	<h2>Licensing Sub-Committee</h2>
Title	Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane Finchley London N3 2BX
Date of meeting	Thursday, 28th September 2023
Report of	Licensing Manager
Wards	Childs Hill
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Appendices	Annex 1 – Application Form Annex 2 – current licence Annex 3 – Representations Annex 4 – Matters for Decision
Officer Contact Details	Licensing officer Zekiel Cudjoe 020 8359 3110 Zekiel.Cudjoe@barnet.gov.uk
Summary	
This report asks the Sub-Committee to consider an application for a Variation of a Bingo Premises Licence, under section 187 of the Gambling Act 2005	
Recommendations	
This report asks the Sub-Committee to consider an application for a Variation of a Bingo Premises Licence, under section 187 of the Gambling Act 2005 for Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley, London N3 2BX.	
1. Reasons for the Recommendations	
1.1	Where representations are submitted following an application for a variation of a premises licence under Section 187 of the Gambling Act 2005 the authority must hold a hearing to consider such representations, unless the representations is withdrawn, the applicant or any party or responsible authority who has made a valid representation

agrees or where the authority considers that the representations are frivolous or vexatious.

2. Steps required and Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended

- 2.1 The Licensing Sub-Committee is required to give appropriate weight to the representations (including supporting information) presented by all the parties, the Guidance issued pursuant to section 154 of the Gambling Act 2005, the Council’s Gambling Statement of Principles and the steps that are appropriate to promote the three Gambling objectives.
- 2.2 Having considered those relevant matters, the Licensing Sub-Committee is required to take such of the following steps (if any) as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 2.3 On considering an application for a premises licence (whether at a hearing or not) a licensing authority shall —
 - (a) grant it, or
 - (b) reject it.
- 2.4 As the Licensing Sub-Committee is required to determine this application no alternative options are considered or required.

3. Post Decision Implementation

- 3.1 The decision will have immediate effect.

4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations

Corporate Plan

- 4.1 Timely legal and fair decisions support objectives are contained within the Corporate Plan. In particular in relation to a “successful London borough” by ensuring that only legal, well-regulated licensable activities occur within the borough.

Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures

- 4.2 Members are referred to the Council’s Gambling Statement of Principles for consideration.

Sustainability

- 4.1 N/A

Corporate Parenting

- 4.2 N/A

Risk Management

- 4.3 N/A

Insight

4.4	N/A
	Social Value
4.5	N/A
5.	Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)
5.1	N/A
6.	Legal Implications and Constitution References
6.1	The Gambling Act 2005, together with the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities, sets out how applications for a variation of a Bingo Licence should be dealt with where valid representations have been submitted.
6.2	Under the Council's Constitution, Part 2B, paragraph 7, the Licensing Sub-Committee has responsibility to determine applications as delegated under the Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005, which includes dealing with applications under the Gambling Act 2005.
7.	Consultation
7.1	The statutory consultation process has been followed in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005.
8.	Equalities and Diversity
8.1	Licence applications are dealt with according to the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 and associated Regulations which allow both applications and representations to applications to be made by all sectors.
9.	Background Papers
9.1	The application and report of the Licensing Officer and appendices are attached to this report.

Officers Report

GAMBLING ACT 2005

OFFICERS REPORT

Merkur Cashino, 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley, N3 2BX

1. The Applicants

The application before the Sub-Committee was submitted under Section 187 of the Gambling Act 2005. It is an application for a variation of a Bingo Premises Licence, submitted by Poppleston Allen on behalf of Merkur Slots UK Ltd. The premises are located at 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley N3 2BX (the “**Premises**”).

2. Application

As of May 11, 2023, the application before us was deemed valid. The purpose of this application is to vary the existing premises license by removing condition 1, which is outlined in Part 3 of the Bingo Premises License. The original premises licence is Attached in **Annex 2**

Condition 1 currently imposes limitations on the opening hours of the Premises by specifying default hours for bingo. The condition was imposed by the Sub-Committee in 2021 when a decision was issued on the original application.

The hours the Premises is currently open to the public are 09:00hrs to 00:00hrs Monday to Sunday The applicant seeks to eliminate these restrictions and replace them with the following hours 00:00hrs – 00:00hrs Monday to Sunday.

The application form is attached to this report in **Annex 1**

3. Representations

The Licensing Team received 16 valid representations. These representations refer to the effect that the grant of this licence could have on the following gambling objectives:

- preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime, and
- protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

The representations can be seen attached to this report in **Annex 3**.

4. Conditions

Section 169 Gambling Act 2005 - Conditions imposed or excluded by licensing authority, states:

- (1) Where a licensing authority issue a premises licence they may—
 - (a) attach a condition to the licence;
 - (b) exclude a condition that would otherwise be attached to the licence by virtue of section 168.
- (2) A condition attached to the licence under subsection (1)(a) may, in particular, address a matter addressed by a condition excluded under subsection (1)(b).
- (3) A condition attached to the licence under subsection (1)(a) may apply in relation to the premises generally or only in relation to a specified part of the premises.
- (4) A licensing authority may not attach a condition to a premises licence which prevents compliance with a condition of the operating licence which authorises the holder to carry out the activity in respect of which the premises licence is granted.”

5. Statement of Principles and Guidance

Full Copies of the Councils Gambling Statement of Principles and the Statutory Guidance to the Act will be available at the Licensing Sub Committee hearing or in advance if required.

Zekiel Cudjoe
Licensing Officer

Annex 1 – Application
Annex 2 - Current Licence
Annex 3 – Representations
Annex 4 – Matters for Decision

Application Form

Application to vary a premises licence under the Gambling Act 2005

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you are completing this form by hand, please write legibly in block capitals using ink. Use additional sheets if necessary (marked with the number of the relevant question). You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

Part 1 – Applicant Details

If you are an individual, please fill in Section A. If the application is being made on behalf of an organisation (such as a company or partnership), please fill in Section B.

