

27-04-26

I object to the application for an Adult Gaming Centre at 1 Walm Lane, on the grounds that the proposal would fail to uphold the licensing objectives under the Gambling Act 2005, in particular: protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, and preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder. The premises are close to schools and areas with regular footfall of minors, increasing the exposure of children to gambling premises and normalising gambling behaviour. The site is also close to foodbanks where people who are financially vulnerable, will be exposed to and potentially exploited by gambling opportunities. Brent already has a very high concentration of gambling outlets (81 licensed premises — the second-highest concentration in London). Willesden already contains numerous gambling venues within a short distance (including nine bookmakers, an existing bingo hall, and other adult gaming centres). Local authorities have a duty to consider cumulative impact and the potential for new premises to exacerbate existing problems. The cumulative concentration increases the likelihood of gambling-related harm and the risk of crime and disorder associated with such clustering. The Council has publicly stated concern about the detrimental impact of the borough's number of gambling sites. Approving another venue would be contrary to the Council's stated position and would increase the risks to local children and vulnerable people. I request that the application be refused on the grounds described above.