

**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

<b>Application</b>	018-0257
<b><u>IN THE MATTER</u></b>	of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012
<b><u>AND</u></b>	of an application by
<b><u>IN THE MATTER</u></b>	General Distributors Limited for renewal of an off-licence pursuant to section 127 of the Act in respect of the premises situated at 123 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga, known as Countdown Ōtorohanga

**DECISION OF THE DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE**

1. The off-licence 018/OFF/002/17 in respect of the premises situated at 123 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga, and known as Countdown Ōtorohanga is renewed for a further period of 3 years. The licence may issue upon payment of the annual fee.
2. The present conditions of the licence continue to apply.

**REASONS**

**The Application**

1. This is an application by General Distributors Limited for the renewal of an off-licence in respect of the supermarket known as Countdown Ōtorohanga. This application was filed 20 working days before the expiry of the off-licence as required by section 127(2)(b).
2. The application was advertised, and no objections were received from members of the public. The Licensing Inspector and Police do not oppose the application. The Medical Officer of Health initially opposed the application, however this opposition was withdrawn on 7 June 2017, after an amended plan was submitted showing changes to the single alcohol area. Accordingly, the application is decided on the papers (s 202(1)).

**Does General Distributors Limited meet the criteria in section 105?**

3. The purpose of the Act is to put in place a new system of control over the sale and supply of alcohol (s 3). The object of the Act is to ensure that the sale and supply of alcohol is undertaken safely and responsibly, and the harm caused by excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol is minimised (s 4).
4. In deciding whether to renew an off-licence the licensing committee must have regard to sections 131 and 105 of the Act. Therefore this committee must consider the following questions within the framework of the purpose and object of the Act:
  - a) Is the applicant suitable?
  - b) Are the days and hours during which the applicant proposes to sell alcohol reasonable?
  - c) Is the design and layout of the premises suitable?
  - d) Does the applicant propose to engage in the sale of goods or provision of services other than those directly relating to the sale of alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments and food?
  - e) Does the applicant have appropriate systems, staff and training to comply with the law?
  - f) Have the police, inspector and medical officer of health raised any relevant considerations?
  - g) Will the amenity and good order of the locality be increased by more than a minor extent by the effects of a refusal to renew the licence?
  - h) Has the applicant sold, displayed, advertised or promoted alcohol in a responsible manner?
  - i) Does the application comply with the Ōtorohanga District Local Alcohol Policy?

5. In forming an opinion on whether the amenity and good order of the locality would be likely to be increased by more than a minor extent by the effects of a refusal to renew the licence, the licensing committee must consider the current and possible future noise, nuisance and vandalism levels (section 106(2)).
6. The licensing committee is satisfied that General Distributors Limited meets the criteria in sections 131 and 105. General Distributors Limited is a suitable applicant to hold an off-licence. The current licensed hours of 7.00am to 12.00 midnight remain appropriate. However, General Distributors Limited has agreed to amend the trading hours to 7.00am to.
7. The licensing committee is satisfied that the premises has a suitable design and layout to meet the requirements of the Act. It is well appointed and able to be monitored effectively by the staff of the premises and closed-circuit television cameras.
8. The licensing committee is satisfied that General Distributors Limited has an appropriate Host Responsibility Policy and staff-training programme. There are seven Duty Managers employed to ensure compliance with the Act. It is expected that General Distributors Limited will provide evidence of staff-training conducted with each renewal application.
9. The licensing committee is satisfied that the renewal of the off-licence will not reduce the amenity and good order of the locality by more than a minor extent. There have been no reports, from the Police or members of the public living in this community, of any nuisance, vandalism or noise problems associated with this premises in the past three years. The licensing committee is satisfied that alcohol is sold, displayed and promoted in a responsible manner and in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

**Does the application contain an appropriate single alcohol area?**

10. When issuing an off-licence for a grocery store, the licensing committee must impose a condition on the licence describing one area within the premises “as a permitted area for the display and promotion of alcohol” (section 112(2)). The single alcohol area must (so far as is reasonably practicable) “limit the exposure of shoppers in supermarkets ... to displays and promotions of alcohol” (section 112(1)). It may not be situated in an area “through which the most direct pedestrian route between the entrance to the premises and main body of the premises” or an area “through which the most direct pedestrian route between the main body of the premises and any general point of sale passes” (section 113(5)). No display or promotion of alcohol is permitted outside the alcohol area (section 114(1)(a)). A licensee must not display, promote or advertise non-alcohol products in a single alcohol area that does not contain sub-areas (section 114(1)).
11. The Inspector reports that the single alcohol area has not changed. It is located within aisle five and does not include any end of aisle displays. The Inspector states that while the alcohol display can be partially seen from the nearest check-out, the location does limit the exposure of shoppers to the display of alcohol. This is because exposure is minimised with the display of non-alcohol products at the end of the aisle.
12. The licensing committee is satisfied that the single alcohol area is not in a prohibited area and the location does limit the exposure of shoppers to displays of alcohol. If a person does not wish to buy alcohol, they do not need to go through the single alcohol area and will only be exposed to a limited amount of alcohol as they walk past aisle 5. Therefore, the application does contain an appropriate single alcohol area.

**Conclusion**

13. Therefore, the application for the renewal of the off-licence is granted.

Dated this 20th day of December 2020



Sara Grayson  
Commissioner  
Ōtorohanga District Licensing Committee