



# Haverling

LONDON BOROUGH

## LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE DIAMOND FOOD & WINE - REVIEW

### AGENDA

<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Friday 24 April 2026</b>	<b>Council Chamber - Town Hall</b>
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Members 3: Quorum 2

**COUNCILLORS:**

Philippa Crowder (Chairman)  
Jane Keane  
Gerry O'Sullivan

**For information about the meeting please contact:**

**Luke Phimister - 01708 434619  
luke.phimister@haverling.gov.uk**

**Please would all Members and officers attending ensure they sit in their allocated seats as this will enable correct identification of participants on the meeting webcast.**

***Under the Committee Procedure Rules within the Council's Constitution the Chairman of the meeting may exercise the powers conferred upon the Mayor in relation to the conduct of full Council meetings. As such, should any member of the public interrupt proceedings, the Chairman will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chairman will order their removal from the meeting room and may adjourn the meeting while this takes place.***

***Excessive noise and talking should also be kept to a minimum whilst the meeting is in progress in order that the scheduled business may proceed as planned.***

### **Protocol for members of the public wishing to report on meetings of the London Borough of Havering**

Members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of Council, Committees and Cabinet, except in circumstances where the public have been excluded as permitted by law.

Reporting means:-

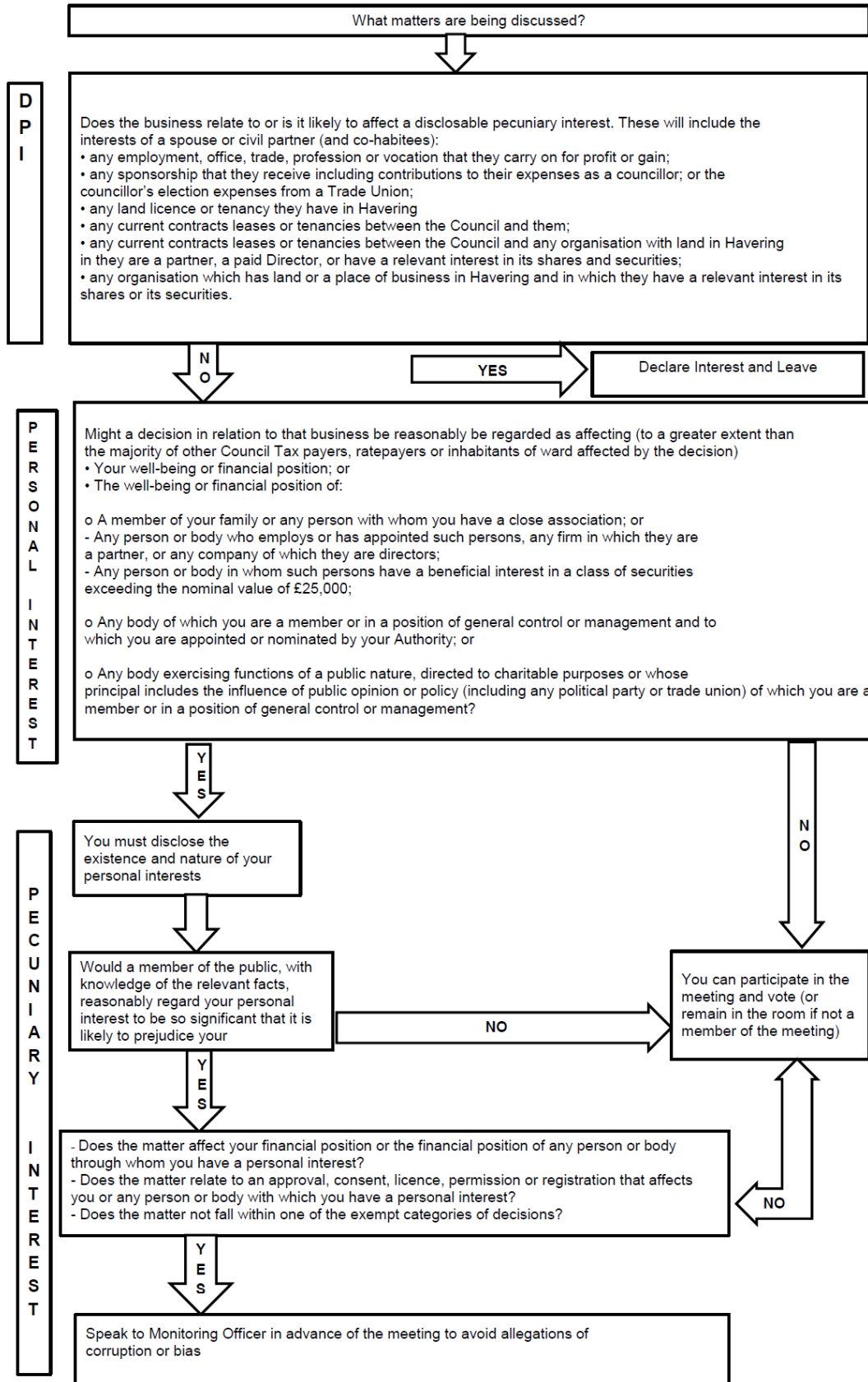
- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