Section A

Individual applicant

1. Title: Mr Mrs Miss Ms Dr Other (please specify)

2. Surname: _____ Other name(s): _____

[Use the names given in the applicant's operating licence or, if the applicant does not hold an operating licence, as given in any application for an operating licence]

3. Applicant's address (home or business – *[delete as appropriate]*):

Postcode:

4(a) The number of the applicant's operating licence (as set out in the operating licence):

4(b) If the applicant does not hold an operating licence but is in the process of applying for one, give the date on which the application was made:

5. Tick the box if the application is being made by more than one person.

[Where there are further applicants, the information required in questions 1 to 4 should be included on additional sheets attached to this form, and those sheets should be clearly marked "Details of further applicants".]

Section B

Application on behalf of an organisation

6. Name of applicant business or organisation:

Merkur Slots UK Ltd

7. The applicant's registered or principal address:

**Seebeck House
1A Seebeck Place
Knowlhill
Milton Keynes**

Postcode: **MK5 8FR**

8(a) The number of the applicant's operating licence (as given in the operating licence):

003266-N-103444

8(b) If the applicant does not hold an operating licence but is in the process of applying for one, give the date on which the application was made:

N/A

9. Tick the box if the application is being made by more than one organisation.

Part 2 – Premises Details

10. Trading name used at licensed premises:

Merkur Slots

11. Give the address of the premises or, if none, give a description of the premises and its location. Where the premises are a vessel, give the place indicated in the premises licence as the place in the licensing authority's area where the vessel is wholly or partly situated. Where possible this should include an address with a postcode:

48 Ballards Lane

Finchley

London

Postcode: **N3 2BX**

12. Telephone number at premises (if known):

13. Type of premises licence to be varied:

Regional Casino

Large Casino

Small Casino

Converted Casino

Bingo

Adult Gaming Centre

Betting (track)

Betting (other)

Family Entertainment Centre

14. Premises licence number (if known): **GABNG1/20/63022**

15. If you are making this application alongside an application for transfer or reinstatement of the premises licence into your name, please give the name of the current licence holder as it appears on the premises licence (if known):

Surname:

Other name(s):

Part 3 – Details of variations applied for

16(a) Please give details of any variation which is being applied for. Where the application includes an application to exclude or vary a condition of the premises licence, identify the relevant condition here (unless it relates to hours of operation which are dealt with in questions 16(b) and 16(c)):

To remove condition 1 as specified under Part 3 of the Bingo Premises Licence restricting the premises operating hours.

To remove the default hours for bingo as per 16c of the application.

16(b) Do you want the licensing authority to exclude or vary a condition of the licence so that the premises may be used for longer periods than would otherwise be the case?

Yes

16(c) If the answer to question 16(b) is yes, please complete the table below to indicate the times when you want the premises to be available for use under the premises licence.

	<i>Start</i>	<i>Finish</i>	<i>Details of any seasonal variation</i>
Mon	00:00	24:00	
Tue	00:00	24:00	
Wed	00:00	24:00	
Thurs	00:00	24:00	
Fri	00:00	24:00	
Sat	00:00	24:00	
Sun	00:00	24:00	

17. Please indicate any particular date on which you want the variation to take effect if approved:

N/A

18. Please set out any other matters which you consider to be relevant to your application:

We have considered the impact of the proposed variation and do not consider that additional steps beyond the existing management and operation of the premises are required to promote the Licensing Objectives.

The premises implements extensive operational safeguards in respect of security and responsible gambling and the premises licence is subject to 13 'Other Conditions', which remain appropriate to the continuing operation of the premises.

Part 4 – Declarations and Checklist *(Please tick as appropriate)*

We confirm that, to the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this application is true. We understand that it is an offence under section 342 of the Gambling Act 2005 to give information which is false or misleading in, or in relation to, this application.



We confirm that the applicant(s) have the right to occupy the premises.

Checklist:

- Payment of the appropriate fee has been made
- A plan of the premises is enclosed
- A copy of the existing premises licence is enclosed
- The existing premises licence is not enclosed, but the application is accompanied by –
 - A statement explaining why it is not reasonably practicable to produce the licence and,
 - An application under the Section 190 of the Gambling Act 2005 for the issue of a copy of the licence
- We understand that if the above requirements are not complied with the application may be rejected
- We understand that it is now necessary to advertise the application and give the appropriate notice to the responsible authorities

Part 5 – Signatures

19. Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent. If signing on behalf of the applicant, please state in what capacity:

Signature: 

Print Name: **Poppleston Allen**

Date: **11th May 2023**

Capacity: **Solicitors for & on behalf of applicant**

20. For joint applications, signature of 2nd applicant, or 2nd applicant's solicitor or other authorised agent. If signing on behalf of the applicant, please state in what capacity:

Signature:

Print Name:	_____		
Date:	(dd/mm/yyyy)	Capacity:	_____

Part 6 – Contact Details

21(a) Please give the name of a person who can be contacted about the application:

Felix Faulkner

21(b) Please give one or more telephone numbers at which the person identified in question 21(a) can be contacted:

0203 859 7751

22. Postal address for correspondence associated with this application:

**Poppleston Allen Solicitors
7 St Pancras Square
London**

Postcode: **N1C 4AG**

23. If you are happy for correspondence in relation to your application to be sent via e-mail, please give the e-mail address to which you would like correspondence to be sent:

f.faulkner@popall.co.uk

Current Licence

No: GABNG1/20/63022

BINGO PREMISES LICENCE
(in respect of premises other than a track)

This licence is issued under section 164 of the Gambling Act 2005 by

London Borough of Barnet

Corporate Governance Directorate, Building 4, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, N11 1NP

Part 1 – Details of person to whom licence is issued

This premises licence is issued to:

Cashino Gaming Limited

of the following address:

Seebeck House 1A Seebeck Place Knowlhill Milton Keynes MK5 8FR

who holds an operating licence which has been given the following operating licence number by the Gambling Commission:

000-003266-N-103444

Part 2 – Details of the premises in respect of which the licence is issued

Facilities for gambling may be provided in accordance with this licence on the following premises:

Merkur Cashino

48 Ballards Lane London N3 2BX

Part 3 – Premises Licence Details

This licence came into effect on and is of unlimited duration

Conditions:

1. Opening hours to the public are to be 09:00hrs to 00:00hrs Monday to Sunday

Other Conditions:

