

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

LICENSING PANEL

Monday 7th July 2025

Present: Councillor Eric Firth (Chair)
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Mohan Sokhal

In attendance: Rox Javaid, Licensing Officer
Craig Heywood, Licensing Officer
Lee Rushworth, Licensing Officer
Fiona Goldsmith, Public Protection Group Leader
Tahir Hanif, Senior Lawyer
Richard Woodhead, West Yorkshire Police
Kathryn Swift, West Yorkshire Police

8 Membership of the Panel

All Panel Members were in attendance.

**9 Minutes of Previous Meeting
RESOLVED -**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2025 be approved as a correct record.

10 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

11 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were held in public session.

12 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

13 Public Question Time

No public questions were asked.

14 Licensing Act 2003 Section 51 - Application for the review of a Premises Licence, Hao Lai Karaoke Bar, 33-35 Kirkgate, Huddersfield, HD1 1QT

The Panel considered a report which outlined an application for the review of a Premises Licence for Hao Lai Karaoke Bar, 33-35 Kirkgate, Huddersfield, HD1 1QT.

The Licensing Officer advised the Panel that on 12th May 2025, West Yorkshire Police submitted an application for the review of the premises licence for Hao Lai Karaoke Bar under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The applicant believed that the licensing objectives in respect of Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Public Safety were not being met.

The Panel were informed that on 25th April 2025 a joint operation was carried out which included officers from West Yorkshire Police, Licensing Officers from Kirklees Council and Immigration Officers from the Home Office. The purpose of the operation was to visit certain premises across Huddersfield to investigate the employment of illegal workers.

Immigration workers discovered illegal workers at the premises and carried out arrests. West Yorkshire Police believed the premises licence holder may have breached employment/criminal law by allowing illegal workers to operate from licensed premises, and suspected that sexual services may have been offered to clients in the massage rooms that were found in the basement and on the ground floor.

Further breaches of the licence conditions were found, including: a lack of CCTV recordings, a failure to maintain refusal logs, no incident log available for inspection and no evidence of training logs.

The Licensing Officer further advised that the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) had resigned his voluntary post as of 1st June 2025 and the Premises License Holder had been informed that they would need to stop selling alcohol while a DPS was not in place.

A letter had been received from the Premises Licence Holder stating that they had stopped selling alcohol, however the premises license had not been surrendered, and alcohol sales were still part of the active licence.

Richard Woodhead, West Yorkshire Police advised the Panel that Police and Council Officers had visited the premises on several occasions since review proceedings had begun, and the bar had been closed.

A representative for the Premises Licence Holder read a statement advising the Panel that there were no illegal workers, but family members, who spoke no English and had been confused by the questioning from West Yorkshire Police and the Immigration Officer. The statement also confirmed that Mrs Li did not employ illegal workers or sell alcoholic drinks.

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Mrs Li's representative also informed the Panel that as soon as Mrs Li had been made aware of the illicit sexual activity taking place, Mrs Li had taken action to stop this, and that Police Officers had visited the premises on several occasions, along with immigration officers visiting their home address.

During consideration of all the information presented both verbally and in writing, the Panel felt it necessary to ask further questions regarding the licensing objectives in respect to the CCTV and refusal book and asked all parties to rejoin the meeting.

The Chair requested further detail from the Licensing Officer around the CCTV not being available to view and the refusal book not being in place, which were conditions of the original Premises Licence.

The Licensing Officer confirmed that at the visit on 25th April 2025 the CCTV had not been working and there was no one available who was trained to operate it. There was no refusal book available for inspection, and no incident book, and despite the Premises Licence Holder being emailed about this there had been no further information given.

Having considered all the information presented both verbally and in writing, the Panel, in reaching its decision, had due regard to the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, the statutory guidance issued under section 182 of the Act, the Councils Statement of Licensing Policy and the relevant provisions of the Human Rights Act.

RESOLVED -

That the Premises License for Hao Lai Karaoke Bar, 33-35 Kirkgate, Huddersfield, HD1 1QT, be revoked.

15 Licensing Act 2003 Section 51 – Application for the review of a Premises Licence, Ravensthorpe Off Licence - 618 Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, WF13 3HL

The Panel considered a report which outlined an application for a review under S51 of the Licensing Act 2003, in respect of premises license Ravensthorpe Off Licence, 618 Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, WF13 3HL.

The Licensing Officer advised the Panel that the application for review had been received on 13th May from West Yorkshire Police, as they believed the following licensing objectives were not being met: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety and the protection of children from harm.

The Premises Licence Holder had provided a statement which was read out by the Licensing Officer. The statement advised the Panel that the named License Premises Holder had sold the shop two years previously and was unaware that his name was still being used by the current owner as he had been told that it had been transferred into the new owner's name. He wished to cancel and surrender the license.

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The Panel were advised by PC Kathryn Swift, West Yorkshire Police, that during a test purchase operation by West Yorkshire Police on 4th March 2025 at Ravensthorpe Off Licence, a police officer was able to buy an illegal packet of cigarettes. The packet of cigarettes did not conform to the tobacco and related products regulations 2016, and were stored under the counter.

On 22nd April 2025 West Yorkshire Police and Trading Standards attended and searched the premises for illegal tobacco. Illegal cigarettes were found hidden behind the counter and 115 disposable electronic cigarettes were on display for sale which had a tank capacity larger than the maximum permitted of 2ml nicotine, making them illegal. Under the counter were two packets of open cigarettes which it was believed were being sold as single cigarettes. A female working at the store advised that she was being paid £40 cash in hand, and had received no training and was unsure of the legal age for buying vapes. She said she did not know about the illegal cigarettes, did not know who the Designated Premises Supervisor was and also did not know the owner. The shop worker was able to provide the first name of someone to contact, and two telephone numbers to contact them on. The Police Officer followed up the numbers, one which was not recognised and one which was linked to a male in Coventry who did not have the right to work.

West Yorkshire Police advised the Panel on government guidance regarding what was deemed a serious offence included the sale and storage of smuggled tobacco.

In reaching its decision, the Panel had due regard to the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, the statutory guidance issued under section 182 of the Act, the Councils Statement of Licensing Policy and the relevant provisions of the Human Rights Act.

RESOLVED -

That the Premises License for Ravensthorpe Off Licence, 618 Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, WF13 3HL, be revoked.