Anyone attending a meeting is asked to advise Democratic Services staff on 01708 433076 that they wish to report on the meeting and how they wish to do so. This is to enable employees to guide anyone choosing to report on proceedings to an appropriate place from which to be able to report effectively.

Members of the public are asked to remain seated throughout the meeting as standing up and walking around could distract from the business in hand.

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



## AGENDA ITEMS

### 1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

(if any) - receive

### 2 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Members are invited to disclose any interest in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting.

*Members may still disclose any interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.*

### 3 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

### 4 **REPORT OF THE CLERK** (Pages 5 - 10)

Procedure for hearing under the Licensing Act 2003 attached for noting.

### 5 **APPLICATION TO REVIEW A PREMISES LICENCE - DIAMOND FOOD & WINE, 135-137 NEW ROAD, RAINHAM, RM13 8ES** (Pages 11 - 42)

This application to review a premises licence is made by Mr Paul Jones, Public Protection Officer for the London Borough of Havering, under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003.

**Zena Smith**  
**Head of Committee and Election Services**



## LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

24 April 2026

## REPORT

Subject Heading:

Procedure for the Hearing  
Licensing Act 2003 – Diamond Food &  
Wine (New Road Food & Wine) 135-137  
New Road, Rainham, RM13 8ES

Report Author and contact details:

Luke Phimiter – Committee Services  
Officer 01708 434619

### REPORT OF THE CLERK

#### PROCEDURE FOR THE HEARING: LICENSING ACT 2003 (REVIEW OF LICENCE)

This is a hearing to consider an application for a review of a licence under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003. The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 will govern the arrangements for the hearing of the application now under consideration. This report accords with the requirements of that Act and the Regulations, and in particular Regulations 21-25 (procedure at the hearing).

#### 1. Membership of the Sub-Committee:

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee comprises three members of the Licensing Committee, with a quorum of two members. **Unless there are objections, in the absence of three members, the hearing shall proceed with the quorum of two.**
- 1.2 A member of the Licensing Committee will be excluded from hearing an application where he or she:
  - 1.2.1 has considered an application in respect of the premises in the previous 12 months as a Member of the Regulatory Services Committee; or
  - 1.2.2 is a Ward Councillor for the Ward in which the premises, subject to the application, are located; or
  - 1.2.3 is a Ward Councillor for a Ward which is likely to be affected by the application or;
  - 1.2.4 has a personal interest in the application.

## **2. Roles of other participants:**

- 2.1 The Legal Advisor is not a party to the hearing. The role of the Legal Advisor is to provide legal advice relating to the application and submissions.
- 2.2 The Clerk is not a party to the hearing. The role of the Clerk is to record the hearing and the decisions of the Sub-Committee, and ensure efficient administration

## **3. Location and facilities:**

- 3.1 All hearings will be heard at the Havering Town Hall unless otherwise directed.
- 3.2 Interpreters will be provided by the Council on request, provided notice is given at least five working days before the hearing.

## **4. Notification of attendance:**

- 4.1 The Chairman will enquire of the parties who is in attendance and the parties will indicate their names (and, where relevant, whom they represent). A register will be circulated before the commencement of the hearing on which the applicant, his/her advisers and companions and all interested parties (and/or their representatives) will be asked to record their attendance.

## **5. Procedural matters:**

- 5.1 Prior to the commencement of the hearing, the Chairman of the Sub-Committee will orally inform the parties whether their applications to have certain people attend the hearing (e.g. witnesses) have been granted or refused. Note this relates to people other than those attending on behalf of a party in the capacity as a representative of the party.
- 5.2 Prior to the commencement of the hearing the Chairman of the Sub-Committee will outline the procedure to be followed at the hearing. This will normally be as follows:

### **Introduction of the application:**

The party requesting the review will outline:

- details of the application and relevant representations received from the parties;
- relevant legislation ;
- relevant Licensing Policy; and
- the time limit in which the Council must reach a determination.

