

14-05-26

To Whom It May Concern, RE: Objection to Proposed Bingo Premises Licence on Kilburn High road I am writing as a local resident to object to the application for a bingo premises licence for the above premises under the Gambling Act 2005. My objection is based on the licensing objectives set out in section 1 of the Gambling Act 2005, namely:

1. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime The proposed premises are located within a densely populated residential area of Kilburn which already experiences anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance, and late-night disturbances. I am concerned that the operation of a gambling venue, particularly during evening and late-night hours, could increase incidents of disorder, loitering, aggressive behaviour, and street nuisance in the surrounding area. There is also concern that vulnerable individuals may be targeted by criminal activity associated with cash-based gambling environments, including theft, intimidation, and illegal lending activity.
2. Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way I am concerned that the application does not sufficiently demonstrate how the operator will ensure adequate supervision, transparency, and protection for customers using electronic gaming machines and participating in gambling activities. There appears to be insufficient detail regarding staffing levels, monitoring procedures, and safeguards to ensure gambling activities are conducted responsibly and transparently.
3. Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling This is my principal concern. The proposed premises are located close to residential housing, public transport routes, and facilities regularly used by young people and vulnerable adults. Gambling-related harm is a serious public health issue, and there is a real risk that the presence of a bingo club in this location could expose vulnerable individuals to addictive gambling behaviour and financial hardship. I am particularly concerned that:
  - The application does not adequately explain how vulnerable persons will be identified and protected;
  - There may be insufficient safeguards against underage access;
  - Increased gambling opportunities in the area may negatively affect residents suffering from addiction, mental health difficulties, or financial vulnerability.The local area already faces social and economic pressures, and approving an additional gambling premises risks exacerbating these issues rather than supporting community wellbeing. For these reasons, I respectfully request that the licensing authority refuse the application. Alternatively, if the application is approved, I request that strict conditions be imposed regarding opening hours, security staffing, CCTV coverage, supervision of gaming machines, and measures to protect vulnerable persons.