

14-05-26

I am writing as a local resident to object to the above application for a bingo premises licence under the Gambling Act 2005. My objection is grounded solely in two licensing objectives at section 1 of the Act. 1. Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling This is my principal concern. 131-135 Kilburn High Road sits on a busy junction with high pedestrian footfall, including significant numbers of minors travelling to and from local schools. The immediate area also hosts foodbank provision serving residents in financial hardship — precisely the demographic for whom additional exposure to gambling presents the greatest risk of harm. The application does not, in my view, set out: How vulnerable individuals will be identified and protected in practice; What measures will prevent underage access at a site with such high minor footfall; How the operator will mitigate the well-evidenced link between gambling availability and harm in areas of higher deprivation. On the last point, I would specifically ask the licensing authority to assess local risk using the English Indices of Deprivation 2025, published by MHCLG on 30 October 2025 and now the official measure of relative deprivation in England, rather than any older figures relied on in the application. Brent's own open data portal already hosts the IoD 2025, and it would be inappropriate to determine this application on superseded data. 2. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder Kilburn High Road already experiences anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, and late-night disturbance. There is a recognised pattern of high-street gambling premises acting as focal points for loitering, intoxication-related disorder, and acquisitive crime — particularly during evening and late-night opening. Adding a further gambling venue to this stretch risks compounding pressures the area is already struggling with, rather than mitigating them.