SAEED

Revised guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (November 2025)
(accessible version)

11.27 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 and distribution of drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the laundering of the proceeds of drugs crime;
- for the sale and distribution of illegal firearms;
- for the evasion of copyright in respect of pirated or unlicensed films and music, which does considerable damage to the industries affected;
- for the illegal purchase and consumption of alcohol by minors which impacts on the health, educational attainment, employment prospects and propensity for crime of young people;
- for prostitution or the sale of unlawful pornography;
- by organised groups of paedophiles to groom children;
- as the base for the organisation of criminal activity, particularly by gangs;
- for the organisation of racist activity or the promotion of racist attacks;
- for employing a person who is disqualified from that work by reason of their immigration status in the UK;
- for unlawful gambling; and
- for the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and alcohol.