

[Insert name and address of relevant licensing authority and its reference number (optional)]

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 Gillian AKROYD

(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

Oval Wines
9, The Oval,

Post town
Stevenage

Post code (if known)
SG1 5RA

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

Emrah ORUC

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

SBCL0167

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

Please tick ✓ yes

I am 18 years old or over

**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 Police Senior Licensing Officer Gillian AKROYD Community Safety Unit / Hertfordshire Police Stevenage Police Station Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1HF
Telephone number (if any) 01438 757030 Mob: 07734496130
E-mail address (optional) gillian.akroyd@herts.police.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)

TO PREVENT CRIME AND DISORDER

- Evidence of multiple incidents of breaches of licence including sales of illegal/illicit products, evidence of drugs paraphernalia and residue of cocaine in various areas of premises.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Disruption and violent disorder by customers around the vicinity of Oval Wines, regarding activities, including gang related fights, and believed drug exchanges and dealings, causing distress and alarm to other businesses and their customers .

TO PREVENT PUBLIC NUISANCE

- Members of the The 'Oval' gang use this as their hub, and constantly frequent the shop and gather in close proximity outside.
- These males have, and are, causing distress and anti-social behaviour in and around the Oval shopping precinct. Meeting in large numbers as many as 20 to 30 people, smoking and believed to be dealing drugs. Using foul and abusive language, intimidating people visiting the precinct and causing a nuisance to customers and other local businesses. Statement from Policed Sergeant Fathers, NPT, produced.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

- There is evidence of drug use in the shop, due to residue being found within that shop, also there are concerns and gang related ASB.
- There are various **Intelligence reports** which refer to drugs and young males attending the premises, (some as young as 11 years of age), and there is cause for concern.

Knife carrying has also been mentioned. Local authority CCTV has shown recently that suspects at the Oval were in possession of large machetes, chasing this group, (many of whom are children), and some have sought refuge in Oval Wines.

When Police have requested the CCTV download for that period, the licensee and owner have been unable to provide that footage, which shows this incident. This was vital in the fight against knife and gang violence.

It is also a condition of the premises licence, (Condition 1 of Annex 2) that *'The Oval Wines have CCTV in place which will record and retain unedited images for up to 30 days and which will be made available to any Responsible Authority on request'*

- **No calls to Police were received from the premises at the time of this incident.**

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

Overview re application for review of

Oval Wines, 9 The Oval, Stevenage

This application by Hertfordshire Constabulary has been submitted following recent incidents which have occurred and are connected to the named premises.

Despite attempts to work with the management of these premises by Stevenage Police Snr Licensing Officer (see initial meeting notes of 19/4/23), and Stevenage Borough Council Licensing Officer, (see attached Intervention Notice from SBC to Oval Wines on 18/5/23), there have continued to be incidents of disruption around Oval Wines, relating to customers of that premises which have raised serious enough concerns for the police to bring this action.

The situation at and around this establishment has caused public dissatisfaction and has been at the centre of concern by Police, which has resulted in a multi-Agency visit to assess the situation.

Listed below are examples of the areas of concern under the Licensing Objectives headings regarding the lack of appropriate Management of this establishment.

CRIME AND DISORDER:

To prevent crime and disorder

Trading Standards Officers have recently seized illegal items from these premises. See attached from Elaine Knowles, **Trading Standards**.

On 3rd October 2024, **Trading Standards Officers**, following searches at the premises, recovered items of which are believed to be illegal products, secreted (hidden) in the storage area of the shop, and seized as below, to be examined:

- Tobacco pouches – strongly believed to be illegal.
- A number of cartons of Cigarettes – Definitely illegal
- A number of boxes of Viagra, which are prescription only.
- Grinder

which were on sale at these premises, and were found during a joint visit with Police, Trading Standards, Stevenage Borough Council Licensing Officers, and Fire & Rescue Officers.

Statement and documents from Hertfordshire Senior Trading Standards Officer Elaine Knowles attached.

There was a previous visit by Trading Standards Officers, to these premises, where illicit tobacco was seized. See attached statement from Elaine Knowles, Principal Trading Standards Officer.

