

**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>	Jo Tomkins
<b>Job Title</b>	Police Licensing Officer
<b>Postal and email address</b>	Community Safety Unit, Watford Police Station, Watford, Herts WD17 1DD

<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>	<b>Yes</b>	<p>An application has been received from Mr Srithas Sundralingham for a new Premises Licence in the name of DKSR Supermarket, 164 Whippendell Rd, Watford, Herts, WD18 7NB to open between 08:00 – 23:00 Monday to Sunday and sell 'off sales' of alcohol between 10:00 – 23:00 Monday to Sunday. The Agent Mr Stewart Gibson (the Licensing Agent acting for Mr Sundralingham) has emailed the Police Licensing Officer prior to this application being submitted to the Council, and the Police Licensing Officer replied that the Police shall be submitting a Representation objecting to their application based on a long negative history with the Police and Watford Borough Council Licensing Team. The Police Licensing Officer did then call the Agent back, but has not managed to speak with him, so instead she sent an email back to the Agent explaining a brief history as their rationale for objecting.</p> <p><b>The history starts:</b></p> <p>In <b>2010</b>, DKSR had their Premises Licence <b>revoked</b> for repeat breaches of their licence. This was on the back of a 10 year old being served alcohol. Mr Srithas Sundralingham had been warned, advised, and cautioned on numerous occasions by Watford Council Licensing Officer and the Police, all of which he chose to ignore. This revocation was appealed by Mr Srithas Sundralingham at Magistrates Court but was upheld.</p> <p>In <b>March 2011</b>, a new Premises Licence application was again <b>refused</b> by the Watford Council Licensing Committee. The Police evidenced that since the shop has had their premises licence removed there, had been a reduction in ASB and that</p>
<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
<b>To Prevent Public Nuisance</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
<b>The Protection of Children from Harm</b>	<b>Yes</b>	

this shop was the root cause of the problems that had occurred in the area.

**1st November 2011**, a further application for a new Premises Licence was heard. Neither the applicant nor representatives attended the hearing. The application was **rejected**.

**6th November 2012**, after a number of refusals from Watford Council Licencing Committee the Premises Licence was **granted** to Miss Mounisha Srithas, Mr Srithas Sundralingham's daughter. The Premises Licence had 20 new conditions added to it including no high strength beer, cider or lager and no single cans, no sales of miniatures or quarter bottles.

Sergeant Marie White introduced the Police's Representation. She noted that this was the fourth application by the family to have their 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 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** – Premises Licence was granted. The family were given their second chance.

**12th March 2013 - Review of Premises Licence by Police**

- Sgt Marie 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 Council Hearing had said that the family deserved a second chance.
- In 2012 the Police said that Miss Mounisha Srithas (the daughter of the owner Mr Srithas Sundralingham) was controlled by her father and although she was meant to be the new face of the business, in reality nothing had changed.
- **16th November 2012** - Special Sgt Jennings entered the shop in plain clothes, single cans and bottles were on sale for £1.00. Special Sgt Jennings was able to purchase a can of lager.
- **19th November 2012** – A Police Licensing Officer purchased a single bottle of Magners without challenge.

- **23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012** – A 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 their refusals book and therefore another breach.
- **27<sup>th</sup> December 2012** - a 15-year-old male 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 Sergeant 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** – A Police 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 shop assistant Mr Rajeswaran kicking away cans of special brew lager which were 9% ABV under the till area.
- **8<sup>th</sup> January 2013** - Miss Mounisha 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 Mounisha Srithas just minutes before the Licensing Review Hearing.**

An application for a new Premises Licence was **rejected in November 2016** by Watford Licensing Committee.

On **4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017**, Miss Mounisha 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 2018 New Year to discuss.

On **16th Jan 2018**, Police met with Miss Mounisha Srithas and her father Mr Srithas Sundralingham at Watford Police Station, where Miss Srithas pleaded with the Police Licensing Officer and Sergeant 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 Mr Srithas Sundralingham, her father.

On **13<sup>th</sup> April 2018**, Miss Mounisha Srithas phoned Watford Police Station and asked to speak to PCSO Marc Abbott. She asked him for his support in their application, again giving no

substance as 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 the Police and Council have the confidence that a Premises and DPS can manage the sale of alcohol and that it doesn't have an impact on the community and the demand on services such as the Police or Council Licensing Team. The Police concerns are that this premises, if granted a Premise Licence is going to need and expect a very large amount of Police time and resources, and this is something that we 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 operate and manage responsibly.

On **19<sup>th</sup> April 2018**, Police were made aware that Mr Srithas 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 Srithas Sundralingam said he couldn't work it. On speaking to Mr Srithas Sundralingam again 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 two 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 number 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 when they submitted a new Premises Licence application, they still did not have a workable CCTV system, nor were they able to use it. Crime and ASB has increased in Watford over the years, and this premises 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 breaches and a catalogue of problems. Having met with the family, the Police do not feel reassured by the conditions they had proposed and feel that given their vast negative history they are far from suitable from having a Premise Licence to sell alcohol, etc.

On **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021** we received another Premises Licence application from Mr Srithas Sundralingam requesting to sell alcohol between 08:00 – 22:00 Monday to Sunday. Police represented against this application due to the previous conduct of the applicant and his family when operating a licensed premises in the past. Watford Licensing Committee **refused** the Premises Licence saying the applicant had failed to show a clear understanding of the Licensing Legislation and the

	<p>requirements of Licensing, and that the Licensing Objectives would be undermined.</p> <p>Watford has an ever-increasing issue with street drinkers and alcohol related Anti-Social Behaviour and has resulted in ASB calls in and around this location of Whippendell Road. Police have worked hard to manage the premises in this area and ensure conditions are adhere to. The Police fail to see how giving an irresponsible DPS and a family who refuse to conduct themselves in a responsible manner when it comes to the Licensing Act and Licensing Legislation, a Premises Licence to sell alcohol is going to support the needs of the community, and help us to Prevent Crime and Disorder, To Prevent Public Nuisance, The Protection of Children from Harm and not undermine Public Safety.</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 Premises Licence were to be granted it would be extremely detrimental to policing in Watford and the community in its entirety. 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: LO 8690 Jo Tomkins

Date: 16/1/2023

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.**