1. CCTV shall be installed to Home Office Guidance standards and maintained in a good working condition and recordings shall be kept for 31 days and shall be made available to police and licensing officers if requested.
2. A CCTV camera shall be installed to cover:
 - a. All entry and exit points to and from the premises enabling frontal identification of every person entering under any light conditions

- b. The areas of the premises to which the public have access (excluding toilets)
 - c. Gaming machines
3. An overt CCTV monitor to be installed, able to be seen by customers
4. CCTV shall be made available for the police viewing at any time with minimum delays when requested, subject to data protection legislative requirements
5. The following crime prevention measures shall be implemented:
 - a. A time delay safe with deposit slot and anti-fishing mechanisms must be used at any counter/till area
 - b. Regular robbery awareness and cash handling training shall be given to all staff.
6. Prominent signage and notices advertising the Challenge 25 will be displayed showing the operation of such policy.
7. A Challenge 25 proof of age scheme shall be operated at the premises where the only acceptable forms of identification are recognised photographic identification cards, such as a driving licence, passport or proof of age card with the PASS Hologram.
8. A magnetic locking device, commonly referred to as a Maglock will be installed and maintained on the main entrance/exit to the premises which will be operable from the ground floor cashier counter by staff.
9. Appropriate staffing levels will be assessed by way of risk assessment and cognisance will be taken of any police advice. There shall be no pre-planned single staffing at the premises from 20:00 until closing. Should the premises be single staffed after this time, the magnetic door locking system must be in constant use.
10. A suitable intruder alarm complete with panic button facility shall be maintained.
11. The licensee will ensure that customer toilets are checked every hour for evidence of drug taking and alcohol consumption. Toilet checks are to be documented stating the time and member of staff who made the checks.
12. Toilet doors remain locked and access given by staff only.
13. An incident log shall be maintained and made available on request to an authorised Local Authority officer or the Police, which will record the following:
 - a. All crimes reported to the venue.
 - b. Any complaints or incidents regarding crime and disorder.
 - c. Refusals and banned customers.
 - d. Any faults in the CCTV system.
 - e. Any visit by a relevant authority or emergency service.
 - f. Any Challenge 25 Refusals.

A scale plan is attached as an annex to this licence

Signed on behalf of the issuing licensing authority

Emery

No: GABNG1/20/63022

SUMMARY OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A PREMISES LICENCE

This summary is issued under section 164 of the Gambling Act 2005 by

London Borough of Barnet

Corporate Governance Directorate, Building 4, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, N11 1NP

This summary is issued to:

Cashino Gaming Limited

of the following address:

Seebeck House 1A Seebeck Place Knowlhill Milton Keynes MK5 8FR

has been issued in respect of the following premises:

