

From:Winster, Frederick
Sent:25 Aug 2020 06:13:30 +0100
To:Entertainment Licensing
Subject:RE: Gambling Act 2005 - Notification of application for a Bingo licence. [OFFICIAL]

Classification: OFFICIAL

Sir / Madam,

I am a Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant for the Inner East area of Leeds. I have been made aware of the below licensing application and would like to object to it. My objection is on the basis that the granting of the license will cause gambling to be a source of crime and disorder, and associate gambling with crime and disorder.

I have worked as a police officer in Leeds for over 15 years in various capacities. In my current role I supervise a team of officers tackling long term policing issues in the local area. I am the lead Sergeant for the Gipton and Harehills ward which is less than 50 metres from the proposed gambling establishment. I also cover the Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward area, where the proposed establishment will be created, on a day to day basis and work directly with staff and the lead Sergeant for that area. I have been in my current post for around 18 months and through direct contact with residents, feedback from staff members, and reviews of crime reports have built up a good understanding of the Inner East area of Leeds. I am also a front line uniformed police officer and continue to have direct experience of working in those areas of Leeds.

Both ward areas experience significant levels of deprivation and crime. Leeds City Council provide statistics on their Observatory website, and several published measures show high levels of poverty for example Gipton and Harehills has the highest level of children in poverty and Burmantofts and Richmond Hill the second highest in Leeds based on the most recent figures. From July 2019 to June 2020 Gipton and Harehills had the 7th highest crime rate in Leeds and Burmantofts and Richmond Hill the 6th highest. This is significant as Leeds is a very large city with 33 ward areas.

The high levels of crime make it particularly striking that all of the current local gambling establishments feature levels of crime high enough to be significant. Given they are owned by different companies and are part of nationwide brand names this cannot be explained purely by management of individuals stores.

I will not name individual stores in this objection. However, there are four premises that I am aware of that operate as gambling establishments within a fifth of a mile of 377-379 Harehills Lane, LS9 6AP. I have assessed calls at three of the locations over the past year and focused purely on the calls to police reporting crime or anti-social behaviour within the store itself. The majority of these are customers who have become aggressive but also include thefts, assaults, and other offences. One store has 16 calls to police, a second 27 calls, and a third 11 calls. I have eliminated calls reported issues not directly related to the establishment, such as fights taking place outside. Because of the way calls are recorded I cannot easily adjust calls to the fourth location but it received 41 calls overall.

Even more significantly, 39% of the total calls on Compton Road related to gambling establishments. The same figure for Harehills Lane was 7% and Harehills Road 8%. These are long streets, particularly in the case of Harehills Lane and Harehills Road, and are busy areas with mixed residential and commercial usage. Against the background of generally high crime this is a huge percentage of calls for service to the police. It is likely in my opinion that a very similar establishment opened in the immediate area will experience the same difficulties with crime and disorder.

Premises Licence No	Premises Name and Address	Applicant Name	Application Details	Expiry Date	Case Officer
GPREM/BIN/00014/01	Merkur Slots 377 - 379 Harehills Lane Leeds LS9 6AP	Cashino Gaming Limited	This application is made for the grant of a new bingo premises licence, proposing to operate on the ground floor of the premises The application does not propose to alter/exclude a default condition so that the premises may be used for longer periods than would otherwise be the case. If the application is successful the hours of	27 th August 2020	Victoria Radford Tel: 0113 378 5029

			operation will between 9am and midnight, Monday to Sunday.		
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Thank You,

Fred

Sergeant 6344 Fred Winster

East Leeds Neighbourhood Policing Team (Inner East).

Team 1 (Gipton and Harehills).

Leeds District.

Killingbeck Fire & Police Station.

York Road, Seacroft. LS14 6UJ

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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