

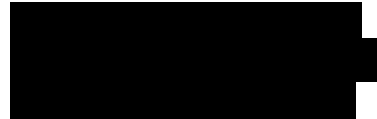


FAO: Leeds City Council's  
Entertainment Licensing Team

Gipton & Harehills Ward  
Labour Councillors  
Councillor Arif Hussain  
Councillor Salma Arif  
Councillor Ashgar Ali

Civic Hall  
Leeds, LS1 1UR

Civic Tel 0113 37 88811



28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

**Subject: Licence Review, M&S 24/7 Off Licence, 128 Roundhay Road.  
PREM/02712/008**

As Ward Councillors we are writing to **support** the licence review of M&S 24/7 on Roundhay Road. Roundhay Road is in the heart of Harehills sitting quite literally adjacent to people's homes, schools and places of worship. Harehills is a densely populated neighbourhood; a place where what happens on the street has a huge impact on the local community.

It is therefore concerning that this outlet may be in breach of its licence if it is in possession of an illegal substance (nitrous oxide) with the intention of selling to the public for its wrongful purpose of inhalation for a psychoactive affect.

The government has recently acknowledged the potential damage caused by nitrous oxide by imposing a ban on the possession of the substance as part of its Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan. The plan states that nitrous oxide is now classed as "a Class C drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. This means possession of nitrous oxide, where a person intends to wrongfully inhale it for a psychoactive effect, is now an offence." [Possession of nitrous oxide is now illegal - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/possession-of-nitrous-oxide-is-now-illegal) ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

It has been proven that heavy, regular abuse of the drug poses significant health risks for users. These risks include anaemia and in more severe cases, nerve damage or paralysis. We are not willing to expose residents of our community to these risks.

According to the 2019 Index 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 more than any other ward in Leeds. Coupled with this cumulative deprivation is the fact that Gipton & Harehills Ward is:

- The second most populated Ward in Leeds with 33,645 residents living in 12,400 properties; nearly 10% of homes are classed as overcrowded.

- The Ward is both young and dynamic; 29.5% of residents are children and young people aged 14 or under. 53% of the population is aged 29 or under.
- 4,303 children and young people aged 0-15 in Gipton & Harehills live in the most income deprived households in England.
- Whilst 62.4% of the population is economically active; long term unemployment is double the Leeds average and those that have never worked is at 15.2%, which is nearly four times the Leeds average. Women from the Ward active in the job market is also notably lower than the Leeds average.
- 33.3% of working age people are receiving universal credit.
- Gipton and Harehills Ward is very diverse, with 63% of the population identifying as being from an ethnic minority; 72% of households reported that English was a first language.
- As a migration hub, the Ward has hundreds of languages spoken and numerous faiths live in close proximity (75% of households identify as being religious against a Leeds average of 65%).
- Nearly 56% of households don't have access to a car or van.
- Fuel poverty for the Ward stands at 29.9%, 8.4% of households don't have central heating.
- Crime is higher than the Leeds average with violence and sexual assault, public order, ASB and criminal damage presenting as the main issues. Source: <https://observatory.leeds.gov.uk/deprivation>

Against this backdrop, the idea that a business in the heart of Harehills could be operating illegally by selling a Class C drug to people of any age in the community is simply staggering.

We feel passionately that this licence should be reviewed in light of the compelling evidence presented by the Police, as letting this business trade illegally would be seriously damaging to the health of the people of Harehills.

As Ward Councillors, we hope you will consider the concerns raised above and come to the decision that Harehills cannot risk having an off license selling illegal drugs of any kind.

We say with a united voice, please consider the impact on our community, they deserve so much better than this.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Arif Hussain

Councillor Salma Arif

Councillor Asghar