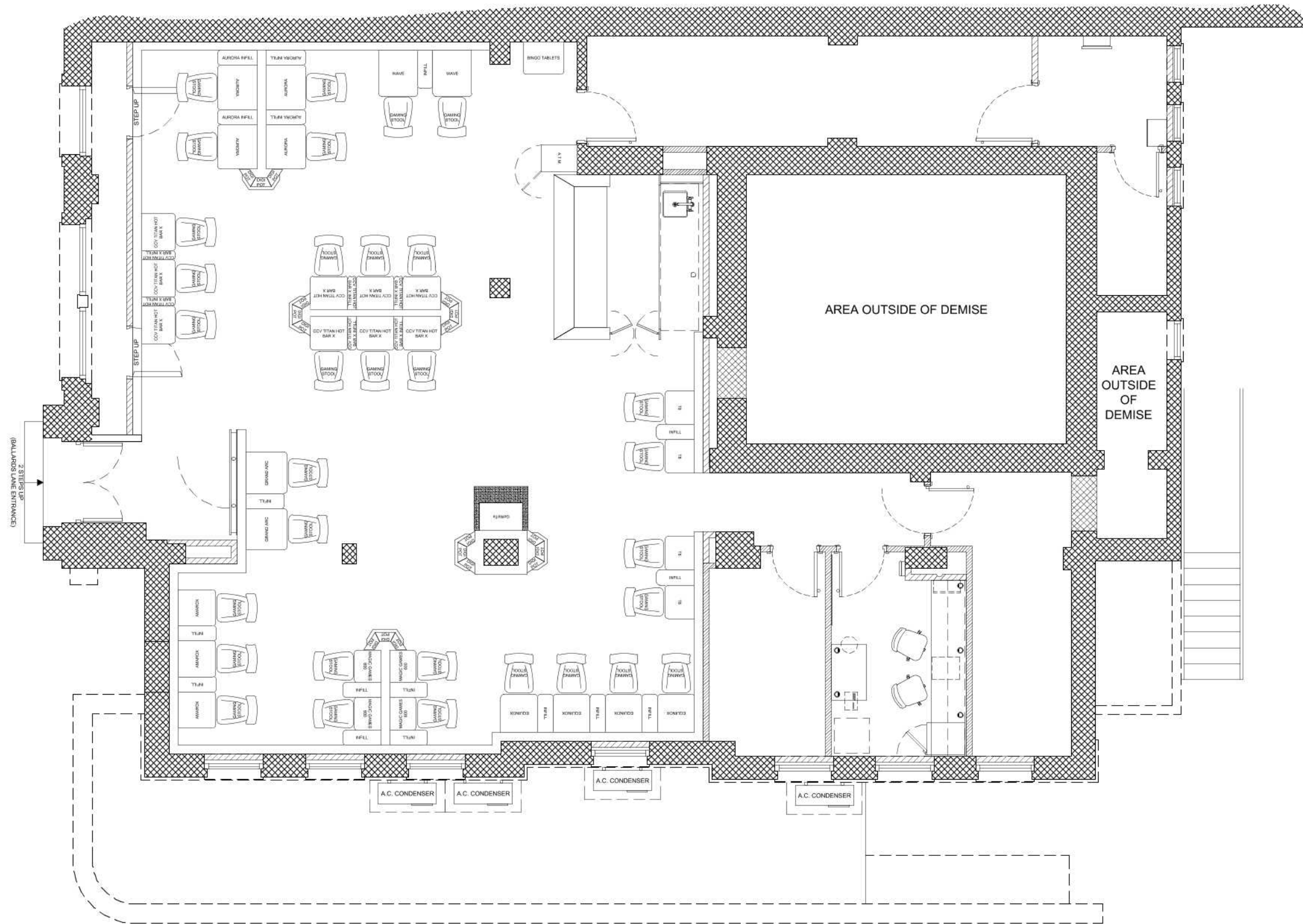
Merkur Cashino

48 Ballards Lane London N3 2BX

Summary of the Terms and Conditions of the Premises Licence

1. The premises licence will run in perpetuity unless:
 - the Secretary of State prescribes a period after which the licence will expire under section 191 of the Gambling Act 2005;
 - the licence holder surrenders the licence under section 192 of the Gambling Act 2005 the licence lapses under section 194 of the Gambling Act 2005;
 - the licence is revoked under section 193 or 202(1) of the Gambling Act 2005.
2. The premises licence applies only in relation to the premises specified in Part 2 of the licence and may not be varied so that it applies to any other premises (except in the case of a converted casino premises licence).
3. The premises licence authorises the premises to be used for:
 - **betting (including betting on the outcome of virtual events)**
 - **making available up to 4 gaming machines each of which is of Category B2, B3, B4, C or D**
4. The premises licence is subject to:
 - any conditions specified on the face of the licence as being attached under section 169(1)(a) of the Gambling Act 2005;
 - any other conditions attached to the licence by virtue of regulations made under sections 167 and 168 of the Gambling Act 2005 (other than any conditions under section 168 which have been excluded by the licensing authority); and
 - any conditions attached to the licence by virtue of specific provisions of the Gambling Act 2005.

5. In particular, it is a condition of the premises licence under section 185 of the Gambling Act 2005 that the holder keeps the licence on the premises and arranges for it to be made available on request to a constable, enforcement officer or local authority officer. The holder of the licence commits an offence if he fails to comply with this condition.



MACHINE CATEGORY	QUANTITY
CAT B3	14
CAT C	18
CAT D	18
DUOPOTS	0
TRIMAX	6 / 18
TABLETS	20
RATIO	20%

REVISIONS
REV 00:

FIT OUT TYPE
FUTURE VENUE

PROJECT
CASHINO
48 BALLARDS LANE
WEST FINCHLEY
N3 2BX

DESCRIPTION
PROPOSED MACHINE PLAN

REFERENCE DRAWINGS
MEASURED SURVEY

SCALE
1:75

DRAWN BY
S.R.B.

DATE
24/06/20

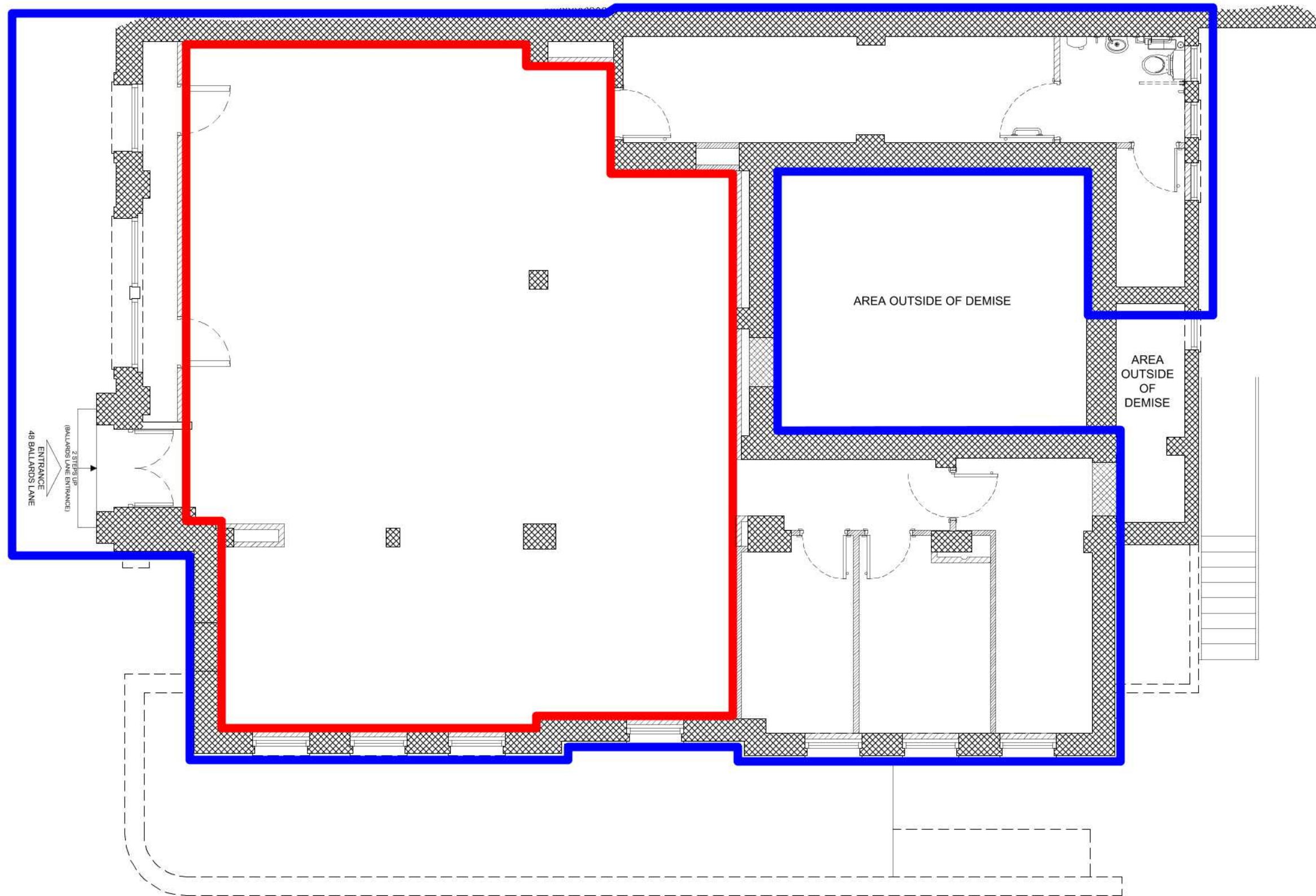
DRAWING No.
999-PR-05

REVISION
00



COPYRIGHT IS RESERVED BY PRAESEPE PLC. AND IS ISSUED ON THE CONDITION THAT IT IS NOT COPIED OR DISCLOSED BY OR TO ANY UNAUTHORISED PERSONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT FROM PRAESEPE PLC.

