

From: Charlotte Dexter
Sent: 20 February 2023 10:56
To: Mckenna Lorna: H&F <Licensing HF: H&F <licensing@lbhf.gov.uk>
Cc: Overton Adrian: H&F
Subject: EMAIL #4 Evidence to support my Rep: Redacted statement from major retailer regarding 51 Fulham Broadway

Dear Licensing Sub-Committee

On behalf a major retailer in the Fulham Broadway area, I am submitting this information as anonymously as possible.

Having witnessed much theft first hand in shops around Fulham Broadway, I have taken the initiative to meet directly with managers of the major retailers of food and household goods in the Fulham Broadway area. They have made me acutely aware, in great detail, of the theft gangs who work around here everyday and resell into 51 Fulham Broadway—this is all about stolen goods being resold.

I have witnessed these gangs myself, for instance, a group of five men stealing Champagne, exiting the retailer, running across the road, stashing the bottles in big black carrier/shoulder bags and the ‘runners’ cycling off. They are well known to the retailers and to the Police. I spoke with the Licensing Police about these problems. I was told to provide evidence, which is a bit difficult for residents to do. As I had done the ground work to meet and discuss these problems with the retailers, I asked for witness statements to be taken in respect of this specific Application in front of the Sub-Committee tonight, but that did not happen, unfortunately.

I asked one of the retailers to write to me about the Licensing Application 2022/01898/LAPR, and said that I would redact the email, which I am doing here.

The retailer wrote to me as follows:

"15 Nov 2022: I am writing to you to give my position on the premises licence application for Broadway Food and Wine (BFW), reference code 2022/01898/LAPR.

"I work xxxxxxxxxx which is xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Broadway Food and Wine. My current role is manager for xxxxxxxx. When I first started this position one of our biggest challenges was the high amount of theft of spirits and wine which was then being re-sold illegally by BFW. This has been confirmed by xxxxxx and witnessed it happening first hand. Not only does this practice negatively affect our business but it also has a hugely detrimental effect on the area in general, attracting a large amount of unsavoury characters to frequent the high street. It is for this reason I strongly oppose Broadway Food and Wine having there alcohol license re-instated."

I, Charlotte Dexter, would like the Committee to know that I was told further that these thieves hang out/‘work’ the North End Road, Earls Court and Fulham Broadway. They are seen almost every day by one retailer who walks for exercise to Earls Court every day to catch the tube home. I have seen photos of the thieves, taken by the retailers. There is a ginger haired woman, who apparently the retailers have nick-named ‘Ginger’. I have heard first hand accounts regarding stolen shopping baskets of candy and alcohol being taken around to 51 Fulham Broadway and a manager of the retailer going around to ask for his/her baskets to be returned, with the stolen goods still in the baskets and visible at the end of the counter.

The goods being resold are everything from sweets to other small items that children like, to cheese, washing liquid to alcohol.

I have very strong assurances from the retailers that they would give witness statements to the Police about these retailers' goods being resold in the shop at 51 Fulham Broadway, were these to be needed, for instance, should the Applicant choose to appeal tonight's decision by the Sub-Committee. I am advised that it is therefore important that I submit all this in writing at this time.

Separately, I have submitted four pages of reviews explaining recent scams at this shop that have taken place after the rejection of the last Licensing Application 2021/01448/LAPR Status: Rejected (Decision Letter published 12 Jan 2022).

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