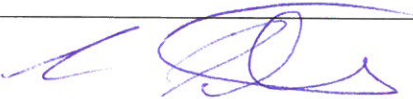


**Blackpool Council Licensing Service**  
**Representation made by a Responsible Authority**

**Responsible Authority**

Name of Responsible Authority	<b>Weights and Measures Authority</b>		
Name of Officer <i>(please print)</i>	Lee Petrak		
Signature of Officer			
Contact telephone number	01253-477861		
Date representation made	20	01	2017
Do you consider mediation to be appropriate	YES	NO	

**Premises Details**

Premises Name	Bucharesti
Address	47/49 Talbot Road
	Blackpool
Post Code	FY1 1LL

**Details of your representation (Please refer and attach any supporting documentation)**

I am Lee Petrak, Public Protection Officer for Trading Standards, and I am duly authorised to submit representations on behalf of the Weights and Measures Authority.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 13.49 hours I attended the Bucharesti store at 47/49 Talbot Road in order to carry out an intelligence led shop inspection. I was accompanied by colleagues Myron Moss and Mark Marshall. Upon conducting the visit I introduced myself to a female behind the counter who gave her details as Claudia Badea 21.01.1988 of 11/12 Station Terrace Blackpool FY4 1HT. Badea confirmed that she was responsible for the business.

A brief search of the counter area revealed a quantity of tobacco products concealed in a set of drawers under the counter area. Badea stated that the products were purchased from a male who came into the shop. She did not want to give his details. She had no receipts for the products and could not therefore vouch for their legitimacy.

As the search continued, a second quantity of cigarettes was located in the rear storeroom of the premises. Neither hoard of tobacco products was particularly well concealed and was easy to locate as a result.

The appearance of the products gave me cause for concern as I could immediately see that they do not carry correct labelling as required by the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 therefore prohibiting their sale/supply in their current state. I also had concerns that the products may also be counterfeit. The lack of correct labelling and the presence of brands such as Golden Virginia, Mayfair and L&M, which are popular with counterfeiters, only strengthened this belief.

At 14.01 hours Badea was cautioned in connection with the alleged sale/supply of illicit tobacco products. She confirmed under caution that the products were hers. Badea was given a receipt for the seized goods in the following quantity: -

- 7 x 50g pouches of Golden Virginia
- 50 packs of Minsk Cigarettes
- 7 Packs of L&M cigarettes
- 4 Sleeves of Mayfair Cigarettes
- 3 Sleeves of Royals cigarettes
- 1 sleeve of L&M cigarettes

At 15.11 hours I emailed Mark Marshall with details of the seized goods whilst also outlining my general concerns.

Upon examining the products described above I can confirm that all of these products fail to comply with the labelling requirements set out in Regulation 5 of the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 rendering their supply illegal in the UK.

Samples of the Golden Virginia tobacco, Mayfair and L&M cigarettes have been sent to the brand representatives for examination as to their authenticity. The Royals and Minsk cigarettes are not intended for retail in the UK.

To conclude, it is my belief that in supplying the tobacco products described above Badea has engaged in criminal conduct. In addition, the lack of correct labelling and the suspicion of the product origin potentially increases the risk to the general public. For example, the manufacture of counterfeit products is completely unregulated.

**For New / Variation Applications only.**

**It is recommended that the licence should only be granted if the application is amended, or if conditions are applied, as detailed below.**