**Documentary evidence:**

- Documentary or other information in support of applications, representations or notices should be provided to the Clerk of the Sub-Committee at least 7 clear working days before the hearing. If this information is produced at the hearing it will only be taken into account by the Sub-Committee if the Sub-Committee and all the parties consent to its submission. Permission to have this information included in the hearing should be requested at the beginning of the hearing before any oral submissions have been made.
- Statements made by people in support of a party's representation who are not present at the hearing, must be signed by the maker, dated and witnessed by another person. The statement must also contain the witness's full name and occupation.

**Representations:**

- The Chairman will invite each of the parties at the hearing or their representative sequentially to address the Sub-Committee and call any person/s to whom permission has been granted to appear. Each party will be allowed a maximum period of 10 minutes in which to address the Sub-Committee and call persons on his/her behalf.
- This 10 minute period is where each party has the opportunity to orally address the Sub-Committee and clarify any points on which the Sub-Committee has sought clarification prior to the hearing. This 10 minute period should be uninterrupted unless a member of the Sub-Committee or Legal Advisor considers that the speaker is making submissions that are irrelevant, frivolous or vexatious.
- Members of the Sub-Committee may ask questions of any party, at any time during the proceedings. Time taken in dealing with a Member's question will not be taken into account in determining the length of time available to the party in question to make their representation.

The sequence in which each of the parties will be invited to address the Sub-Committee will normally be in the order of:

- the party requesting the review of the licence
- the Chief Officer of Police;
- the Fire Authority;
- the Health and Safety at Work Enforcing Authority;
- the Local Planning Authority;
- the Local Environmental Health Authority;
- the Local Weights and Measures Authority;

- the Authority Responsible for the Protection of Children from Harm;
- a navigation or other authority responsible for waterways; and
- any other party that has submitted representations in respect of the application, certificate, notice or other matter appearing before the Sub-Committee;
- the party whose premises is the subject of the licence review.

At the discretion of the Sub-Committee the above order may be varied.

### **Cross-Examination:**

Where witnesses have been permitted by the Sub-Committee to speak at the hearing on behalf of a party, permission must be sought from the Sub-Committee before another party can ask the witness questions. This process of questioning is normally referred to as cross-examination. The Sub-Committee will allow cross-examination only where it is necessary to assist it in considering the representations or application.

### **Relevance:**

Information submitted at the hearing must be relevant to the applications, representations, or notice and the promotion of the licensing objectives. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee is entitled to exclude any information it considers to be irrelevant whether presented in written or oral form. The licensing objectives are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;**
- Public safety;**
- The prevention of public nuisance; and**
- The protection of children from harm.**

## **6. Failure of parties to attend the hearing:**

- 6.1 If a party, who has not given prior notice of his/her intention not to attend the hearing, is absent from the hearing the Sub-Committee may either adjourn the hearing or hold the hearing in the party's absence. Where the hearing is held in the absence of a party, the Sub-Committee will still consider the application, representation or notice submitted by that party.

## **7. Adjournments and extension of time:**

- 7.1 The Sub-Committee may adjourn a hearing to a specified date or extend a notice period except where it must make a determination within certain time limits in the following specific applications:

- Review of premises licences following closure orders made under the Licensing Act 2003 where the Sub-committee must make a determination within 28 days of receiving notice of the closure order.
- Other reviews of premises licenses where the Sub-Committee must make a determination within 28 days of the end of the statutory consultation period.

## **8. Sub-Committee's determination of the hearing:**

- 8.1 At the conclusion of the hearing the Sub-Committee will deliberate in private accompanied by the Clerk and the Legal Advisor who will be available to assist the Sub-Committee with any legal problems but will not participate in any decision making of the Sub-Committee.
- 8.2 The Sub-Committee will normally make its determination and announce its decision at the end of the hearing.
- 8.3 Where all parties have notified the Sub-Committee that a hearing is not required the Sub-Committee must make its determination within 10 working days of being given notice that the hearing is not required.

## **9. Power to exclude people from hearing:**

- 9.1 The public are entitled to attend the hearing as spectators. However, the Sub-Committee may exclude any person from the hearing including any person assisting or representing a party where:
  - it considers that the public interest would be best served by excluding the public or the individual person from the hearing; or
  - that person is behaving in a disruptive manner. This may include a party who is seeking to be heard at the hearing. In the case where a party is to be excluded, the party may submit to the Sub-Committee in writing any information which they would have been entitled to give orally had they not been required to leave the hearing.

