

**Sent:** 24 October 2025 10:29

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

**Subject:** Objection to Licensing Application Ref: 36286 – Lilburne Walk Local, 67 Lilburne Walk, London, NW10 0TW

Dear Brent Council Licensing Authority,

I am writing on behalf of Sufra, a local charity and key stakeholder on St. Raphael's Estate, to formally object to the application for a new Premises Licence (Ref: 36286) at 67 Lilburne Walk, NW10 0TW.

As an organisation providing emergency food aid, welfare advice, and community support to hundreds of families on the estate, we have first-hand experience of the challenges residents face. Alcohol misuse—often linked to drug dependency—is already a serious problem here, contributing to family breakdown, financial hardship, and increased reliance on food banks.

Brent Council has identified St. Raphael's as one of the most disadvantaged estates in the borough, with some of the highest levels of poverty and unemployment. Introducing another off-licence in this context will only worsen these issues, undermining efforts to improve health, wellbeing, and social cohesion.

There are already two off-licences on this small estate, including one just a few doors away from the proposed site. Adding a third outlet will create an oversupply, fuelling dependency and anti-social behaviour.

We object on the following grounds:

### **1) Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

- The estate already struggles with alcohol-related anti-social behaviour, including street drinking, disputes, and intimidation. A new outlet will intensify these problems, creating a hotspot for disorder.

- Increased availability of alcohol often leads to alcohol-fuelled arguments and violence, placing additional strain on police and community safety resources.
- We are particularly concerned about the possibility of more alcohol-related hate crime incidents near the proposed site. Its proximity to the Islamic centre raises serious risks for community safety and cohesion.

## **2) Public Safety**

- The premises are located on a pedestrian walkway in a densely populated residential area. Increased alcohol sales will bring more loitering and congregation, making the route less safe for families, volunteers, and service users.
- Street drinking can lead to unpredictable behaviour, increasing fear of crime—especially among women, older residents, and those with young children.

## **3) Prevention of Public Nuisance**

- Residents already report noise and disturbance linked to existing alcohol outlets. Another shop will increase late-night footfall, vehicle activity, and disputes outside the premises.
- More alcohol sales will inevitably lead to littering, including bottles, cans, and broken glass in communal areas and children's play spaces, creating both environmental and safety hazards.
- The presence of groups loitering outside the shop will create an intimidating atmosphere, particularly for vulnerable residents.

## **4) Protection of Children from Harm**

- The proposed site is close to areas where children play and socialise. Granting a licence here risks normalising alcohol consumption and exposing children to harmful behaviour.
- There is also a risk of proxy sales to minors, which is harder to monitor in an area already facing enforcement challenges.

## **Cumulative Impact and Community Harm**

This application is not just about one shop—it is about the future of a community already under severe strain. Granting this licence would:

- Deepen inequality and hardship for families already struggling.
- Increase reliance on food banks and welfare services, which are already overstretched.
- Undermine local businesses, which will suffer from increased nuisance and reduced footfall.
- Erode social cohesion, making the estate less safe and welcoming for residents.

We stand with residents, local businesses, and community groups in strongly opposing this application.

For the reasons outlined above, we urge the Licensing Authority to refuse Premises Licence Application Ref: 36286 for Lilburne Walk Local.