

Statement in Support of Application for Review of Premises licence

**BD Wines,
1 Braganza Street,
London SE17 3RD**

Southwark Trading Standards were carrying out test purchasing exercises of alcohol with Police Licensing Officers on 20 February 2009 and again on 20 March.

28 February 2009

The volunteer was carefully selected by Trading Standards. She was photographed and measured prior to the exercise. She was of slim build, 5ft 5in (166cm) tall and dressed in casual clothes consistent with her age; 15 years. She was briefed in accordance with the LACORS code of practice and was not wearing make up in order to make appear older. She was always given money in the form of a note in order for the prospective seller to have extra time to assess her age. When she was in a shop attempting to purchase alcohol she was always observed by a member of Trading Standards' staff and any conversation could be heard.

At 12.20pm she attempted to purchase of bottle of alcohol at the above premise. A sale was made. Nothing was said to her about her age nor was she challenged in any way as to any proof of age. She handed over a £10 note. Once out of the shop she gave the Trading Standards Officer her change. She gave him £8.01 plus what she had purchased. She had been charged £1.99 for one bottle of WKD Vodka and a chocolate bar.

There were 11 test purchases carried out on that day by the same underage volunteer. She was refused at 7 of the premises where she attempted to purchase alcohol.

20 March 2009

Another test purchase was carried out at the premises. The test purchase was carried out by a different volunteer to the test purchase of 28 February 2009. The volunteer was a 15 year old girl. Again she was of slim build, dressed in casual clothes consistent with her age. She was shorter in height being 5ft 3in (160 cm). She was briefed in accordance with the LACORS code of practice and was not wearing make up in order to make appear older. She was always given money in the form of a note in order for the prospective seller to have extra time to assess her age. When she was in a shop attempting to purchase alcohol she was always observed by a member of Trading Standards' staff and any conversation could be heard. A sale did not take place on this occasion. The sales assistant was on the point of making a sale when he observed another adult in the shop; this being the Trading Standards observer. At this point he refused the sale outright, not even asking for any proof of age. This volunteer was younger than the first one used in February.

In relation to the test purchase, the young person was more than two years below the legal age to purchase alcohol and looked her age.

There were 10 test purchases carried out on that day by the same underage volunteer. She was refused at 9 of the premises where she attempted to purchase alcohol.

Justin Miller
Trading Standards Team Leader

5 June 2009