

**WATFORD LICENSING AUTHORITY**  
Licensing Act 2003.

**REPRESENTATION FORM FROM RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES**

Responsible Authority (please delete as applicable):

Police - On behalf of The Chief Constable

<b>Your Name</b>	1162 Luke Mitchell
<b>Job Title</b>	Licensing Sergeant
<b>Postal and email address</b>	Community Safety Unit, Watford Police Station, Watford, Herts WD17 1DD
<b>Contact telephone number</b>	

<b>Name of the premises you are making a representation about</b>	DKSR Supermarket (also known as Whippendell Food & Wine)
<b>Address of the premises you are making a representation about</b>	164 Whippendell Rd, Watford, Herts, WD18 7NB

<b>Which of the four licensing Objectives does your representation relate to?</b>	<b>Yes Or No</b>	<b>Please detail the evidence supporting your representation. Or the reason for your representation. Please use separate sheets if necessary</b>
<b>To prevent crime and disorder</b>	Yes	<p>An application has been received for a new Premises Licence by DKSR Supermarket, 164 Whippendell Rd, Watford, Herts, WD18 7NB to open and sell alcohol between 08:00hrs – 22:00hrs Monday to Sunday, and for Mr Srithas Sundralingam to be the Designated Premises Supervisor.</p> <p>This shop and family has a long negative history with both the local Police and the Council Licensing Team.</p> <p>In <b>2010</b>, DKSR had their alcohol licence revoked for repeat breaches of their licence. This was on the back of a 10 year old child being served alcohol. Mr Sundralingam has been warned, advised and cautioned on numerous occasions by Watford Council Licensing Officer and the Police, all of which he chose to ignore.</p> <p>This was appealed at Magistrates Court but was upheld.</p> <p>In <b>March 2011</b>, a new premises licence was again refused by the local Licensing Committee. The Police evidenced that since the shop has had their licence removed there had been a reduction in ASB and that this shop was the root cause of the problems that had occurred in the area.</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> <b>November 2011</b>, a further application for a new premises licence was heard. Neither the applicant nor representatives attended the hearing. The application was rejected.</p>
<b>Public safety</b>	Yes	
<b>To prevent public nuisance</b>	Yes	
<b>The protection of children from harm</b>	Yes	

In **November 2012**, after a number of refusals from the Licencing Committee the premises licence was granted to Mounisha Srithas, the previous DPS's daughter. The licence was given with a number of conditions.

Sergeant White introduced the Police's representation. She noted that this was the fourth application by the family to have their premises licence reinstated, and each had so far been refused. **The premises licence had been revoked on 1st March 2010** and the revocation was upheld on appeal. Sergeant White was concerned why this family should be given a second chance. The premises had sold alcohol outside their licensed hours, to street drinkers, to intoxicated persons and to minors including a 10 year-old. Sergeant White added that the policy LP4 was written due to the irresponsible management of this premises. If the premises were granted another premise licence, the conditions would be breached. The breaches in the past had not been isolated incidents and she did not believe that any conditions could address this. Given the history of the premises, there should be no second chance.

**Conclusion** – A Premises Licence was issued. The family were given their second chance.

**12<sup>th</sup> March 2013 - review of premises licence by Police**

- Sgt White outlines that a new premises licence was issued in November 2012 and strict conditions were put in place by the Sub-Committee.
- **Within 10 days of this being issued the venue had breached its conditions several times.**
- 2 offences recorded in Dec 2012 of selling alcohol to children.
- Counsel for the family at the Premises Licence Hearing had said that the family deserved a second chance.
- In 2012 the police said that Miss Srithas the daughter of the owner was a "puppet" controlled by her father who is the ever present figure in the background. Although she is meant to be the new face of the business in reality nothing had changed.
- 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012 - Special Sgt Jennings entered the shop in plain clothes, single cans and bottles were on sale for £1.00. S.Sgt Jennings was able to purchase a can of lager.
- 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 - Alan Deacon, Police Licensing Officer purchased a single bottle of Magners without challenge.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012 - Susan Franklin, Police Licensing Assistant attended the store and was able to buy super strength lager. Another breach.

- On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012 - Police used a 16 year old child to try and purchase alcohol. The child was refused, this is positive, however this was not logged in the refusals book and therefore another breach.
- 27<sup>th</sup> December 2012 - a 15 year old child managed to buy a 75cl bottle of Vodka, this was recorded on CCTV.
- On the same date, it was noted via CCTV that a male was served SKOL alcohol, 9% ABV super strength from a stash held below the counter.
- 28<sup>th</sup> December 2012 – Special Sgt Jennings attended the shop in plain clothes. Desperado beer at 5.9% ABV was on sale (no alcohol over 5.5% ABV should be sold). Again he was able to buy a single bottle of beer. Another breach.
- 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 - Licensing Officer attended the shop to look at CCTV. Whilst in the shop he noticed Desperado beer still on display, he also noticed miniature bottles of spirits. As he went around to the till area he noticed Mr Rajeswaran kicking away cans of special brew lager which were 9% ABV under the till area.
- 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013 - Miss Srithas denied all allegations in interview and said the police were bullying her and the officers involved were lying.

