

Prosecution Outcomes

Licensing Act 2003 – Sale of Alcohol

Premises	Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese, 145 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2BU
Licensee	Samuel Smith (Southern) – private limited company
Offence	Carrying on licensable activities otherwise than under and/or in accordance with an authorisation under the Licensing Act 2003
Details of offence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The licensee provided licensable activity in the form of alcohol sales between June 2023 and November 2024, in breach of Condition 1 of their premises licence, which requires them to have an operational CCTV system at all times licensable activity takes place. • The system had not been working properly since June 2023 and was brought to the attention of the licensing authority in May 2024, when City Police required access to CCTV images to assist them with the investigation of a crime that took place at the premises. The licensee was unable to provide the images. • Despite a warning letter sent to the licensee in June 2024, requesting them to correct the failure forthwith, and an acknowledgement from the licensee in July 2024 that remedial works were being put into place, further breaches were witnessed in October and November 2024. • Remedial works were not completed by the licensee until December 2024, after legal proceedings were instigated by the licensing authority.
Court Hearing	The matter came before the City of London Magistrates Court on 4 June 2025 . At the hearing, counsel for the licensee submitted a guilty plea to two of the four offences and the licensing authority agreed to drop the other two offences. This was endorsed by the Court and sentencing was adjourned to 16 July 2025.

Police, Factories and c. (Miscellaneous) Act 1916 – collection of money and selling of articles on City streets for charitable or other purposes

City of London (Various Powers) Act 1987 – selling of articles for private gain on City Streets

Location	Various streets in the City of London
Collector / Trader	We R Blighty Community Interest Company
Offences	Collecting money and selling of articles for charitable or other purposes otherwise than in accordance with a permit under the Police, Factories and c. (Miscellaneous) Act 1916 Selling of articles for private gain without a street trading licence under the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1987
Details of offence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We R Blighty C.I.C. (WRB) first came to Licensing Team’s attention in January 2024, when City Police found their operatives collecting money within the City of London jurisdiction without a street collection permit. Further sightings of unlicensed money collections were made by City Police on 5 and 6 March 2024, which led to the licensing team sending advisory letters on 12 March 2024 to the company directors Ben Mills and Danielle Vidler, setting out the law on money collections and street trading in the City of London. This was followed up with an advisory email on 25 March 2024, reinforcing the advice given on 12 March.• Despite these informal warnings, WRB operatives were found collecting money and/or selling articles without a street collection permit or street trading licence on 17 April, 28 May and 30 July 2024.• A final written warning was sent to WRB company directors on 1 August 2024, warning that if their operatives were found collecting money or selling articles again on City streets without the prerequisite permits, legal proceedings would be commenced against them for breaches of the 1916 and 1987 Acts.• Despite the final written warning on 1 August, operatives of WRB were sighted at various locations on City of London streets on the following dates collecting money and / or selling articles for charitable or other purposes, and/or selling articles to earn a livelihood, without the prerequisite permits or licences:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 6 August 2024○ 8 August 2024○ 4 September 2024○ 12 November 2024○ 20 November 2024○ 21 November 2024○ 18 February 2024○ 27 February 2025• Legal proceedings were commenced by the City Corporation against WRB and its directors for 8 witnessed breaches under the

	1916 Act and 6 witnessed breaches under the 1987 Act – a total of 14 offences per defendant
Court Hearing	<p>The matter came before the City of London Magistrates Court on 4 June 2025. At the hearing, submitted a guilty plea the defendants pleaded guilty to all 14 offences and were sentenced as follows:</p> <p><u>Benjamin Mills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - S5(1) of the Police, Factories and c. (Miscellaneous) Act 1916 Offences: fine of £120 - S15 and S16 of the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1987: fine of £300 - Victim surcharge of £168 - Costs of £100 <p><i>Total of £688 (being £588 in fines, and £100 in costs). Payable over the course of 3 months, with a payment of £235 per month (slightly less on the final month). First payment due on the 1st July, and the court will make a collection order for the amount</i></p> <p><u>Danielle Vidler</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - S5(1) of the Police, Factories and c. (Miscellaneous) Act 1916 Offences: fine of £80 - S15 and S16 of the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1987: fine of £200 - Victim surcharge of £112 - Costs of £100 <p><i>Total of £492 (being £392 in fines, and £100 in costs) Payable over the course of 3 months, with a payment of £164 per month. First payment due on the 1st July, and the court will make a collection order for the amount.</i></p> <p><u>We R Blighty C.I.C</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - S5(1) of the Police, Factories and c. (Miscellaneous) Act 1916 Offences: fine of £180 - S15 and S16 of the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1987: fine of £400 - Victim surcharge of £232 - Costs of £1500 <p><i>Total of £2312 (being £812 in fines, and £1500 in costs) Payable over the course of 12 months, with a payment of £200 per month (slightly less on the final month). First payment due on the 1st July, and the court will make a collection order for the amount.</i></p>