## **10. Recording of proceedings:**

- 10.1 A written record of the hearing will be produced and kept for 6 years from the date of the determination of the hearing.

## **11. Power to vary procedure:**

- 11.1 The Sub-committee may depart from following any of the procedures set out in this document if it considers the departure to be necessary in order to consider an application, notice or representation.

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LONDON BOROUGH

Licensing Officer's Report

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## LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

24 April 2026

## REPORT

Subject heading:

Diamond Food & Wine (New Road Food & Wine) 135-137 New Road, Rainham, RM13 8ES  
Premises licence review application  
Mr O Daly, Public Protection Officer  
licensing@havering.gov.uk  
01708 432777

Report author and contact details:

This application to review a premises licence is made by Mr Paul Jones, Public Protection Officer for the London Borough of Havering, under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003. The application was received by Havering's Licensing Authority on 04<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

### Geographical description of the area and description of the building

Diamond Food and Wine is located on New Rd at the junction of Manser Rd.





### **Details of the application**

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 Licensing Officer Mr. Jones attended the premises along with immigration officials.

During the visit two individuals were found to be employed at the premises who did not have the relevant right to work in the UK. In addition, safety standards were found to be lacking.

Further investigation found a lack of supervision and concerns around the management standards of the licence holder and the apparent absence of the DPS.

### **Comments and observations on the application**

Upon receipt of this application the Licensing Authority processed it in accordance with the regulatory requirements which govern the s.51 application process.

### **Summary**

During the s.51 review application's consultation period the Immigration Service provided representations supporting Mr Jones' application.



**Havering**  
LONDON BOROUGH

Copy of Application

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**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 Paul Jones, Public Protection Officer, London Borough of Havering  
*(Insert name of applicant)*

**Apply for the review of a premises licence / ~~club premises certificate~~ under section 51 / 87 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in Part 1 below:**

**Part 1 – premises or club premises details**

<b>Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description</b>  Diamond Food & Wine (New Road Food & Wine) 135-137 New Road	
<b>Post town</b> Rainham	<b>Post code (if known)</b> RM13 8ES

<b>Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known)</b>  Diamond Food & Wine Limited – registered company no. 08124078
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<b>Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known)</b>  1496
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**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**

<b>Name and address</b> Mr Paul Jones, Public Protection Officer London Borough of Havering Licensing Authority Town Hall Main Road Romford RM1 3BD
<b>Telephone number (if any)</b> 01708 432692
<b>E-mail address (optional)</b> paul.jones@haverling.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)

I attended this premises on Friday 27/02/26 in the company of Immigration Enforcement Officers. Immigration Enforcement had received intelligence that there were illegal workers at the premises. The visit revealed two men were apparently working in the premises. One individual was seen to be behind the counter serving customers upon our arrival. It was subsequently discovered by Immigration Officers that neither of these two individuals had the right to work in the UK. One of the men revealed that the owner of the premises had been in India for the last two months having an operation on his back. The designated premises supervisor (DPS) was not on the premises and was therefore unable to directly authorise alcohol supplies.

The fire exit to the premises was sealed and unable to be opened. The two individuals apparently working on the premises were in control of the sale of alcohol despite having no right to work in the UK. Large amounts of high strength ciders (7.5% ABV) were on display, available for sale. The director of the company which holds the premises licence, and is therefore responsible for the provision of licensable activity, has been out of the country for two months.

The apparent lack of control at the premises leads the licensing authority to have serious concerns further to the supply of alcohol and the attendant requirement to promote three of the licensing objectives, i.e. the prevention of crime and disorder, the protection of children from harm and public safety.

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

I attended this licensed premises on 27/02/26, arriving at approximately 17:45, in the company of an Immigration Enforcement Team. Our attendance finished at approximately 19:30. Signage on the premises' exterior indicates the shop is now called *New Road Food & Wines* although the licence holder has not contacted the licensing authority further to the premises' apparent change of name from *Diamond Food & Wines*.

Upon our entry to the premises, I noted two males of Asian appearance apparently working in the shop. The first, Mr A, approximately 50 years old, was behind the counter serving a customer as we arrived. The second male, Mr B, approximately 65 years old, was seated at the end of the counter. Upon being interviewed by Immigration Officers it emerged that neither Mr A nor Mr B had a current right to work in the UK. It was discovered that Mr B's visa had expired so, in addition, he had no right to be in the UK. After interview Mr B was bailed to attend the Immigration Office in Croydon at a later date.

