

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 24 May 2021 10:06:06 +0100  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Objection to Licensing of New Outlet in Armley

Dear Entertainment Licencing Team,

We (St George's Crypt) have been made aware through Peter Mudge, Leeds City Council Neighbourhood Centres Co-ordinator, that an application has been received for a new outlet to sell alcohol in Armley town centre, at 15 Branch Road. The application is for sale of alcohol from 9am - 9pm at the store. As an organisation with a drug and alcohol dispersed residential rehabilitation project centred in Armley, and a charity shop with foodbank provision located on Armley Town Street, we feel that we should comment on the application.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIME AND DISORDER CONCERNS**

St George's Crypt currently runs a drug and alcohol rehabilitation project based in Armley. This is a dispersed residential project. As such, in the area of Armley we house and work with 20 adults with a history of homelessness, drug addiction and alcoholism, supporting them to engage, reduce their intake with the aim of becoming drink and drugs free.

By granting licensing permission to a new site to sell alcohol into the night, this plays upon the reputation that Armley Town Street is a go-to location for cheap alcohol, and the type of retail premises that could negatively cater to our client group.

There are numerous research articles and studies into the co-dependency of alcoholism, drug-taking and homelessness. By granting permission and further reinforcing the negative image of the area as a local hotspot for people to buy cheap alcohol, there will be knock-on effects and the creation of triggers that could reinforce negative behaviours in our clients.

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marianne-Van-Den-Bree-2/publication/24251010\\_Risk\\_Factors\\_for\\_Homelessness\\_Evidence\\_From\\_a\\_Population-Based\\_Study/links/02bfe50f6d53b1c945000000/Risk-Factors-for-Homelessness-Evidence-From-a-Population-Based-Study.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marianne-Van-Den-Bree-2/publication/24251010_Risk_Factors_for_Homelessness_Evidence_From_a_Population-Based_Study/links/02bfe50f6d53b1c945000000/Risk-Factors-for-Homelessness-Evidence-From-a-Population-Based-Study.pdf)

<https://psycnet.apa.org/record/1992-09475-001>

Whilst we are actively working with and supporting very vulnerable people to engage, rehabilitate and successfully move back into positive and thriving communities, granting this permission reinforces the negative image that Armleys commercial district is the local go-to spot for cheap alcohol.

In short, granting this license would reinforce the negative image of the local area as a place to buy cheap alcohol, add a potential trigger spot that would be detrimental to the recovery of the vulnerable adults we support, and potentially lead to an increase in social issues linked to cheap alcohol.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4872618/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4872611/>

We also have a retail presence in Armley, on Armley Town Street.

Our Head of Retail said this relating to our Armley Town Street Shop, located 40 □ 46 Armley Town Street:

*□ Immediately opposite our shop is the William Hill betting shop. We see people gathering there to drink, take drugs, take spice □ when you walk past them they look like zombies. It □s another place for people to go to drink. We are really trying to make a difference in the area, trying to make the street scene better, so we should be trying to reduce the alcohol offering, not increasing it.*

*We regularly see people in drink or on drugs shouting and arguing on Town Street and our staff have suffered abuse, so increasing the appeal of the Armley commercial centre for drinkers by increasing this offering may lead to an increase in this antisocial behaviour. □*

Many thanks for taking the time to consider our concerns,

Andrew

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