

***G2 Haircutters
Glengall Road
Kilburn***

Licensing Manager
Licensing Team
Safer Streets
Brent House
349-357 High Road
Wembley HA9 6BZ

13/3/2013

RE William Hill , 141-143 Kilburn High Road NW6 7HT- Application for a Betting Licence. Objection

Dear Licensing Manager,

Under Section 161 of the Gambling Act 2005 I would like to state my objections to the Application by William Hill Organisation Limited for a Betting Licence at 141 -143 Kilburn High Road London NW6 7HT on the grounds that the premises and the gambling activities are a source of crime or disorder, and are associated with crime or disorder.

I would like to put it on the record that I have recently requested a Review of William Hill's current Betting Licence at these premises – we are still waiting for a hearing date for that request to be considered.

Background

I have operated a barber/hairdressing business from 2 Glengall Road NW6 7EP for the past 7 years.
Unfortunately for me it is next to a branch of William Hill on 141- 143 Kilburn High Road/Corner of Glengall Road.

Glengall Road has become a Crime and Anti Social behaviour hotspot during that time.

A subcommittee of the Local SNT Group was set up to specifically deal with these issues. I have attempted to address these issues at SNT Meetings with representatives of William Hill, The Police and other interested parties but my attendance at these was interpreted as supporting William Hill. On 5th Dec 2012 Gosschalk's (William Hill's Solicitors) wrote to the Licensing Team to say that they would be able to provide a letter from me in support of an Application from William Hill. I contacted the Licensing Team to tell them that was not the case. We have not had a meeting of the SNT Sub Committee since then!

The premises and the gambling activities are a source of crime or disorder and are associated with crime or disorder.

Over the past 7 years there have been many incidents with the "customers" of William Hill - among them:

- Many antisocial incidents with the "customers" of William Hill
- Crime and Disorder inside and outside William Hill
- Stabbings inside and outside William Hill
- Bottles being thrown inside and outside William Hill
- Assaults on Passers by
- Abusing and Threatening staff of local businesses - making it difficult to recruit and retain staff
- Abusing and Threatening Local Residents and Passers by
- Persistent loitering near or in front of business premises during and after business hours - William Hill on 141- 143 seems to be the only betting premises on Kilburn High Road where this happens
- Using the road and alley outside and next to my and other premises as a toilet (urinating, defecating and creating a potential Health hazard)
- Using the street outside my premises as an unofficial drinking and social club
- Drinking inside William Hill's Premises.
- Behaving in an antisocial manner
- Threatening current and potential customers to mine and other businesses
- Lack of Adequate Security at the Premises

Frankly it is becoming almost impossible to carry on my business because of these problems.

I firmly believe that these problems are due to a Lack of Responsible Management at William Hill and a complete disregard for the impact that their activities have on other businesses in the area. I find it astonishing that practically every shop on Kilburn High Road has a security guard but not William Hill. There doesn't seem to be any provision for this in the plans submitted by William Hill.

Of course, I'm not implying that all of William Hill's customers behave in an Anti Social fashion but it seems that the premises attracts a lot of these people. I believe its because these customers think they can get away with this sort of behaviour.

I have no issues with people gathering peacefully in the streets but have a strong objection to my current and potential customers, many of them elderly and children, being interfered with by people who have no legitimate reason for being near my premises.

I do not believe that the new layout submitted by William Hill will do anything to solve this problem. In fact I think that it will make it worse.

The proposed New Front Door should not be on the corner – this will result in William Hill's customers congregating along Glengall Road, causing problems for the residents and people on Glengall Road.

As the weather gets warmer, this is going to be more and more of this and the local police cannot be expected to continually deploy scarce resources to deal with this.

I'm astonished to note that William Hill say that they have had input from the Police in the revised floor/shop plan. Perhaps the Police haven't realized that moving the doors will result in even more problems on Glengall Road.

In addition its impact on my business, I feel that the continued presence of William Hill in this location is bad news for what is normally a friendly and public-spirited area. I would also like to state the "loiterers" have having a negative financial impact on other businesses on the street. These other businesses support me in making this and previous representations.

In summary I feel that the continued presence of William Hill on 141-143 Kilburn High Road/Glengall Road is attracting these loiterers and street drinkers who are making it impossible for the rest of us to continue to run our businesses, which are used by and employ Brent Residents.

Having a "gang" disporting themselves, urinating, drinking, fighting creating rubbish, intimidating passers by and generally causing a nuisance cannot be good for our businesses and for this area.

Over the past few years the image of Kilburn has improved due to the work of the residents and the support and work of your colleagues in Brent Council. It is wrong to have this work undone by the sort of public nuisance outlined above.

There are plenty other places where people can bet on Kilburn High Road and, to the best of my knowledge are not sources of crime and disorder or anti social behaviour. Indeed, William Hill have two other shops on the High Road and they don't seem to have the problems associated with the 141-143 Kilburn High Road.

In conclusion I would like to put on record my objection to the granting of a licence to William Hill at 141 -143 Kilburn High Road on the grounds that the premises and the gambling activities are a source of crime or disorder, and, are associated with crime or disorder.

I would appreciate it if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter. I will also email you a copy.