On the back of this overwhelming evidence the premises licence was surrendered by Miss Srithas.

An application for a new premises licence was rejected in **November 2016** by the Sub-Committee.

On **4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017**, Miss Srithas contacted the Police and asked for a meeting to discuss reapplying for their alcohol licence, due to workload we asked if we could meet in the New Year to discuss.

On **16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018**, Police met with Miss Srithas and her father at Watford Police Station on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018, where Miss Srithas pleaded with the Licensing Team not to object to her new application. Within this meeting there was no evidence that things had or would change, she merely stated the need to sell alcohol to ensure the business was viable. At this time she said that only her family would be working in the shop. Due to the language barrier we couldn't effectively communicate with the father.

On **13<sup>th</sup> April 2018**, Miss Srithas phoned Watford Police and asked to speak to PCSO Abbott. She asked him for his support in their application, again giving no substance to how they would promote the licensing objectives. He said that he wouldn't get involved but agreed to see her in the shop if he was passing. PCSO Abbott attended the shop the following day and met with the father who again tried to get him to support the application,

he said, "It was very hard to run two shops and that the Police should support him."

When issuing a premises licence it's very important that we have the confidence that a shop can manage the sale of alcohol and that it doesn't have an impact on the neighbourhood and the demand on services such as the police. My concerns are that this shop, if granted a licence is going to need and expect a very large amount of police time, this is something that I can't and won't offer. We are not here to supervise, train or manage a premises, these are things we expect a competent DPS to be able to do.

On **19<sup>th</sup> April 2018**, Police were made aware that Mr Sundralingam had purchased a bottle of spirit from a homeless male. Police observed a video of the male in question saying that he had sold it to this male. Police attended the store and asked for the CCTV from DKSR. Mr Sundralingam said he couldn't work it. On speaking to Mr Sundralingam he explained that his daughter worked at Audi and she wasn't contactable during the day. We did try and ring her without any success. An email was sent to her, and she responded 2 days later saying the CCTV came up with an error message after her father had tried to obtain the recording, therefore there is no footage available.

Police had a report of a large amount of spirits stolen from a nearby nightclub a week or so beforehand, and have seen CCTV of the male trying to sell the item at nearby shops. It's alleged this male sold it in DKSR, however without their CCTV we're unable to prove or disprove this allegation.

What is very clear that despite the history of this store, the fact they have submitted a new Premises Licence application they still don't have a workable CCTV system, nor are they able to use it.

As we write this Representation today, both crime and ASB has increased in Watford. This shop and family have had a huge amount of support over the years from the authorities. Despite this support, it resulted in them having no option but to surrender their licence in 2013 for numerous breach and a catalogue of problems.

Having met with the family, I don't feel reassured by the conditions they have proposed and feel that given the huge history they are far from suitable from having a licence to sell alcohol.

On **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021**, an application for a New Premises Licence was received by the Police. Given the long negative history that this family have had in Watford, the Police do not support this application for a premises licence.

Watford has an ever increasing issue with street drinkers. This has resulted in ASB calls in and around this location. Police have worked hard to manage shops in this area and ensure conditions are adhere to. I fail to see how giving an irresponsible

	<p>DPS and shop a licence to sell alcohol is going to support the needs of the community, and help us to prevent crime and disorder, help vulnerable people and to keep people safe.</p> <p>This premise is currently within the Sensitive Licensing Area (LP4) of Whippendell Road, between its junction with Cassio Road and Hagden Lane. This means that the area suffers greatly with street drinkers and ASB which is likely to have an adverse impact on the licensing objectives.</p> <p>In summary, we feel if this were to be granted it would be detrimental to policing in Watford and the community in its entirety.</p> <p>This therefore raises strong concerns of how this would impact the wider community in terms of increased Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime and Disorder.</p> <p>The Constabulary have concerns regarding this application and accordingly on behalf of the Chief Constable I represent against it.</p>
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<p><b>Suggested conditions that could be added to the licence to remedy your representation or other suggestions you would like the Licensing Sub Committee to take into account. Please use separate sheets where necessary and refer to checklist.</b></p>	
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Signed: PS 1162 Luke Mitchell

Date: 6/12/2021

Please return this form along with any additional sheets to: Watford Licensing Authority, Town Hall, Watford, Herts WD17 3EX, or email to [envhealth@watford.gov.uk](mailto:envhealth@watford.gov.uk)

**This form must be returned within the Statutory Period. For more details please check with the Licensing Unit on 01923 278503 .**