

Essex County Council  
 Place Operations  
 Trading Standards  
 County Hall CG32  
 Market Road  
 Chelmsford  
 CM1 1QH



Maldon District Council  
 Licensing Section  
 Council Offices  
 Maldon  
 CM9 5DL

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017  
 Our Ref: LEW/Country  
 Produce

Dear Sir,

**Licensing Act 2003  
 Licence Review Application – Country Produce Latchingdon**

With reference to the application, by Essex Police for the review of the premises licence for Country Produce Highview, Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton, Maldon Essex CM3 6HR.

Essex Trading Standards supports the application made by Essex Police on the following grounds:

During 2016 Essex Trading Standards were approached by our colleagues at Slough Trading Standards to assist with some communication that was necessary with Mr Ravinder Singh Grover. Mr Grover had been stopped in Slough on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in a Mercedes Van registration CS08MGS outside another business that he was previously a director of – and an amount of illegal alcohol and tobacco were seized from him.

The items were as follows:

- (i) 163 x packs of cigarettes with non English health warnings & no pictorial warnings
- (ii) 34 x 50g pouches of hand rolling tobacco with non English health warnings & no pictorial warnings
- (iii) 8 x bottles of illegally imported vodka

Following his interview by Slough Trading Standards Mr Grover ignored repeated attempts by Slough Trading Standards to agree to the goods being formally signed over for destruction – Essex Trading Standards were asked to visit him to gain the necessary documentary signatures in order to close the matter.

The matter was formally concluded on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and it should be noted that Mr Grover was out of the country for a significant period of time prior to that and very difficult to contact.

Around the same time, as part of a wider initiative into inhibiting the supply of illegal tobacco Essex Trading Standards carried out an inspection of the premises on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 - during the inspection no concern was raised about the legitimacy of the tobacco but a significant quantity of wine was seized from the premises. In total officers seized 372 bottles of wine where receipts and UK Excise duty could not be verified. Mr Grover was not present at the time of the inspection and he was given an opportunity to provide receipts but did not.

Officers eventually met with Mr Grover on the 21<sup>st</sup> September and he went through the necessary paperwork and was warned for both matters.

My observations over the period that I have been dealing with the premises is that Mr Grover is very rarely at the premises and has spent a reasonable amount of time out of the country over the summer, giving some concern over the level of management at the business.

Essex Trading Standards support Essex Police's application for a review on the grounds of the prevention of crime and disorder.

Yours sincerely



**Trading Standards Officer**

Please reply to: [Redacted]  
Telephone: 01245 341950  
Email: [Redacted]@essex.gov.uk  
Internet: [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)