Upon further investigation of the premises, it was discovered that the fire exit was locked and unable to be opened by Immigration Officers. This raised serious concerns regarding public safety. If a fire was to occur in the public area of the shop a blocked fire exit would prevent any occupants, staff and customers alike, from being able to escape the burning premises.

Immigration Officers discovered that Mr A had an undetermined application to extend his stay but had no current right to work in the UK. Mr A claimed that he was not working but was, instead, "helping out." Mr A asserted that he did not receive a wage but, in return for helping out, was given board and lodging at the shop owner's house.

Mr A provided to me a personal licence card belonging to a Mr Praful Patel. This individual is not the DPS; a Mr Mehul Patel occupies this role. Mr Praful Patel is one of two directors of the company which holds premises licence no. 1496, Diamond Food & Wine Limited. Mr A advised Mr Praful Patel owns the shop and has been in India for two months having left the UK to have an operation on his back. Given that Mr Praful Patel has been out of this country for an extended period and is recovering from an operation I had concerns as to the licence holder's supervision of staff further to the supply of alcohol.

Given that alcohol was displayed for sale in the premises and two staff members were on site, one of whom was serving behind the counter, the DPS would have needed to authorise these individuals to sell alcohol. Mandatory condition 2 on the premises states:

- *Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.*

Mr Praful Patel and Mr Mehul Patel both hold a personal licence. If either, or both, of these personal licence holders have authorised Mr A and/or Mr B to sell alcohol we must reasonably query why they have done so given the absence of their right to work in the UK.

This, of course, raises concern as to the effective role of the current DPS. We should also remember that Mr A provided the shop owner's personal licence card for my inspection, raising doubts as to whether the DPS remains in post and therefore whether he is directly supervising alcohol supplies.

I asked Mr A if I might see the premises' alcohol refusals register. Mr A said he did not know anything about such a register. A refusals register was not evident behind the counter when I subsequently examined the area. While the premises licence does not have a conditional requirement that a refusals register is utilised it is good practice to record any refusals to sell alcohol, e.g. to a child seeking to buy alcohol, as it demonstrates due diligence further to the promotion of the licensing objectives, particularly the protection of children from harm. We therefore have no record of the premises operators' due diligence regarding alcohol sales.

In addition, I observed that lots of high-strength ciders were on sale. There is no condition on the premises licence which restricts the sale of high-strength ciders, so the premises licence holder is legally permitted to do so; however, individuals with limited funds tend to be attracted to high-strength alcohol as it is a cheap option allowing rapid intoxication. As such, the unsupervised supply of high-strength alcohol is of grave concern should children seek to purchase alcohol, particularly in a situation where the premises is unable to provide evidence that any alcohol sales have been refused.

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Given the matters detailed above this licensing authority is of the view that this premises and its operators should no longer be entrusted to sell alcohol. Based upon the risks implicit in the extended absence of the licence holder, the apparent failure of the DPS to ensure compliant alcohol supplies and the presence of staff operating the premises who are working illegally in the UK we would prefer that this premises is no longer licensed to sell alcohol.

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
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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

Not applicable

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 *Paul Jones*

Date 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Capacity Responsible authority

**Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application** (please read guidance note 6)

As above

<b>Post town</b>	<b>Post Code</b>
------------------	------------------

**Telephone number (if any)**

**If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address your e-mail address (optional) paul.jones@havering.gov.uk**

## **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.

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**Havering**  
LONDON BOROUGH

Valid Interested Party Representation

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## IMMIGRATION REPRESENTATION IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE

On behalf of the Secretary of State, Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) makes representations in support of the following application for the review of a premises licence, relating to the prevention of crime and disorder objective, including the prevention of illegal working and immigration crime in licensed premises.

IE wishes to make representations on an application for a review of a premises licence.

Details of Premises:			
Premises Licence Holder:			
Diamond Food & Wine Limited			
Name and Address of Premises:			
Diamond Food & Wine (New Road Food & Wine) 135 – 137 New Road			
Post Town:	Rainham	Post Code:	RM13 8ES

Representations are being made for the following reasons:

The Licensing Act 2003 outlines four objectives that are to be upheld, the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) is concerned regarding the prevention of crime and disorder.

Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) considers that the premises licence holder: **Diamond Food & Wine Limited** is not taking suitable measures to prevent crime and disorder. The premises has been found with two individuals who were prohibited for working by virtue of their immigration status under the Immigration Act 1971 (as amended).

Employing illegal workers in the UK has the following impact on the community and society as a whole:

- It deprives HMRC and the Government of revenue by non-payment of tax and national insurance.
- It exploits the undocumented by paying them less than the minimum wage and provides no employment or income protection.
- It encourages those without permission to work to seek similar employment.
- It allows a business to unfairly undercut other businesses by employing cheap labour.
- Illegal workers are often housed in cramped and unsatisfactory conditions by the employer as part of their working arrangement.

On 29 June 2012, **Diamond Food and Wine Ltd** was first incorporated on Companies House with the company number **08124078**. **PRAFUL PATEL** and **SHARMISTA PATEL** were both appointed as directors on 06 March 2014 and are showing as currently active.

On 27 February 2026, Immigration Officers from South East Immigration Compliance and Enforcement (ICE) conducted an enforcement visit to Diamond Food & Wine, 135 – 137 New Road, Rainham, RM13 8ES after intelligence was received the premises was employing illegal workers. Entry was gained under Section 179 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Immigration officers encountered the following individuals:

**Jayesh Bhikhubhai PATEL - 6/6/1964 - India**

PATEL was located inside the shop premises and observed stacking shelves. Upon noticing the presence of officers, PATEL attempted to evade them by moving toward the rear of the premises.

During interviewing, PATEL stated that he had been working at the premises for approximately three months. His primary duties included stocking shelves and replenishing items that were low in stock. PATEL reported working eight hours a day, seven days a week, with consistent hours each day. He confirmed that he received £40 per day, paid weekly in cash by VIJAY, and that he does not pay tax.

PATEL claimed he was unaware of any right to work checks being carried out and stated that he was not asked to confirm whether he had legal permission to work in the UK. He explained that VIJAY assigns him his duties but noted that VIJAY is not the owner, and that the boss was not present at the time.

Home Office checks showed PATEL entered the UK on a visit visa valid August 2019 until March 2020. PATEL failed to leave the UK on the completion of this visa and was classed as an overstayer. PATEL has never held any legal right to undertake work within the UK.

**Vijaykumar Gordhanbhai PATEL - 26/6/1972 - India**

VIJAYKUMAR PATEL was found working behind the till, an area designated for staff only, and was observed serving customers. During interviewing, VIJAYKUMAR PATEL stated that he had been working at the premises for approximately one month, assisting his uncle, with his primary responsibility being customer service. He explained that he works five to six hours a day, seven days a week, and that he was offered the role by an individual referred to as Mr PATEL, who also assigns daily duties and determines his working hours and days. It is believed that the person identified as Mr PATEL is PRAFUL PATEL, one of the company directors who holds the premises licence.

VIJAYKUMAR PATEL said he does not receive any monetary payment for his work but occasionally receives food or a place to stay. He further stated that the employer did not carry out any right to work checks or review any documentation confirming his right to work before he began working. He claimed that the employer was aware of his working restrictions but allowed him to help regardless.

Home Office checks confirmed that VIJAYKUMAR PATEL entered the UK on a visit visa valid from July 2004 to January 2005. He did not leave the UK upon expiry of this visa and was subsequently classified as an overstayer. At no point has VIJAYKUMAR PATEL held any lawful right to work in the United Kingdom.

## Employer Interview - Sharmista PATEL

An illegal working employer interview was conducted with Sharmista PATEL. During the interview, she stated that she was a partner in a business she identified as **Diamond Food & Wine**. However, she was unable to provide a Companies House registration number or VAT number for the business, explaining that these matters were handled by her husband and son.

Sharmista PATEL claimed that Vijaykumar Gordhanbhai PATEL had been assisting at the premises for a couple of years, carrying out tasks such as stacking shelves and serving customers, including the sale of alcohol. She was unable to answer questions regarding his remuneration, working hours, duties, or any pre-employment checks, repeatedly stating that these responsibilities were managed by her husband and son.

When questioned about Jayesh Bhikhubhai PATEL, Sharmista PATEL was similarly unable to provide information relating to his remuneration, working days, duties, or pre-employment checks, again reiterating that these matters were overseen by her husband and son.

The case has been referred to the Civil Penalty Compliance Team and is undergoing their consideration under section 15 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. Under the Act, employers can face civil penalties for employing adults who lack the right to work in the UK or have invalid leave. As of February 2024, civil penalties can reach up to £45,000 per worker for first-time breaches, rising to £60,000 for subsequent violations.

