

From:

Sent: 13 May 2020 10:51

To: Business Licence <business.licence@brent.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to Application for Premises License - 141 Kilburn High Road

Dear Sir,

I'm writing to object to the application for a premises license on 141 Kilburn High Road, corner of Glengall Road, where there was a William Hill gambling shop, and now has been converted into two empty premises.

As a nearby resident (living on [REDACTED]), I would like to object under a number of reasons:

1. There is already a large number of gambling/betting shops, alongside coin/arcade shops up and down Kilburn High Road. There is absolutely no need for another one, fueling the rise of gambling addiction and preying on the most vulnerable in our society. Under your own draft 19-22 Statement of Gambling Principles* for Brent you state: *"An estimate provided by the Campaign for Fairer Gambling suggests that £96,334,680 was spent in the borough's B2 machines in 2016/17. The cost to society (i.e. the excess fiscal costs caused by people who are problem gamblers beyond that are normally incurred otherwise by members of the public) are felt through health, housing and homelessness, unemployment and imprisonment. Using the 2012 Health Survey for England as a basis the total excess costs in Brent exceed £2 million."* That £2M would be better spent on improving impoverished areas of Brent including parts of Kilburn High Road which have faced years of neglect, protecting our most vulnerable residents, let alone helping to eliminate the non-financial impacts you yourself call out above.
2. Gambling shops attract people that are more likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour, and with this shop just next to Glengall Passage which is out of the view of Kilburn High Road, it has always drawn characters that have historically caused trouble. Whilst this sounds like anecdotal evidence, a quick search on [Data.Police.UK](https://data.police.uk) for March 2020 alone AFTER William Hill was closed and the shop was empty shows 17 counts of Anti-Social behaviour, violence and sexual offences and others near or on Glengall Passage. This is compared to 5 crimes reported on the whole of Kilburn High Road. So in 1 month alone, when William Hill was closed, there were more than 3x the crimes reported on/near Glengall Passage than there were on the whole of Kilburn High Road. This is a reason by itself not to grant them a licence. If you compare this to data from prior months in 2019 when the William Hill store was open, you will see there were more reports of crimes/antisocial behaviour on/near Glengall Passage for example, 21 counts of crimes reported in July 2019*

In summary - there are already a number of betting shops on Kilburn High Road, in order to improve the high road, we do not need another one. This would be a real result for Brent to show actions rather than words when it comes to tackling the problem of gambling addiction and the resulting health impact on our most vulnerable residents, not to mention a continued drive to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. An approval of this licence would show that those two things are just not a priority for Brent.

Many thanks,

* Sources:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16411049/statement-of-principles-for-gambling-draft-for-consultation-050718.pdf>

<https://www.kilburntimes.co.uk/news/environment/gamblers-have-spent-620m-in-betting-shops-across-brent-1-3834742>

<https://data.police.uk/>