During a multi-Agency visit to Oval Wines Drugs wipes were used on various areas within the shop, and clear positive results for cocaine were found within.

- staff kitchen area
- staff toilet
- whole shop countertop, both customer and staff side.

Although no drugs were located the below were found secreted behind the counter:

- several boxes of very small self-sealing type bags
- small bags with a 'Bob Marley' picture printed on them (believed for the sale of drugs)
- Weighing scales.

Staff indicated these were for sale to customers, knowing their intended purpose would be to contain drugs.

During this visit, a substantial amount of money was found in the shop, which could not be accounted for (£4,000 +), and was seized under POCA, by Police Neighbourhood Team Officers.

The Oval has a gang who are using the shop as their base, and are causing anti-social behaviour, as well as believed to be dealing drugs from the shop. (see drug wipe results) and there is evidence of knife related crime in the vicinity.

On a daily and regular basis known drug users/dealers and perceived gang members, are believed to be making exchanges, and deals are taking place.

both inside or just outside the shop, **Please see statement of Pc S. Hill & Ps Mellor**

PUBLIC SAFETY

Violence and ASB in and around Oval Wines:

The Oval has a gang who are using the shop as their base, and are causing anti-social behaviour, as well as believed to be dealing drugs from the shop. (see drug wipe results) and there is evidence of knife related crime in the vicinity. On a daily and regular basis known drug users, dealers and perceived gang members are both inside or just outside of the shop, and it is believed exchanges are being made and deals are taking place.

Illicit/illegal cigarettes and tobacco were seized by Trading Standards Officers, on the visit, from the shop, and as already alluded to, knife users frequent these premises.

Though, as part of the Licensing conditions on Oval Wines Premises Licence, CCTV is installed, there has been a failure to produce downloads of that CCTV footage to Responsible Authorities (Police), therefore breaching the licence on various occasions, and obstructing Police in their duties.

Letter and e mail chains referring to the failure to produce CCTV downloads are attached.

The owner and DPS are believed to be aware, and do nothing to stop this.

They often challenge police, in support of the youths, indicating they (the youths), are not doing anything wrong. It is unknown if the management or staff are involved, and to what extent, in this practice. The youths have also made escape from Officers in pursuit, by using the open rear doors of the premises, and Police believe the store is

complicit in their activities and thus obstructing Police. **Please see statement of Pc Kooistra & Ps Mellor**

PUBLIC NUISANCE

- Members of the The 'Oval' gang use this as their hub, and constantly frequent the shop and gather in close proximity outside.
- These males have, and are, causing distress and anti-social behaviour in and around the Oval shopping precinct. Meeting in large numbers as many as 20 to 30 people, smoking and believed dealing drugs. Using foul and abusive language, intimidating people visiting the precinct and business owners causing a nuisance to customers and other local businesses.

***Statements from Ps Fathers & Ps Mellor attached**

Footage available, (but not included), from Council CCTV

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Attitude of management towards Police Officers and Police staff, on occasions, have been unacceptable.

- Letter of warning has been sent to Hasan Polat (DPS), and copied to Emrah Oruc, regarding breaches of Licensing objectives, in relation to non- production of CCTV download which was required as there had been a serious situation involving a knife/machete crime outside the premises by males who entered and exited the premises during that time(time critical). **Letters attached.**
- Statement from Ps Fathers attached regarding failure to download the above CCTV.

The owner, DPS and staff are believed to be aware of these incidents and behaviours and do nothing to stop this. They (the Owner(s) often challenge police in support of the youths, indicating that the youths are not doing anything wrong. It is unknown if the management and staff are involved, and to what extent, in this practice.

