

NEWS RELEASE

LEEDS MAGISTRATES ORDER FORFEITURE OF ALCOHOL LICENCE

Martyn Hamilton Telford owner of Costcutter, Green Lane, Yeadon was yesterday found guilty in his absence by Leeds Magistrates of the sale of alcohol to a fourteen year old. He was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £761.45. He was also ordered to forfeit his personal licence to serve alcohol.

The offences occurred in October 2005 at Telford's busy licensed mini market at Green Lane, Yeadon which had a turnover of £10,000 per week. A joint West Yorkshire Police and Trading Standards test purchase operation was conducted at the premises following complaints of underage sales of alcohol.

The test purchaser, a fourteen year old schoolboy was able to purchase 4 cans of Carlsberg lager. An 'on the spot fine' of £80 was handed to the seller and charges under the Licensing Act 1964 were brought against Telford by the Trading Standards Service. As holder of the Justices' licence Telford was responsible for all sales of alcohol.

Telford, who was cautioned for the same offence only weeks before the sale, failed to attend court on two occasions and the case was proved in his absence. Magistrates used powers in the Licensing Act 2003 to forfeit Telford's personal licence to sell alcohol.

Graham Hebblethwaite Chief Trading Standards Officer, stated: 'I believe the result in this case sends a very clear message to the minority of traders who run premises where children can purchase alcohol. Underage sales will not be tolerated and those who flout the law face heavy fines and possible loss of livelihood. I advise any person with information on premises serving alcohol to children to report the matter to Consumer Direct: 08454 04 05 06.'

Councillor Keith Wakefield, of the Trading Standards Committee said: 'I support all action to combat the illegal sales of alcohol. I hope this case assures local residents that their concerns are being listened to and action has been taken to reduce the nuisance, vandalism and all the anti social behaviour which results from children obtaining access to alcohol.'

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