

25-04-26

To Whom It May Concern, I write to formally object to the application for a premises licence to operate an Adult Gaming Centre at 1 Walm Lane, Willesden, Brent, London. This objection is made with reference to the licensing objectives set out under the Gambling Act 2005, specifically: — Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling — Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime — Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way

PROXIMITY TO SCHOOLS AND HIGH FOOTFALL OF MINORS The proposed premises at 1 Walm Lane sits in close proximity to local schools and educational facilities, meaning children pass through this area routinely on foot during school hours and beyond. The establishment of an Adult Gaming Centre in this location would place gambling premises directly within the daily environment of minors. This creates a significant risk of normalising gambling behaviours among young people at a formative age, in direct tension with the licensing objective to protect children from harm.

PROXIMITY TO FOOD BANKS AND VULNERABLE PERSONS The area around Walm Lane includes food banks and community support services, indicating a local population that includes individuals experiencing financial hardship and economic vulnerability. This is directly relevant to the licensing objective of protecting vulnerable persons from being harmed by gambling. Research consistently demonstrates that those experiencing poverty or financial stress are at disproportionately elevated risk of developing gambling-related harm. Siting an Adult Gaming Centre in an area with a known concentration of financially vulnerable individuals would be contrary to the spirit and intent of the Gambling Act 2005. The proximity of a gambling premises to food banks is a material consideration that the licensing authority should weigh carefully.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND CRIME Adult Gaming Centres, particularly those located on busy high streets, have a well-documented association with increased antisocial behaviour in their immediate vicinity. This includes, but is not limited to, loitering, aggressive behaviour, and opportunistic acquisitive crime such as shoplifting in nearby retail premises. The conversion of a former bank — a prominent and accessible site on what is a busy local thoroughfare — into an Adult Gaming Centre risks attracting a pattern of behaviour that is detrimental to the wider community and to neighbouring businesses. Surrounding retailers, many of whom may already operate under difficult commercial conditions, should not be exposed to an increased risk of theft and disorder as a consequence of this licence being granted. The licensing objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder is directly engaged here, and I submit that the applicant has not demonstrated sufficient mitigation against these foreseeable risks. For the reasons set out above, I respectfully urge the licensing authority to refuse this application. The proposed Adult Gaming Centre at 1 Walm Lane, Willesden, is inappropriate given its proximity to schools and areas of high minor footfall, its location

near services supporting vulnerable persons, and the foreseeable risk of antisocial behaviour and crime it presents to the surrounding community. I trust that the licensing authority will give full and proper weight to these objections in its determination of this application.