

**Royal Borough of Greenwich  
Licensing Sub-Committee**

**Decision Notice  
4<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Review of Premises Licence  
of Mandris Ltd,  
for  
Maistas & Gerimai, 33 Herbert Road, Woolwich, London, SE18 3SZ**

In reaching its decision, the Licensing Sub-Committee (“LSC”) considered the Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy, the Licensing Act 2003, the Regulations made thereunder, and the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under S.182 of that Act. In discharging its functions, the LSC did so with a view to promoting the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance, and the protection of children from harm.

Having considered all written representations, evidence and oral submissions, the LSC resolved to revoke the premises licence.

**Basis of Decision:**

The LSC carefully considered the review application and fully noted and took into consideration all written and oral submissions made on behalf of Trading Standards, the applicant for review, and the oral submissions of Mr Mantas Andris, the former sole director of Mandris Ltd, until November 2020, and Designated Premises Supervisor.

The LSC gave full weight to the evidence from Trading Standards, and the police, including the criminal convictions in 2018 of Mandris Ltd and Mantas Andris for related illegal tobacco on the same premises. The unlawful activity did not cease after the convictions in 2018.

The LSC gave due weight to the representations from Public Health, regarding the harmful effects and availability of illegal tobacco, at stamp-duty evaded prices. The tobacco was being sold in packaging that did not conform to legal requirements, nor bear health warnings in English as required by law.

The LSC considered and gave full weight to the police evidence regarding the breaches of the premises licence conditions, in particular the CCTV not working and recordings not being provided; staff not being able to operate the CCTV system; staff not being trained in the law relating to alcohol sales; no records being maintained for refusals of sale of alcohol and incidents at the premises; and the sale of super-strength alcohol above 6.5% ABV.

The LSC, in reaching its decision, took into consideration that Mr Andris expressly acknowledged the breaches of the premises licence conditions, and that he had pleaded guilty to the illegal tobacco charges in 2018, yet had continued to import, store and sell illegal tobacco from the premises. The explanations provided by Mr Andris, regarding pleading guilty, on the advice of his lawyer, to the charges in 2018 solely in order to save on his costs, and for the presence of illegal tobacco on the premises following his convictions, by claiming that he was not aware of the secret store for the illegal tobacco, were not credible and could not be believed. Mr Andris conveyed that he did not know what was taking place on the premises as he was working elsewhere.

Mr Andris had completely failed to comply with the conditions of the premises licence, had used the premises to conduct unlawful activity from the premises, and had completely failed, as the de facto licence holder and Designated Premises Supervisor, to uphold the licensing objectives – in particular, the prevention of crime and disorder objective. There was a consistent pattern of continued unlawful behaviour, even after Mr Andris had been convicted in April 2018, in the running of the premises, breaches of the licence conditions, and sale of illegal tobacco.

Any party aggrieved by this decision may appeal to the magistrates' court within 21 days.