THIS DRAWING SHOULD NOT BE SCALED. THE CONTRACTOR SHOULD CHECK ALL DIMENSIONS ON SITE. ANY ERROR OR OMISSION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO PRAESEPE PLC.



PROPOSED GAMING AREA: 109.4m²

LICENSE PLAN LEGEND	
LINE TYPE	LINE TYPE DESCRIPTION
	AREA IN WHICH FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR GAMING.
	EXTENT OF PREMISES

GAMBLING ACT 2005 LICENSING PLAN
 Anything shown on this plan, which is not required by The Gambling Act 2005 (Premises Licenses and Provisional Statements) Regulation 2007 is for illustrative purposes only, and does not form part of the premises licence.

REVISIONS REV 00:

FIT OUT TYPE FUTURE VENUE
PROJECT CASHINO 48 BALLARDS LANE WEST FINCHLEY N3 2BX
DESCRIPTION PROPOSED LICENSE PLAN

REFERENCE DRAWINGS MEASURED SURVEY	
SCALE 1:75	
DRAWN BY S.R.B.	
DATE 24/06/20	
DRAWING No. 999-PR-07	REVISION 00

**MERKUR
CASHINO**

COPYRIGHT IS RESERVED BY PRAESEPE PLC. AND IS ISSUED ON THE CONDITION THAT IT IS NOT COPIED OR DISCLOSED BY OR TO ANY UNAUTHORISED PERSONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT FROM PRAESEPE PLC.
 THIS DRAWING SHOULD NOT BE SCALED. THE CONTRACTOR SHOULD CHECK ALL DIMENSIONS ON SITE. ANY ERROR OR OMISSION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO PRAESEPE PLC.

Representations

Dr Daniel Preter's representation

Hello,

ANY increase in opening hours means more opportunity for children and other vulnerable people to have access to harmful gambling, or start an addiction they have not begun yet. Making this access 24 hours a day is purely irresponsible.

Criminals are more likely to commit crimes at night, especially when related to alcohol. To quote a report from the Institute for Alcohol Studies: "The most recent official statistics on violent crime in England and Wales found that the vast majority of violent incidents that occurred over the weekend (62%), at night (61%), especially between the hours of 10pm and 6am...". This from an article from the Police and Crime Committee of the London Assembly on crime in areas of higher night-time economy (NTE): "there appears to be a correlation between the NTE, crime and alcohol. Alcohol features in a higher proportion of crimes in London that occur at night than during the day. Many of these are concentrated in areas with a strong NTE."

In summary, by allowing this establishment to open around the clock, you are more likely to attract violence and crime, and will provide more opportunities and accessibility for people to get addicted to gambling.

How Barnet council even considers this to be acceptable is beyond me.

Sincerely

Dr Daniel Preter
XX Park Avenue
London N3 XXX

On Mon, 22 May 2023 at 14:40, Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@barnet.gov.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon

In order for us to consider your comments as a valid representation, we kindly request that you provide further details explaining how the proposed variation may impact the objectives outlined in the Gambling Act 2005, specifically:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime.
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Please provide a clear explanation of your concerns in relation to these objectives so that we can properly consider your representation.

Additionally, we need your full address as stated in the gambling act 2005 to be considered as valid representation.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any further questions or require any additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Please note that the last date of representation is the 8th June

Kind regards,

Zekiel Cudjoe

Licensing Officer

Regulatory Services

Assurance Group

London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, London, NW9 4EW

0208 359 3110

Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 6:30 AM

To: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: PREMISES LICENCE - Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley N3 2BX

Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly oppose to this application to extend the opening hours of this establishment to 24 hours a day.

Allowing a gambling establishment to open on our High Street was a big mistake in the first place. We already have plenty of betting shops and in times of rising gambling addiction and increasing poverty to allow access to this 24 hours a day would be inexcusable.

I do sincerely hope the council will reject this application.

Sincerely

Dr Daniel Preter

XX Park Avenue

N3 XXX

Sandra Wick's Representation

xx The Terrace
xx Hendon Lane
Finchley
N3 xxx

I have lived in Finchley for over 40 years.

Finchley was always a family leafy place to live.

Having a gambling establishment with longer hours will attract more of the 'wrong' kind of people. It will attract unsavoury characters, addicts and possibly children who could begin an addiction habit. It can attract drug addicts and problem people such as pedophiles causing even more problems for the police and the public at large. Again putting vulnerable people at risk. Finchley has a lot more crime here than ever before. Our police station was closed many years ago. Recently crime is on the up. I am totally apposed to this place being here at all, never mind longer hours!

The police are under enormous pressure as it is, with knife crimes, children being threatened and late night gambling will attract more alcoholics and drinkers. They'll fall out of pubs into this gambling establishment. Possibly also a den for sexual predators. Everyone knows that this kind of place lowers the tone of nice gentrified places and houses, which are our investment will then become, not so attractive, with such a high street.

It will attract children naturally. It could begin not only addictions but a loss of money, getting children and families into further debt.

Our food banks are almost at capacity.

Who is going to police this? Who is going to manage things when they get out of hand?

This whole idea has been ridiculous from start to finish. It needs to die a death and changed into a children's nursery, a restaurant, a clothing shop or a French market. Bring Finchley up not down!!! What more can I say to convince anyone that is is a really bad idea!

Sandra Wick,
Senior Practitioner BACP accredited Psychotherapist /counsellor
Qualified Art therapist

On 22 May 2023, at 14:47, Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@barnet.gov.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon

In order for us to consider your comments as a valid representation, we kindly request that you provide further details explaining how the proposed variation may impact the objectives outlined in the Gambling Act 2005, specifically:

1. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime.
2. Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.

3. Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Please provide a clear explanation of your concerns in relation to these objectives so that we can properly consider your representation.

