

26-04-26

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to formally object to the proposed planning application for a gambling premises at 1 Walm Lane, Brent. My objection is based on legal and planning grounds under the Gambling Act 2005 and the Brent Council Local Plan, specifically regarding the licensing objectives and local planning policies.

1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder The Gambling Act 2005 requires that gambling premises operate in a manner that prevents crime and disorder. The proposed location is in an area with a high incidence of anti-social behavior and street crime. Introducing a gambling premises in this location is likely to exacerbate these problems, placing additional strain on local law enforcement and community safety resources.
2. Protection of Children and Vulnerable Persons Under the Gambling Act 2005, licensing authorities must consider the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. The proposed premises is within close proximity to schools, youth centres, and community facilities. This proximity increases the risk that children and vulnerable individuals may be exposed to gambling, contrary to the statutory objectives.
3. Local Impact and Saturation Brent Council's Local Plan encourages responsible retail and commercial development. The concentration of gambling establishments in the proposed area already exceeds what is reasonable, creating a risk of social and economic harm to the local community. Permitting another gambling premises may contribute to social deprivation and exacerbate gambling-related harm.
4. Cumulative Effect on Public Health and Wellbeing Recent evidence highlights the negative impact of gambling on mental health and community wellbeing. Increasing access to gambling in this area could lead to higher rates of problem gambling, debt, and associated social problems, which local planning policies aim to mitigate.

Conclusion For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that the application for a new gambling premises at 1 Walm Lane be refused. The proposal is inconsistent with both the statutory licensing objectives under the Gambling Act 2005 and Brent Council's planning policies aimed at protecting local communities. Thank you for considering this objection.