

IN THE MATTER

of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act).

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application MON AIME LIMITED located at 1 ONSLOW ROAD, LAKE HAYES ESTATE, QUEENSTOWN pursuant to s.136 of the Act for a temporary authority.

BEFORE THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr LA Cocks
Members: Mr C Cooney
Mr G Pay

HEARING at Queenstown on 28th January 2026

APPEARANCES

Ms AF Fitz-Gerald – the Applicant.
Ms TJ Surrey – Counsel for the Applicant.
Mr G Murphy – Applicant's Witness.
Ms S Swinney – QLDC Licensing Inspector – to assist.
Sergeant TD Haggart – Police – in opposition.
Constable JT Taylor – Police – in opposition.

QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

DECISION

The Application

1. An application was filed by Mon Aime Limited on the 15th of January 2026 for a temporary authority, in respect of an existing licensed premises located at 1 Onslow Road, Lake Hayes Estate, Queenstown, known as 'The Hayes'. The application was considered in accordance with s.136 of the Act.
2. The current base Tavern style on licence (68/ON/2360/2024) is held by Few Beers Limited and has an expiry date of 14th April 2026, Few Beers Limited was placed in liquidation on 15th December 2025, but the QLDC alcohol licensing team was not advised of this or any change of ownership. Subsequently, a complaint was received that the applicant was

selling alcohol without a valid licence. This was confirmed and the applicant was told to cease alcohol sales until a temporary authority had been lodged and approved.

Applicant

3. Ms Aimee Freida Preston Fitz-Gerald is the sole director of the applicant company, Mon Aime Limited. She acknowledged operating under Mon Amie Limited from 19th November 2025 without a lease in place but incorrectly thought she was covered by the licence held by Few Beers Limited. Ms Fritz-Gerald accepted she had made a 'momentous error of judgement' operating The Hayes without getting the correct licence in place.
4. Mr Murphy told us alcohol was not being sold but was given to some regular customers and was being consumed in coffee cups and milkshake mugs to prevent other patrons expecting to be served alcohol.

The Police

5. The Police opposed the application based on not meeting criteria at s.105(1)(b) of the Act, the suitability of the applicant. Police were made aware that The Hayes was potentially selling alcohol when they had been advised by QLDC Licensing Inspectors that they did not have a current licence to do so.
6. On 14th January 2026 Constables Taylor and Sklenars carried out a licensed premises visit to The Hayes and on approach heard Mr Murphy tell patrons to hide their beers. There was some confusion as to who the duty manager was, and no name was displayed on the Duty Manager board, contravening s.214(1) of the Act. Further, no sign displaying opening hours was evident at the main entrances, contravening s.56 of the Act.
7. Sergeant Haggart provided details from Police records of an incident on 25th July 2025 when Ms Fitz-Gerald phoned police reporting she had been assaulted by a drug dealer, but police were unable to locate her at the time, so no further action was taken.
8. Sergeant Haggart highlighted this incident, the breaches of the Act, and the actions by Mr Murphy to conceal alcohol being consumed, as the basis for opposition on the grounds of applicant suitability.

The Licensing Inspector

9. The Inspector provided a comprehensive report of the background and issues relevant to this application, with relevant case law confirming that although there are no specific criteria in the Act relating to temporary authorities, s.136(1) and s.136(5) of the Act do refer to suitability.

The Committee's Decision and Reasons

10. We are disappointed that based on the Police evidence and the Inspector's commentary, the applicant has placed itself in a very questionable position regarding suitability.

11. We also acknowledge the process has been convoluted due to Few Beers Limited being placed in liquidation and uncertainty around the assignment of the lease, and this was accentuated by bad decisions and devious actions.

12. However, based on:

- a. pleas by the applicant at the hearing;
- b. our expectation that lessons have been learned;
- c. the adverse impact of curtailing The Hayes operation while an application for a new on licence is being processed; and
- d. an application for a new on licence will be subject to a full assessment of the criteria at s.105 of the Act;

this application for a temporary authority is reluctantly approved for a period up to three months.

DATED at Queenstown this 4th day of February 2026.



L.A. Cocks
Commissioner
Queenstown Lakes District Licensing Committee

