

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION FOR A
PREMISES LICENCE FOR CARDAMON INDIAN
RESTAURANT 119 ST JAMES STREET BRIGHTON
BN1 1TH**

WITNESS STATEMENT

I, Szabolcs Veres of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] will say as follows:

1. I make this Witness Statement in support of the Applicant Rafiqul Islam in his request for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of the Cardamon Indian Restaurant, 119 St James Street, Brighton, BN1 1TH.
2. I apologise for being unable to attend the Hearing of this Application on 6 June 2025, but I unfortunately have a pre-existing commitment abroad.
3. In considering Mr Islam's Application I trust the Committee will take account of what follows in this Statement.
4. I am aware of the history of Mr Islam's tenure at these premises and the difficulties that he has had regarding the Premises Licence.
5. I have seen and read the representations made by the Police against this Application and I believe that they are being over cautious.

5. Clearly Mr Islam has to some extent over committed himself in that it is a small premises that he runs largely alone with his wife.
7. I have known Mr Islam since we first worked together, as discussed below, and I believe he is committed to upholding in full the requirements of the holding of a Premises Licence.
8. It is for this reason that I have agreed that I will assist Mr Islam if he is granted a new Premises Licence by standing as the Designated Premises Supervisor.
9. I fully appreciate that this is a position of considerable responsibility – indeed I will be responsible for the proper operation of the Premises Licence particularly with regard to the sale of alcohol, and it is I who will face sanction if there are any further problems.
10. I am presently self-employed operating my own investment business from home and as a result have considerable flexibility.
11. To ensure that the licensing principles are upheld, I would be proposing in the early stages to attend the premises four or five days per week particularly in the evenings, but I would also be able to attend at other times should the need arise.
12. Once I am satisfied that the premises are operating correctly, I would propose to reduce my attendance to three or four evenings a week from say 5 pm to closing, to include at least one day at weekends, and I would also be in attendance for large events such as Pride.
13. I first obtained my Premises Licence in January 2017. At that time, I was the manager and DPS at the Brasserie Fish & Grill at Port Solent. I remained as manager and DPS and in fact became part owner of those premises until I moved to Brighton just over two years ago, when I was then employed in the running of a restaurant called La Casa Flamenca which was at the subject premises in St James Street.

as manager had day to day responsibility for the operation of the premises and the alcohol sales.

16. Throughout my licensing career I have been involved in numerous licensing inspections and not once has anything been found untoward.
17. I am confident therefore that I can properly supervise the operation of a Premises Licence at Cardamon and ensure that the licensing objectives are upheld. I am fully aware of the responsibility involved in doing so. I am confident that I can put the problems these premises have encountered behind us.
18. In closing I note that the Police make much of the fact that when I moved to Brighton I failed to update my home address on my Premises Licence. For this I can only apologise as it was not something in my mind at the time of my move back to Brighton. I simply forgot. I would suggest that no harm has come from this because since I moved from Portsmouth, I have not held the position of DPS although I have overseen alcohol sales. under the delegation of others.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I believe the facts and matters appearing in this Statement to be true and understand that Proceedings for contempt of Court may be brought against anyone who makes or causes to be made a false statement in a document verified by a Statement of Truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed

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Szabolcs veres

Dated

...27 May 2025