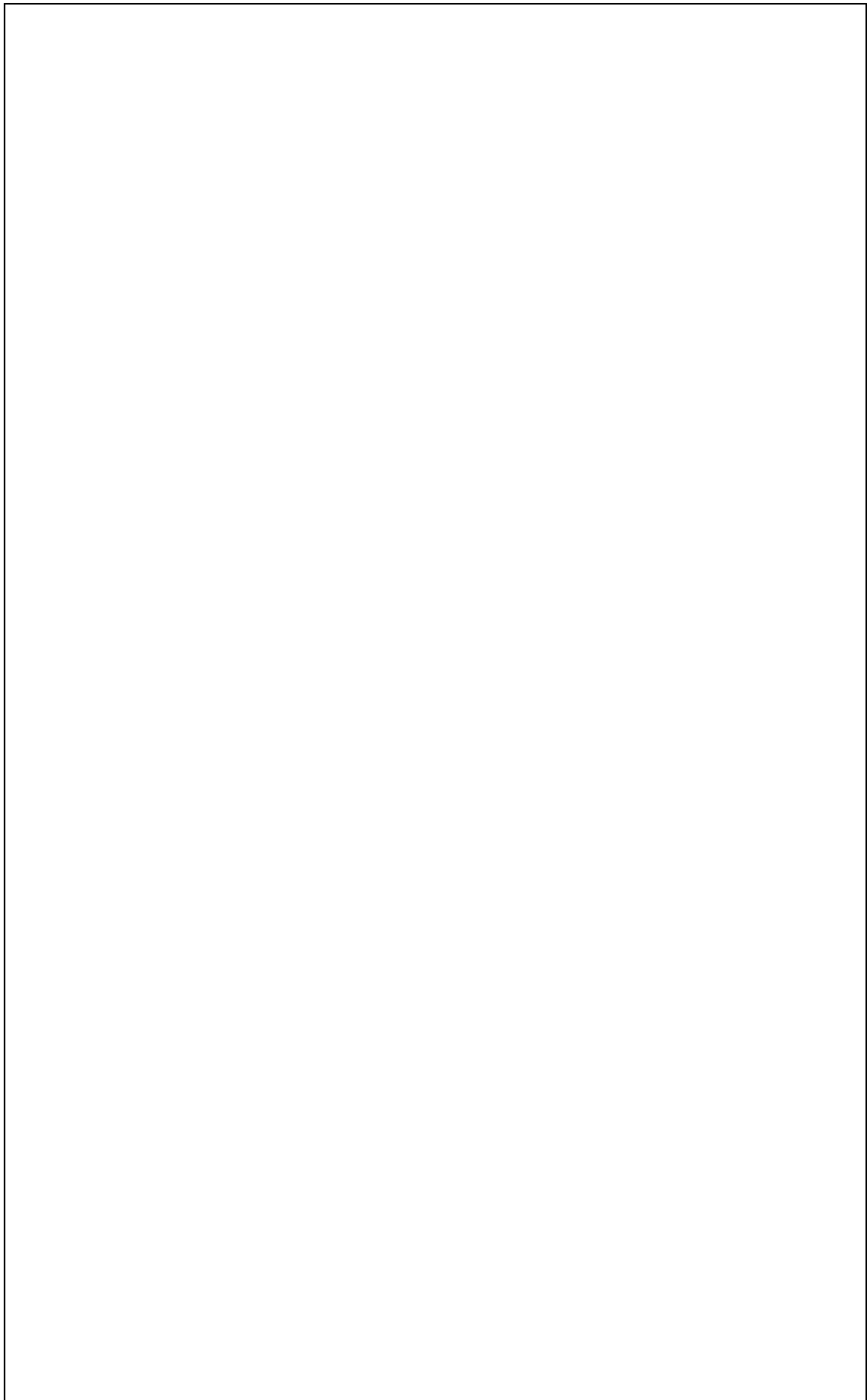
These same youths have also made escape from Officers in pursuit, by using the open rear doors of the premises, and Police believe the store are complicit in their activities and thus obstructing Police.

Conclusion

Hertfordshire Constabulary is of the view that these premises will not conform with the licence and have proven, by way of constant breaches to which they will not adhere to it. (See attached notes).

Added to this, the use of these premises for the purpose of selling illegal vapes, tobacco/cigarettes, and the evidence of drugs within the shop, Police do not believe that the Management of the premises can be trusted to adhere to the four Licensing Objectives.

