

**Title:** Recent controlled purchase operation  
reveals worrying lapses in licensees' duty

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**FOR RELEASE:** Immediate

This Media Release has  
been prepared by  
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Following a Controlled Purchase Operation across the Timaru District, it was found that nine of sixteen licensed premises visited made a sale of alcohol to a minor.

The operation on 3 May was carried out by the Police in conjunction with Community Public Health and the Timaru District Licensing Agency, visiting 2 on-licence premises and 14 off-licence premises in the region.

"It's not good enough that these licensed premises are still neglecting their statutory responsibility to ensure minors can not purchase alcohol", said Peter Thompson, Regulatory Services Manager. "Under the Sale of Liquor Act, each of the premises undertakes to either refuse to sell to anyone under 18, or to ask for verification of age where there is any doubt".

As a result of the operation, regulatory staff will discuss likely suspension of their licences with each of the outlet managers. "While there is still this level of offending, we will continue with these controlled operations".

**ENDS**

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