Additionally, we need your full address as stated in the gambling act 2005 to be considered as valid representation.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any further questions or require any additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Please note that the last date of representation is the 8th June

Kind regards,

Zekiel Cudjoe
Licensing Officer
Regulatory Services
Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, London, NW9 4EW
0208 359 3110

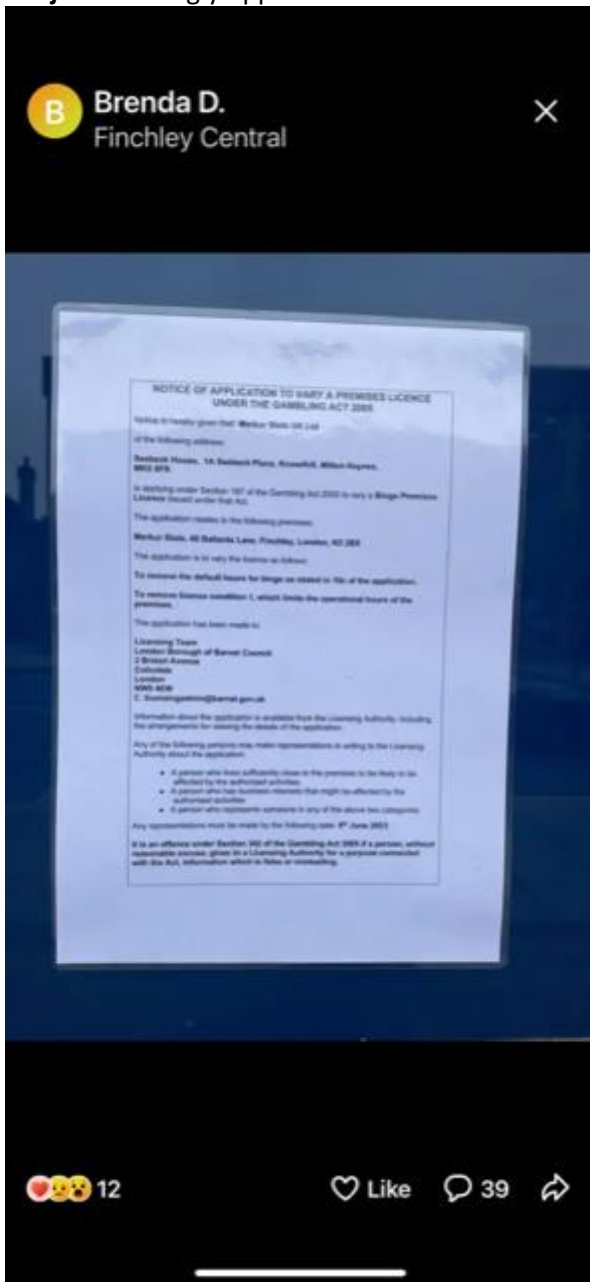
From: Sandy Wick <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>

Sent: Sunday, May 21, 2023 5:14 PM

To: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>

Cc: Eva Greenspan 2 <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX >; Greenspan, Cllr Eva <Cllr.E.Greenspan@barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: I strongly oppose this! Take note!



Sandra Wick,
Senior Practitioner BACP accredited Psychotherapist /counsellor
Qualified Art therapist

I've lived in Finchley for over 40 years and this just attracts seedy people to the area. Finchley has always been a leafy family area and I strongly oppose this notice. This whole thing is a very bad bad idea. We have enough problems in Finchley without this ridiculous idea.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Mrs Sandra Wick

Justin Mullins's Representation

From: Justin Mullins <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX >

Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:21 AM

To: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: Merkur Slots Licensing

You don't often get email from justinmullins@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**** Warning External Email ****

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to register my objection to any change in the licensing conditions for Merkur Slots at 48 Ballards Lane N3 2BX.

I am sure you are aware that the original licence for this gambling facility was strongly opposed by the residents of Finchley and originally rejected by the council. It was granted on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate on the condition that its hours of operation were limited.

The local opposition has not changed since then and there is no reason to extend these hours.

Indeed, there is good reason not to extend them.

The business model for Merkur Slots is clear--it profits from people who play slot machines. These machines are manufactured to pay out less than the punters put in. So it is a business model that exploits the most naive and vulnerable in our community, particularly those who are addicted to gambling.

These individuals can be protected by limiting the opening hours of gambling joints so that they cannot access the machines. Indeed, these "cooling off periods" are becoming common practice in the gambling industry. Moreover, it is the council's duty to protect vulnerable individuals and I imagine that any abrogation of this duty would leave it open to legal action.

For all these reasons, I urge you to reject this application.

Furthermore, I would like my objections to remain on record for all future attempts by Merkur Slots to change its hours of operation.

Yours faithfully,

Justin Mullins
X Park View Road
London N3 XXX

--

+44 XXXXXXXXXX

Skype: XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Jane Prior's representation

From: Jane Prior <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 3:18 PM

To: Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@Barnet.gov.uk>

Cc: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Premises PREMISES LICENCE - Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley, N3

Dear Sir/Madam

Mr & Mrs N C L Prior

XX Park View Road, London, N3 XXX

The only individuals who will gain from the proposed changes in operating hours are the individuals applying for the extension. The high street is already lacking in amenities and a varied range of shops and extending the hours of this establishment will not help the existing shop owners.

The UK has one of the biggest gambling markets in the world, generating a profit of £14.2 billion in 2020. Research has shown that harms associated with gambling are wide-ranging. These include not only harms to the individual gambler but their families, close associates and the wider society.

Compulsive gambling urges you to keep gambling despite the toll it takes on your life. Gambling means that you're willing to risk something you value in the hope of getting something of even greater value. Gambling can stimulate the brain's reward system much like drugs or alcohol can, leading to addiction. Compulsive gambling is a serious condition that can destroy lives. I have young adults in my household, and I do not want them exposed to this.

Regards

From: Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@Barnet.gov.uk>

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 2:12 PM

To XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Cc: Wonga, Tatiana <Tatiana.Wonga@Barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Premises PREMISES LICENCE - Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley, N3

Good afternoon

In order for us to consider your comments as a valid representation, we kindly request that you provide further details explaining how the proposed variation may impact the objectives outlined in the Gambling Act 2005, specifically:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime.
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Please provide a clear explanation of your concerns in relation to these objectives so that we can properly consider your representation.

