

This review is supported by The Home Office Immigration Enforcement, and as such we believe the licensing condition of "Preventing Crime and Disorder" has been breached.

The Premises Licence Holder is Mr Mohid AHMED.

Mr Mohid AHMED is currently the Premises Licence Holder of:

The Blue Ginger, 17 Bell Street, Whitechurch, Hampshire, RG28 7AE.

Immigration Enforcement have visited the premises and an immigration offender with no right to work in the United Kingdom was identified.

On 06 07 2018 a team of 10 officers, attended the address, entering under Section 179 of the Licensing Act 2003 (as amended by the Immigration Act 2016) at 18:25 hours. The premises was open when the team entered.

Mr Mohid AHMED was not present during the Immigration Enforcement visit.

At the time of the visit 1 male employee was found to be an immigration offender with no right to work in the United Kingdom.

The male employee held no valid leave to enter/remain in the United Kingdom. He stated that he was helping out in the kitchen doing the starters. He stated that he sometimes gets food and allowed to stay upstairs for free for helping out. He stated that his friend had asked him to help out and that the boss did not know that he was helping out. He stated that he has had no training.

A male member of staff in a senior role that had permission to work in the United Kingdom, stated that Mr Mohid AHMED, is the owner of The Blue Ginger. He stated that Mr Mohid AHMED employs staff at The Blue Ginger.

An illegal working civil penalty referral notice was served on the company meaning a potential fine for the business of up to £20,000. This was in relation to the male employee that held no valid leave to enter/remain in the United Kingdom, and who also had no right to work in the United Kingdom.

The employment of people who do not have the right to work in the United Kingdom is a serious crime and can be linked to exploitation of vulnerable people.

Continuing to employ people without making the legally required checks, and not making improvements to prevent such allegations, again goes to demonstrate that the premises licence holder is not robust, and does not take the responsibilities towards the licensing objectives seriously.

Tackling illegal working

The ability to work illegally is a key driver of illegal migration; it encourages people to break the UK's immigration laws and provides the practical means for migrants to remain unlawfully in the United Kingdom.

It encourages people to take risks in trying to enter the United Kingdom illegally by putting their lives in the hands of people smugglers and leaves them vulnerable to exploitative employers.

We are committed to tackling the economic motivation behind illegal migration and those people who facilitate it. However, employers also have an important role to play in preventing illegal working by undertaking simple checks on their employees' right to work in the United Kingdom.

Employers' responsibilities

Employers have had a responsibility since 1997 to ensure they do not employ illegal workers. Since 2008, this requirement has been underpinned by civil and criminal sanctions for non compliance, set out in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 - sections 15 and 21. Under these sanctions, an employer who employs an illegal worker may be liable for a civil penalty of up to £20,000 per illegal worker.

Employers may prevent a liability for a civil penalty by undertaking simple right to work checks on all those they intend to employ and repeating the checks if the employee has time-limited permission to live and work in the United Kingdom.

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