

**From:**

**Sent:** 16 May 2020 10:12

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

**Subject:** 141 Kilburn High Road

Good morning,

I am writing because I would like to object to the giving the property at 141 Kilburn High Road an Adult Gaming Centre licence.

I live at [REDACTED]

I would like to object – because a business like this [REDACTED] would make me feel unsafe. My flatmate and I are young women in our early 20s – we both work outside of normal working hours, so most days we have to walk down Kilburn High Road late at night, or in the early hours in the morning.

On our current 10 minute walk to our flat from Kilburn Park tube station we already pass three 'Adult Gaming Centres'. There's one at 40 Kilburn High Road, one at 108 Kilburn High Road and there's a 'Cashino' at the corner of Quex Road (which is only 50 meters away from the proposed 'Adult Gaming Centre' at 141 Kilburn High Road). We also have to walk past two betting shops.

We are frequently cat-called and leered at by men hanging around outside these establishments. I have been followed home on multiple occasions. If there are any women on your team, I am sure they will understand that behaviour is endemic to establishments like this – and I do not want to feel threatened going in and out of my own home.

These fears are not unfounded. These establishments are most likely to attract men aged 45-64 and 85% of women aged 18-24 have faced sexual harassment in public spaces. I think it would be irresponsible and sexist to ignore these concerns.

Here are the sources of those statistics: <https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/PDF/survey-data/Gambling-participation-in-2018-behaviour-awareness-and-attitudes.pdf>  
<http://www.stopstreetharassment.org/resources/statistics/statistics-academic-studies/>

There are already enough of these shops on Kilburn High Road – if someone feels they need to use one, they should be able to walk 50 meters and use the one at the corner of Quex Road.

I'm sure you will be well aware of the negative effects that gambling shops have on society. It is proven that betting shops and arcades push poor families into further poverty. There are half a million problem gamblers in the UK who have had their lives damaged by debt, depression, family breakdown and suicide. If the licence for this new 'Adult Gaming Centre' is approved – I can only assume that Brent Council also approves of its residents falling into debt, depression, family breakdown and suicide.

Please make the right decision about this unnecessary addition to Kilburn High Road. Put something in that unit that will decrease the level of poverty and improve the area: may I suggest a café, a chemist, a bakery, a deli or a community shop.

All the best,