## RIGHT TO WORK CHECKS AND THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

The objective of the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act) is to provide a clear, transparent framework for making decisions about applications by individuals or businesses wishing to sell or supply alcohol or provide certain types of regulated entertainment and late-night refreshment.

There are four licensing objectives which underpin the Act, and which need to be taken into account and promoted throughout the licensing process.

The licensing objectives are:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance and
- the protection of children from harm

Diamond Food & Wine under the control of **PRAFUL PATEL AND SHARMISTA PATEL** has been found with 2 overstayers who were working at the premises. This business has clearly failed to meet the prevention of crime and disorder objective. The licence holder would have been aware of their responsibilities to uphold the licensing objectives as they are clearly defined as part of the premises licence application. It is an offence to work when a person is disqualified to do so, and such an offence can only be committed with the co-operation of a premises licence holder or its agents.

The licence holder could have protected themselves and prevented crime and disorder by completing a straightforward right to work check. Should the licence holder have attempted these checks, the workers would have failed at the first stage. This would have quickly and easily confirmed that they did not hold the relevant right to work, and the licence holder could have protected themselves from giving work to an illegal worker. All employers are dutybound by law to conduct these checks if they wish to avoid being penalised if found to have employed

someone who is prohibited from working, and guidance can be found on the GOV.UK website or by using a search engine. Additional information on how to conduct these checks is available online, this includes the Home Office's official YouTube page.

The use of illegal labour provides an unfair competitive edge and deprives the UK economy of tax revenue. Illegal workers are often paid below the minimum wage (itself an offence) and National Insurance payments are not paid. A key draw for illegal immigration is work and low-skilled migrants that are increasingly vulnerable to exploitation by unlawful enterprises, finding themselves in sub-standard accommodation and toiling in poor working conditions for long hours.

Whether by negligence or wilful blindness illegal workers were engaged in activity on the premises. Section 182 guidance of the Licensing Act 2003 at point 11.27 states that certain activity should be treated particularly seriously, and this includes employing someone who is disqualified from that work by reason of their immigration status in the UK. 11.28 of the guidance states that it is expected that revocation of the licence – even in the first instance – should be seriously considered.

The Home Office shares the concerns raised by the applicant and supports their assessment that the premises was operating in an irresponsible manner.

#### Details of Responsible Authority

Name and Address:

**Immigration Enforcement  
Immigration Enforcement Licensing Compliance Team  
6th Floor, 2 Ruskin Square  
Dingwall Road  
Croydon  
CR0 2WF**

**Email address  
(optional):**

[IE.licensing.reviews@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:IE.licensing.reviews@homeoffice.gov.uk)

#### Signatures

**Signature of Responsible Authority**

**Home Office Immigration Enforcement**

**Date:**

**31 March 2026**

**Capacity:**

**Responsible  
Authority**

## Companies House

### DIAMOND FOOD AND WINE LIMITED

Company number **08124078**

Registered office address **101 Lake Avenue, Rainham, Essex, RM13 9SQ**

Company status **Active**

Company type **Private limited Company**

Incorporated on **29 June 2012**

### Officers

#### [PATEL, Praful](#)

Correspondence address [REDACTED]

Role **ACTIVE** Director

Date of birth **January 1952**

Appointed on **6 March 2014**

Nationality **British**

Country of residence **England**

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#### [PATEL, Sharmista](#)

Correspondence address [REDACTED]

Role **ACTIVE** Director

Date of birth **May 1957**

Appointed on **6 March 2014**

Nationality **British**

Country of residence **England**

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#### [PATEL, Mehul](#)

Correspondence address [REDACTED]

Role **RESIGNED** Director

Date of birth **February 1984**

Appointed on **6 March 2014**

Resigned on **18 July 2019**

Nationality **British**

Country of residence **United Kingdom**

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Diamond Food & Wines / New Road Food & Wines

