

14-05-26

My objections are made on the grounds that granting this licence would be inconsistent with the licensing objectives set out in the relevant gambling legislation and regulations:

1. **HARM TO VULNERABLE PERSONS** Bingo halls, while often presented as a form of social entertainment, carry a well-documented risk of fostering problem gambling behaviour, particularly among vulnerable members of the community including those experiencing financial hardship, loneliness, or mental health difficulties. Given the demographics of the area, I am not satisfied that the applicant's proposed social responsibility measures are sufficient to identify, protect, or appropriately exclude vulnerable persons from harm.

2. **RISK TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS** The proposed premises are located in close proximity to services, amenities, eating establishments and shops used by young people. This raises serious concern about the ease with which under 18s may attempt to access the venue, or be exposed to normalised gambling behaviour in their immediate environment. I do not consider that the application demonstrates adequate measures to protect under 18s who may pass as older and seek to gain access to the bingo hall.

3. **CRIME AND DISORDER** I am concerned that the operation of a bingo hall at this location may contribute to increased levels of antisocial behaviour, disorder, and related criminal activity in the surrounding area. Gambling premises can attract late-night foot traffic and, in some cases, individuals engaged in associated criminal activity such as loan sharking, theft, or drug use in the vicinity.