



## Dawn Butler MP

Labour MP for Brent East

[www.DawnButler.org.uk](http://www.DawnButler.org.uk) | @DawnButlerBrent

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA | 020 7219 8591



Brent Council  
Brent Civic Centre  
Engineers Way  
Wembley  
London HA9 0FJ

Office of Dawn Butler MP  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 0AA

28 April 2026  
Our Ref: ZA68262

Dear Planning Committee,

I am writing to formally respond to the licensing application by Arcadia Casino at 1 Walm Lane, London, NW2 5SN, application number **37891** for an Adult Gaming Centre.

My constituency of Brent East has been disproportionately impacted by problem gambling with betting shops and adult gaming centres planted amidst our most vulnerable and deprived communities, impacting those who can least afford it.

According to Brent Council's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), the borough's problem gambling rate is 6.2%, which is over double the national average. Additionally, gambling-related harm costs the borough an estimated £14.3 million annually. Anti-social behaviour linked to loitering outside gambling shops is extremely problematic and I see this in casework I receive year-round.

There is already a proliferation of gambling shops and adult gaming centres in my constituency, with multiple adult gaming centres already within 100 metres of the proposed site and the area around Walm Lane has already seen a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour and criminal behaviour. I am deeply concerned that permitting this license will only escalate issues in the area.

We know already that these businesses have a propensity to cluster in poorer communities, which are more susceptible to gambling harm due to the hope that a big win will help them out of their situation.

This is a strong community, and it is being blighted by these shops, whose owners hold the area in complete contempt and disregard.

I wrote to 7,000 households in Brent, to ask them for their own experiences of gambling and the betting shops in Brent. This was going to form a response to the Government's Gambling Review, the response to my call for evidence has been stark:

- 97.5% were opposed to betting shops
- 80% questioned why more shops were being given permission
- 75% called for the number of stores to be limited
- 62.5% detailed experiences of anti-social behaviour in the locale of these shops

I have heard from families who've faced financial ruin because of gambling and from so many

### Our community is our strength

Brondesbury Park | Cricklewood and Mapesbury | Dollis Hill | Kingsbury

Roundwood | Stonebridge | Welsh Harp | Wembley Park | Willesden Green

I am committed to keeping my constituents informed on issues. If you would like to receive any correspondence from me about the work I or the local Labour Party do, other than the issues you have previously written to me regarding, please write to me using the above address.

people for whom their daily lives are blighted by the associated anti-social behaviour, in particular street drinking and drugs, which circulate in close proximity to these gambling establishments.

To conclude, I strongly urge all to reject this application. The people of Willesden deserve a vibrant, diverse high street that supports the well-being of all residents, not another exploitative gambling venue that deepens existing harms.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my response.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dawn Butler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "r".

**Dawn Butler MP**

Labour Member of Parliament for Brent East