



**METROPOLITAN  
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TERRITORIAL POLICING

**Brent Police Licensing Unit**

*Brent Civic Centre  
Engineers Way  
Wembley  
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**Your ref: 18126**

**Our ref: 01QK/735/19/3302**

**Brent Borough Licensing  
NW CU**

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**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**Police representation to the premises licence variation application for 'Eastern European Food & Wine', 297, Harrow Road, Wembley, HA9 6BD.**

I certify that I have considered the application shown above and I **wish to make representations** that the likely effect of the grant of the application is detrimental to the Council's Licensing Objectives for the reasons indicated below.

I am of the opinion that the risk to the Council's licensing objectives are too high to accept the premises licence variations.

**Officer: Paul Scott PC 3302NW Licensing Constable**

An officer of the Metropolitan Police, in whose area the premises are situated, who is authorised for the purposes of exercising its statutory function as a 'Responsible Authority' under the Licensing Act 2003.

The application has been made to vary the premises licence under section 34 of the act.

The Police representations are concerned with all four licensing objectives: The prevention of crime and disorder, Public safety, the prevention of nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

This application has asked to remove condition 5 of the licence. This is currently worded as such:

No high strength beers, lagers and ciders above 5.5% ABV shall be stocked.

The proposed variation is for the following:

We apply to hold and sell higher strength alcohol of all types.

An application was received by the Metropolitan Police on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in relation to the variation of a premises licence for Eastern European Food & Wine, 297, Harrow Road, Wembley, HA9 6BD.

The Police as a responsible authority are concerned with the high level of street drinking in Brent and the high levels of alcohol related crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour that this brings. It is felt that by the selling of high strength alcohol, this will in turn create more problems for the Police and more anti-social behaviour that local residents will have to put up with and reluctantly accept.

Generally speaking and disregarding the Christmas and New Year periods, calls to Police for drunken and general anti-social behaviour is not as high during the winter months. But as the year progresses and the weather becomes warmer, drunken related crime and anti-social behaviour increases tenfold.

Police are conscious of the need for off-licenses not to sell high strength alcohol and for any recently applied for new premises licenses in Brent, the selling of high strength beer and cider has not been included in conditions for that business. This also applies to the selling of single cans. The sales of high strength alcohol is something that the police do not encourage and this has been reflected in new applications.

The applicants licence start date was September 2007 and the premises was granted a twenty four (24) hour licence, seven (7) days a week to sell alcohol. In the twelve years that have passed since the licence was granted, Brent has seen a lot of changes and a very real increase in drunken crime and disorder, including an increase in anti-social behaviour.

The premises currently has seven (7) conditions. For Brent in 2019, this is quite unusual. Generally, a new premises application for an off-licence has around fifteen (15) to twenty (20) conditions.

Furthermore, the premises does not have any 'Match Day' conditions during football matches at Wembley Stadium. Match day conditions are generally placed on all licenced premises within a mile radius of the stadium. Match day would include such conditions as customers not congregating outside the premises, no glass bottles to be sold and no more than four cans to be sold at one time. This does not currently apply to this venue, which is within the one mile stadium footprint.

In June and July of next year, Euro 2020 is being held throughout Europe. There will be seven (7) matches played at Wembley stadium. England are guaranteed at least three (3) matches at Wembley Stadium. A further match is then being held at the stadium before the two semi-finals and the final itself. Major event football matches bring with it their own problems. There is a huge increase in drunken crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour. This is on top of the usual football events at the stadium, including the FA Cup final and the play off finals.

Having an off-licence close to the stadium that sells high strength alcohol on match days, could itself cause even further problems and Police are concerned that this will have a major impact on the surrounding area. This in turn will have a detrimental effect on the four licensing objectives.

Furthermore, the off-licence is situated on a busy school route. With the premises having a twenty four (24) hour licence, any early morning street drinking of high strength alcohol has potential to cause issues surrounding children making their way to school.

Finally, there have been very few problems of crime and disorder regarding the venue itself and this is recognised by Police. However, the granting of a licence for the sale of high strength alcohol causes police concerns regarding an increase in crime and disorder and has the potential to cause both aggravation and nuisance for local residents.

Police respectively ask that a variation to sell high strength beers, lagers or ciders (i.e. not more than 6%ABV) is not granted for the reasons given by Police. However as a sign of working in good faith with this establishment we would not be adverse to them selling products up to and including 6%ABV which is similar to a couple of other venues near to the area as an alternative. Police would also ask that there is to be no selling of single cans of high strength beers, lagers and ciders.

Yours Sincerely,

PC Paul Scott PC 3302NW  
Brent Licensing Constable

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