

14-05-26

Dear Licensing Team, I wish to formally object to the gambling licence application for the proposed bingo premises at 131–135 Kilburn High Road. My objection relates specifically to the Licensing Objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, particularly: protecting children and vulnerable persons from harm or exploitation by gambling preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder Kilburn High Road is an area with significant social and economic pressures, and the proposed site sits within a highly sensitive urban context characterised by a high concentration of vulnerable residents, young people, community services, and everyday public activity. The junction and surrounding area experience very high pedestrian footfall, including children and young people travelling to and from schools, local services, and public transport. The area is also close to community support infrastructures including foodbanks and other services supporting residents experiencing economic hardship. In this context, the concentration and visibility of gambling activity raises serious concerns regarding the normalisation and accessibility of gambling for vulnerable groups. I am also concerned about the cumulative impact that another gambling venue could have on anti-social behaviour and street-level disorder in an area already under pressure. High street gambling hubs operating into the evening can contribute to environments associated with loitering, conflict, theft, shoplifting, and other forms of low-level disorder that negatively affect residents, local businesses, and perceptions of safety. I would also urge the Council to ensure that any assessment of local risk and deprivation reflects the most up-to-date evidence available. In particular, I ask that the application be reviewed against the 2025 Indices of Deprivation data rather than relying solely on 2021 figures, given the substantial economic and social changes affecting communities over recent years. This objection is not based on moral opposition to gambling itself, but on concern for the wellbeing, safety, and resilience of a particularly vulnerable and already pressured local community.