

14-05-26

I'm writing to object to the application for a 'Bingo Hall' licence at 131–135 Kilburn High Road. Kilburn High Road is already dealing with serious issues around anti-social behaviour and public safety, especially at night. Many local residents, such as myself, already feel unsafe in the area, and I believe another gambling venue would only add to these existing problems by increasing late-night activity and attracting further disorder. I'm also concerned about the impact this could have on vulnerable people in the community. Brent is already facing high levels of deprivation and financial hardship, and there are already multiple gambling premises operating nearby. Opening another gambling venue in this location feels irresponsible and risks causing further harm to people who are already struggling financially. This part of Kilburn is also heavily used by families, children and young people throughout the day. Introducing another gambling venue in such a visible, everyday community space risks increasing children's exposure to gambling environments and normalising gambling behaviour in a way that is not appropriate for an area with high daily footfall of minors. This raises safeguarding concerns around the long-term impact of routine exposure to gambling on vulnerable groups. For these reasons, I strongly urge the Licensing Committee to refuse this application.