Additionally, we need your full address as stated in the gambling act 2005 to be considered as valid representation.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any further questions or require any additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Please note that the last date of representation is the 8th June

Kind regards,

Zekiel Cudjoe

Licensing Officer

Regulatory Services

Assurance Group

London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, London, NW9 4EW

0208 359 3110

From: Jane Prior <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>

Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 10:51 AM

To: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: Premises PREMISES LICENCE - Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley, N3

To whom it may concern

We strongly oppose the extension of opening hours for the above premises by Felix Faulkner on behalf of Merkur Slots UK Limited.

We see no advantage to anyone with the extension of hours and believe limiting the hours is still in the best interests of the residents and those choosing to visit.

The entire community opposed the licensing of this facility in 2019 and yet the council still approved it later in 2021, all be it with conditions of opening.

We strongly oppose this application to extend the hours and hope you will see fit to reject this new application

Regards

Jane & Neil Prior

Mr Tim Fearn's Representation

From: donotreply.publicaccess@barnet.gov.uk <donotreply.publicaccess@barnet.gov.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 2:28 PM

To: Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@Barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: Comments for Licensing Application GABNG1/23/68648

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Licensing Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 07/06/2023 2:28 PM from Mr Tim Fearn.

Application Summary

Address: 48 Ballards Lane London N3 2BX

Proposal: Gambling Bingo Licence

Case Officer: Zekiel Cudjoe

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Name: Mr Tim Fearn

Email: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Address: XXX Etchingham Park Road, London N3 XXX

Comments Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Reasons for comment:
- Crime and Safety
- Nuisance
- Public Safety

Comments: 07/06/2023 2:28 PM The original planning application for this establishment was allowed on appeal with specific conditions attached to it with regard to the public opening hours of the business. The appeal conditions restricted the opening hours to 07:00hrs to 00:00hrs each day in order to minimise the potential noise impacts on neighbouring residents. Granting a 24 hour licence to the business would not only breach the planning conditions, but would represent an unwelcome and unnecessary nuisance to residents of adjacent and nearby properties by introducing night-time uses to a high street which is otherwise free of late night opening venues. Extending the licensing of a gambling operation into the night also brings with it the potential for an increase in crime, as patrons leaving the venue in the hours of darkness may become the target of criminals, and this has consequential effects for public safety in the wider area by increasing risk for those passing the establishment late at night.

Kind Regards

Simon Wan's Representation

From: Simon Wan <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>
Sent: Sunday, May 28, 2023 6:44 PM
To: Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@Barnet.gov.uk>
Cc: Wonga, Tatiana <Tatiana.Wonga@Barnet.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: GABNG1/23/68648 Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Land, Finchley N3

Thank you. The address is XX Hervey Close, N3 XXX

On Mon, 22 May 2023 at 14:09, Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@barnet.gov.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your prompt response regarding the application for Merkur Cashino located at [48 Ballards](#) Lane, London.

To ensure that we can accept your comments as a valid representation, we kindly request that you provide us with your full address as needed stated in the gambling act 2005.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter, and if you have any further questions or require any additional information, please feel free to reach out to me.

Please note that the last date of representation is the 8th of June 2023

Kind regards,

Zekiel Cudjoe
Licensing Officer
Regulatory Services
Assurance Group
[London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue](#), Colindale, London, NW9 4EW
0208 359 3110
From: Simon Wan <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX >
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 8:57 PM

To: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>
Subject: GABNG1/23/68648 Merkur Slots, [48 Ballards](#) Land, Finchley N3

To the Barnet Licensing Authority,

I am writing to comment on the application (GABNG1/23/68648) of Merkur Slots to expand its operating hours. I strongly object to the application:

1. Antisocial behaviour in night time hours in a dense residential area

We already have a significant problem with antisocial behaviour in the otherwise quiet residential streets adjacent to the premises. Drug dealing, loitering, littering are issues at the top of Redbourne Avenue and Hervey Close. Having these premises open beyond midnight would just extend the hours during which this behaviour persists. It is becoming unsafe for local residents to walk the

streets at this these times, including coming home from shiftwork. Due to police cuts, the policing presence is inadequate in the area to deal with additional antisocial behaviour.

2. Illegal parking on residential streets

Related to the above, we already have a problem with illegal parking at the top of Redbourne Avenue and Hervey Close along double and single yellow lines by people frequenting the businesses along Ballards Lane, including these particular premises.

3. No business need to operate beyond midnight

There is no business need at all for Merkur Slots to operate beyond midnight. The premises are already open 15 hours a day, 7 days a week. Anyone who wants to frequent the business has ample opportunity to do so in these 15 hours of the day without bothering local residents the remaining 9.

Sincerely,

Simon Wan (resident Hervey Close)

David Fox's Representation

From: Fox, David XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 12:47 PM
To: Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@Barnet.gov.uk>
Cc: Wonga, Tatiana <Tatiana.Wonga@Barnet.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley N3 2BX

XXX Etchingham Park Road, Finchley N3 XXX

Sent from my iPhone

On 22 May 2023, at 12:41, Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@barnet.gov.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your prompt response regarding the application for Merkur Cashino located at 48 Ballards Lane, London.

To ensure that we can accept your comments as a valid representation, we kindly request that you provide us with your full address.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter, and if you have any further questions or require any additional information, please feel free to reach out to us.

Kind regards,

Zekiel Cudjoe

Licensing Officer

Regulatory Services

Assurance Group

London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, London, NW9 4EW

0208 359 3110

From: Fox, David <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX >
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 10:21 AM
To: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>
Subject: Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley N3 2BX

I am writing to express my objection to the above application in the strongest of terms. Aside from the questionable ethics of the pernicious effects of gambling addiction on society, as witnessed by the ruling on fixed odds betting, there are no community benefits to allowing 24 hour gambling.

