



# Representation

## Section 1 – Licence application details

Please indicate as appropriate :

I wish to object to the following application:

I wish to support the following application:

Applicant premises name and address: Mama Mia Convenience Store, 274 Harehills Lane, Harehills Leeds, LS9 7BD

## Section 2 – Your personal details

Title Mr  Mrs  Miss  Other **Councillor**

Surname **Arif**

First name(s) **Salma**

Address (incl postcode): C/O The Labour Group Office, Leeds Civic Hall, LS1 1UR

**Please note that a full copy of your representation (including your name and address) will be sent to the applicant and will be a public document at the hearing. If this is a concern please contact Entertainment Licensing and we will go through your options.**

On what basis are you making this representation:

Resident

Business

Someone representing a resident or business:

## Section 3 – Representation grounds

**The representation is relevant to one or more of the following licensing objectives:**

**Please tick relevant box(es)**

Prevention of crime and disorder

Prevention of public nuisance

Protection of children from harm

Public safety

Please select :

I object to the application being granted at all

I object to the application being granted in its current form

**The grounds of the representation is based on the following:**

Allied to the potent community safety concerns expressed by West Yorkshire Trading Standards around Mama Mia Convenience Store selling illegal and counterfeit tobacco, my Gipton & Harehills Ward colleagues – Cllr Arif Hussain and Cllr Kamila Maqsood – and I would also like to express our support for this license review and we vehemently oppose the granting of any future license due to the threat it poses to the health (and future health) of children and young people who reside in the Harehills area.

According to the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation, Gipton & Harehills Ward has 17 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) that are amongst the 10% most deprived in the country. That is the most of any Ward in Leeds. Coupled with this cumulative deprivation is the fact that Gipton & Harehills has a very young population. To illustrate this fact, 30.8% of the population of Gipton & Harehills is aged under 15; that is over 10,000 children and young people living in very challenging circumstances.

We are setting this context, as the idea that a store such as Mama Mia - that sits in the very heart of the busiest part of Harehills - can flagrantly break the law and sell illegal and counterfeit tobacco to residents, particularly children and young people, who already exposed to a host of complex challenges is staggering.

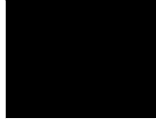
When you consider the obvious threat posed by tobacco to this becomes even more outrageous. Smoking is the leading cause of premature mortality and morbidity in the UK, with one out of every two smokers dying from smoking related diseases. In Leeds smoking has fallen considerable from 23% in 2011 to 15.3% in 2019. During 2018-19 5,542 Hospital admissions were attributed to Smoking in Leeds. In 2020 there were 80,000 deaths due to COVID-19 and 94,000 due to tobacco within the UK. Smoking in pregnancy can also cause miscarriage, stillbirth, placental abruption, preterm birth, low birthweight and neonatal morbidity and mortality.

Although smoking prevalence in the UK general population has declined, people on low incomes, living in rented housing or working in routine and manual occupations are more likely to smoke and much less likely to quit, and have higher rates of smoking-related disease including cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases. Illegal tobacco market has halved nationally since 2000 - but still a serious issue in more deprived communities such as Harehills.

The sale of illicit tobacco specifically enables :

- children to bypass age of sale laws
- Undermines price as the most effective barrier to adults smoking
- Health inequalities – people buying illegal tobacco most likely to be struggling financially and younger
- Tobacco industry publicity has presented illegal tobacco as more harmful –can give majority of smokers who buy legal tobacco false comfort

Taking all the evidence above into account, I along with my Ward colleagues Cllr Arif Hussain and Cllr Kamila Maqsood, support this license review and would strongly oppose any future license being granted to Mama Mia as, despite the repeated interventions by statutory bodies, they continue to operate illegally and without thought for the wider community.



**Signed:**

**Date: 06.10.21**