

**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE**

**SCHEDULE 8A**

**Application for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 (premises associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both)**

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**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 the 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

I. Police Constable 15913 Peter Eccleston

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(on behalf of) the chief officer of police for the police area apply for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003.

**1. Premises details**

Postal address of premises.

TOPSHOP, 20 HURST STREET,

Post town: BURY

Postcode: BL9 7ER

**2. Premises licence details**

Name of Premises licence holder (if known);

SYED KHURSHID HUSSAIN SHAH

Number of Premises Licence

PL0956

**3. Certificate under section 53A(1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003**

I confirm that a certificate has been given by a senior member of the police force for the police area above, that in his opinion the above premises are associated with serious crime or serious disorder or both, and the certificate accompanies this application.

*(Please tick the box to confirm)*

X

**4. Details of association of the above premises with serious crime, serious disorder or both:**

At 16:00 hours on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 an incident of serious crime occurred inside the above premises. I along with officers from Immigration Enforcement, Bury Councils Trading Standards and Licensing Departments attended the property with a view to searching for illicit tobacco and illegal vapes. It also presented an opportunity for Bury Councils Licensing Department and I to look at any potential breaches with regards to the current premises license.

Upon arrival at the premises, two Asian males were stood outside the premises on the street corner. On entering the premises no one was present inside the store or in the storeroom at the rear of the property however a minute or so later, a white male entered the store. Upon asking the male if he was in charge, he stated that he had just been asked to look after the store temporarily by the two Asian males stood outside.

There was a pungent smell of cannabis within the shop and within minutes two plastic containers were found in the storeroom which contained a total of 75 snap bags containing cannabis bush and 11 snap bags containing cannabis resin. Unfortunately, the two Asian males had left the scene however another Asian male entered the property and went directly to the storeroom where he removed some personal property. As such both he and the individual temporarily in charge were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class B drugs

Although the premises has a premises license to sell alcohol, it was apparent that the store had not sold alcohol for some time with no stock on the shelves or in the storeroom. In fact, the only stock we found in the storeroom was the containers of cannabis and it is my opinion that the shop itself is a front for the sale of drugs which are likely to be just as readily available as a packet of crisp.

Further to the above, it was also apparent that the premises had no CCTV whatsoever and no refusals book could be found.

Given this incident and the evidence obtained during the search, it is quite clear that the licensing objectives are being undermined and it is my opinion that an expedited review of the premises licence is necessary to allow the licence authority to review/amend the licence conditions and prevent a reoccurrence of such serious crime.

**Signature of Applicant:**

 PC 15913

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Capacity: Police Licensing Officer**

**Contact details for matters concerning this application:**

**Address; Divisional Licensing Officer, Greater Manchester Police, Dunster Rd, Bury, BL9 0RD**

**Telephone number: 0161 856 2256**

**Email: [15913@gmp.police.uk](mailto:15913@gmp.police.uk)**