135-137 New Road Rainham RM13 8ES

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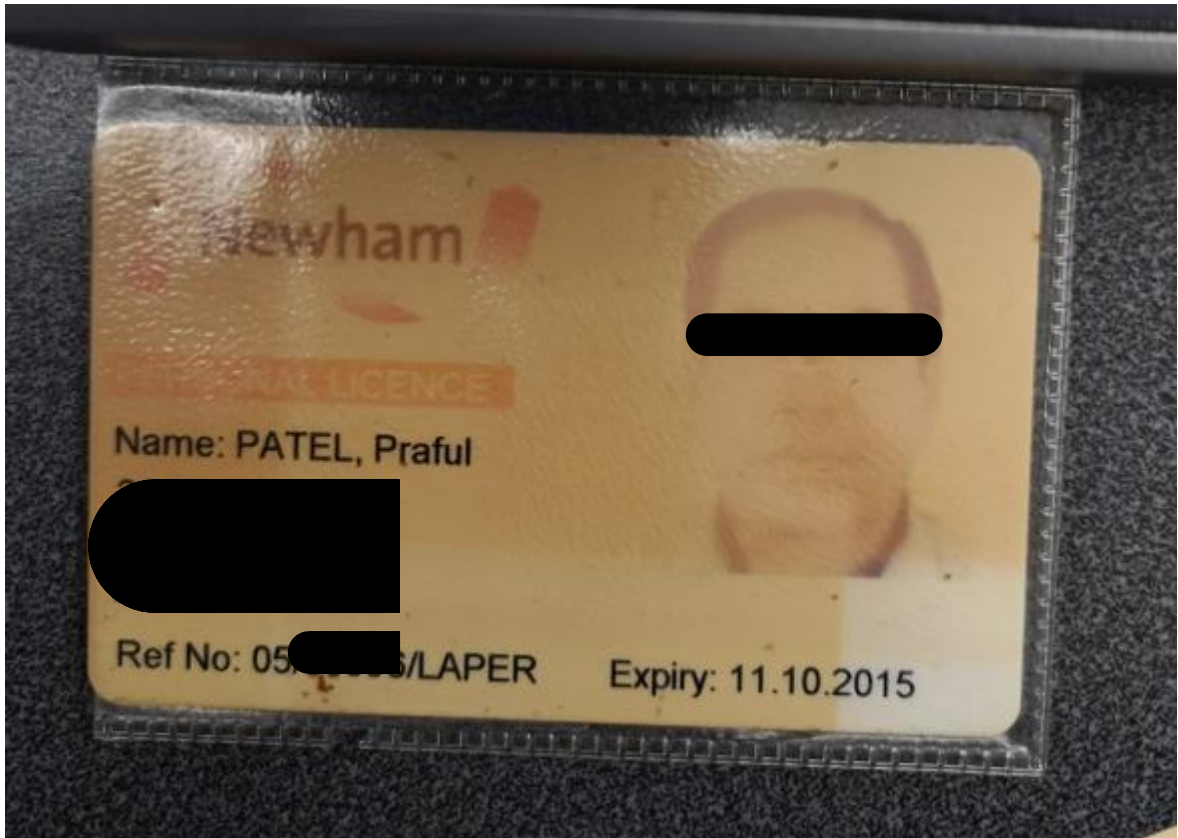
Diamond Food & Wine – sealed fire exit 27/02/26

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Diamond Food & Wine – high strength ciders – 27/02/26

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**From:** mehulpatel [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 10 March 2026 13:25  
**To:** Paul Jones <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Premises 001496

Hi Paul

Could you please give me a call as a matter of urgency. I have been trying for a few days now and not sure the number I have for you even works.

I have received the application by post. I was on site literally the next day as my mum said I needed to get back on the next flight. I was at the cash and carry the day you had popped in the other day.

You raised a few issues I see separate from immigration. I would like to confirm. The problem with the fire door is resolved with fire extinguisher( already to code).

With regards to energy drinks, the sign is in the side of the fridge. Always has been. We pride ourselves on responsible selling. And strong ciders are only for a handful of customers that cause no nuisance or commotion of any sort. We know all of them personally. So there's no threat there. Over the years because we got rid of the strong beers we have replaced it with 2 budget cab ciders, simply to fill the space in the fridge. I won't lie, they are popular but who we sell to have never given us reason to refuse sale.

In addition I have misplaced my personal license card, could you advise where I can get another one from. I am not sure how and why you still have my details on file as I haven't been the personal licence holder for this premises for over 10 years. Could you please share your data policy?

I look forward to hearing from you. Please advise what date you intend to interview dad for his review.

We are a small independent family run business and sincerely apologise for the trouble, however since this has surfaced we are thinking of selling to a be temple or the landlord may want to put an application in for a mosque. Out of interest, if we sold to a temple would we need to put an application in for a temple?

Many thanks

Mehul(Mez)Patel

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