Police request this licence be revoked in its entirety.



Please tick ✓ yes

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

If yes please state the date of that application?.....

Day	Month	Year
2	0	0
3	2	0
2	2	3

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

A review was submitted by Police, to Stevenage Borough Council on 20th March 2023.

This review was withdrawn as **the owner, Mr Emrah Demirci**, sold the business to **Mr Emrah Oruc**, and when no specific evidence was found to preclude the new applicant, at that time, of having the licence, it was transferred to him prior to the hearing,

Representations relating to the review are as follows:

These premises have failed to observe the licensing conditions for Oval Wines. There have been constant breaches, and the DPS has not made herself available to Police.

Since October 2022 there have been two licensing checks, and both revealed breaches. The DPS has been sent two letters of warning.
(copies attached)

To prevent crime and disorder

Trading Standards Officers have recently removed illegal vapes which were on sale at these premises and were part of a joint visit by Police and Trading Standards.
(October 2022)

Statement and documents from Hertfordshire Senior Trading Standards Officer Mark Kempster,

Public safety

Emrah Demirci was convicted of one count of rape on the 26th of January 23 at St Albans CC.

The rape was of an 18yr old female at the Gate Hotel in Stevenage on the 14/04/2019. He met the victim at the shop (oval wines).

Due to the inappropriate age of the victim leading up to that Rape.

The starting point for conviction of rape is 4 years.'

He was sentenced to four years prison.

To prevent public nuisance

Emrah Demirci was convicted of one count of rape on the 26th of January 23 at St Albans CC.

The rape was of an 18yr old female at the Gate Hotel in Stevenage on the 14/04/2019.

He met the victim at the shop (oval wines). Due to the inappropriate age of the victim leading up to that Rape.

The starting point for conviction of rape is 4 years.'

He was sentenced to four years prison.

To protect children from harm

Emrah Demirci was convicted of one count of rape on the 26th of January 23 at St Albans CC.

The rape was of an 18yr old female at the Gate Hotel in Stevenage on the 14/04/2019.

He met the victim at the shop (oval wines).

Due to the inappropriate age of the victim leading up to that Rape.

The starting point for conviction of rape is 4 years.'

He was sentenced to four years prison.

Final Comment

Hertfordshire Constabulary is of the view that due to the conviction (and sentence of four years in prison), of the previous Premises Licence Holder, and the non-contactable position/ non-attendance by the DPS, to the premises - that there are no conditions to be considered which will ensure that the Premises Licensing holder or DPS will be in a position to continue to manage these premises, to the required level of responsibility.

Added to this, the use of premises for the purpose of selling illegal vapes/ tobacco, it is the request of the police that the licence is revoked in its entirety.

For information:

Withdrawal of Representation

On behalf of Hertfordshire Constabulary, I withdraw the Representation for review of Oval Wines, 9, The Oval, Stevenage, Herts SG1 5RA which was submitted under Section 51 of Licensing Act 2003, and the four licensing objectives.

- **To prevent crime and disorder**
- **Public safety**
- **To prevent public nuisance**
- **To protect children from harm**

The withdrawal is due to Mr Demirci having sold the business, and the receipt of an application to transfer the Premises Licence, and vary the Designated Premises Supervisor, from the new owner, which has taken immediate effect from 17th April, 2023.

As this is now under new management, and Mr Demirci is not involved in the business at Oval Wines, Police withdraw the application for review of this premises licence.

Signed:

Ps 2386 Adshead

Gillian Akroyd

**Senior Licensing Officer
Stevenage Police Station**

Mob: 07734496130

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, 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 G.K. Akroyd

.....

Date

.....

Capacity

.....APPLICANT.....

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 6) G. Akroyd Police Senior Licensing Officer Stevenage Police Station, Lytton Way,	
Post town Stevenage	Post Code SG1 1HF
Telephone number (if any) 01438 757030 Mob: 07734496130	
If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional) gillian.akroyd@herts.police.ukxx	

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.