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February 23, 2010

The Principle
Mayville High School
35 St Simons Road
Southsea
PO52PE

Dear Principle

I would be grateful if you could make your students aware of the police taking formal action against underage people using borrowed, fake or altered identification to gain access to licensed premises. The use of these documents for fraudulent purposes is a criminal offence.

Previously the police have removed the offending document and have taken no formal action against the person using the identification. From March police will detain the young person and refer them to the Youth Offending Team for early intervention. This negates the young person being arrested and receiving a police caution which could impact on their career options. Should the young person not wish to work with the Youth Offending Team police will have no option but to issue a caution.

I have no desire to criminalise young people but do have concerns about the number of young people who are trying to enter licensed premises. Young people, who are underage, are less likely to make a report when they have been a victim of crime and will not assist police with evidential statements if they have witnessed a crime, placing themselves and others in danger.

Licensed premises do not wish to have underage people in their premises and face prosecution should they do so.

Last year we seized over 600 false, altered and borrowed driving licenses alone so you can see the issues we have.

I recognise that not all young people are irresponsible drinkers nor do the majority try and access licensed premises in this way. I am hoping by sending out the message they will understand there are consequences to their actions.

Should you wish to discuss this any further feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Sgt 3065 Douglas

Alcohol Related Violent Crime and Licensing