A very simple search on the internet demonstrates that Merkur Slots are pursuing this strategy across the country and meeting local, police and council resistance at every turn. Whatever benefits Merkur Slots will seek to demonstrate in respect of job creation will be vastly outweighed by the negative effect of yet another gambling establishment on Ballards Lane which targets lower income groups already under pressure in a cost of living crisis. Allied to this is the potential for increases in anti-social behaviour in an area already blighted with drug dealing gangs, drunken behaviour, urination and defaecation in the streets immediately adjacent to residential streets.

Please do not consent to this which will create a dubious precedent in Barnet and across other London Boroughs.

David Fox

David Fox

Co-Head of Retail Agency

Direct + XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX | Mobile XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX |

Main + XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Rosie Walsh's Representation

From: Rosie Walsh XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>

Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 8:24 AM

To: Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@Barnet.gov.uk>

Cc: Garner, Nina <Nina.Garner@Barnet.gov.uk>; LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Objection to Merkur's application to extend opening hours of Merkur Slots 48 Ballards Lane N3 2BX

Hi,

My full address is XX Redbourne Avenue, london, N3 XXX

Thank you,

Rosie

Sent from my iPhone

On 1 Jun 2023, at 16:39, Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@barnet.gov.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your prompt response regarding the application for Merkur Cashino located at [48 Ballards](#) Lane, London.

To ensure that we can accept your comments as a valid representation, we kindly request that you provide us with your full address as needed stated in the gambling act 2005.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter, and if you have any further questions or require any additional information, please feel free to reach out to me.

Please note that the last date of representation is the 8th of June 2023

Kind regards,

Zekiel Cudjoe

Licensing Officer

Regulatory Services

Assurance Group

London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, London, NW9 4EW

0208 359 3110

<image002.jpg>

From: Rosie Walsh XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 12:53 PM

To: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to Merkur's application to extend opening hours of Merkur Slots 48 Ballards Lane N3 2BX

Dear Sir or Madam

Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley, London, N3 2BX.

I am writing to object to Merkur's application to remove the default hours for 'bingo' as stated in 16c of the application, thus extending their opening hours.

It is still unbelievable to me that Merkur was ever granted a licence to set up and operate a shop in a residential road with families and young children.

To extend the hours will increase the likelihood of crime, noise and of people hanging about and intimidating residents late at night.

We already have youths sitting on the steps at the top of Redbourne Avenue sniffing Nitrous Oxide and leaving their empty canisters around.

We need to protect children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

These gambling venues are a damaging blight on our society, whose role is to facilitate the gambling addiction of vulnerable people causing financial and emotional damage.

Please acknowledge my objection to the application.

Rosie Walsh

Jean St Clair'S Representation

From: Jean St Clair <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX >

Subject: **Objection**

Date: 14 May 2023 at 21:36:13 BST

To: licensingadmin@barnet.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam,

Markur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley, London, N3 2BX.

I wish to object to Merkur's application to remove the default hours for bingo as stated in 16c of the application.

It was bad enough that they were granted a licence to set up and operate a shop in a road linking to a residential road with families and young children.

To extend the hours will increase the source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime.

We need to protect children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

These kind of shops are a damaging blight on our society, whose simple role is to facilitate an addiction to the detriment of the addicted participants, causing financial and emotional damage.

Best wishes,

Jean St Clair

X Premier Lodge X Redbourne Ave Finchley London N3 XXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Kerry Jacobs's Representation

From: Kerry Jacobs XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 5:29 PM

To: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: GABNG1/23/68648 - Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane, London, N3 2BX

To The Licensing Admin Team,

We have noted that Merkur Slots have made an application to remove the default hours for bingo and to remove license condition 1 limiting the hours of operation.

The shop is at the top of our road, Redbourne Avenue, which is a residential road filled with families and young children. We object to the hours being extended. Merkur Slots are already open until late in the evening.

To extend the hours will increase footfall and traffic around our street late into the night. We already have issues with the local pub and late night revellers, this doesn't need to be extended by a gambling establishment allowing for even later hours.

The area around Ballards lane is already under a Public spaces protection order (PSPO) as there is nuisance and problems in the area, detrimental to the local community's quality of life. We are concerned that longer hours will just provide people another place to hang out at and cause further nuisance to the local residents.

Kind thanks

Kerry & Ilan Jacobs

XX Redbourne Avenue, N3 XXX

Colin Platt's Representations

From: Colin Platt <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>

Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 6:04 PM

To: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: objection to change in licensing hours Merkur Slots

To whom it may concern,

I noticed that Merkur Slots in Finchley Central, has applied to change its licensing hours so it can operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You might remember that in 2019, the entire community opposed the licensing of this facility and it was consequently rejected by the council. Despite this, in 2021, the Home Office planning inspectorate approved it on appeal albeit with conditions imposed on its hours of operation.

I would like to register my objection to any extension of licensing hours for this already controversial facility and ask that the conditions imposed by the Home Office planning inspectorate are adhered to.

Yours

Colin Platt
XX Park Avenue
N3 XXX

Neal Hooper's Representation

From: Neal Hooper <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX >

Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 7:52 PM

To: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>; Mo Halloran <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX >

Subject: Merkur slots, 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley N3 2BX

**** Warning External Email ****

Dear Sir/Madam

My wife and I both register our objections to the proposed application, in the strongest terms, on the following basis/s:

Protection of children from harm and to a lesser extent public 'safety': Gambling is misery. We know that directly and indirectly it leads to (child) poverty and domestic violence. I have heard first hand accounts of children who have grown up without sufficient clothes or food due to gambling addiction of - usually - the father. I appreciate that one can now gamble on-line 24/7 but a) we need to address this, not simply think that 24/7 gambling in person must therefore be ok too. It is not a race to the bottom. And b) an adult who is out in the middle of the night gambling is not at home looking after his family.

Crime and Disorder: It must be right that there is potential for this to increase. There is no plausible basis on which it will lead to any decrease. We know that crime is committed to fund gambling habits. We also know that petty crime can increase in the vicinity of gambling establishments. It is quite possible that women, for example, will be more exposed to increased violence and crime when walking home alone late at night along Ballards Lane as it leads directly to and from Finchley tube station. Merkur open 24/7 will contribute to a more generally threatening and edgy atmosphere and will deter people who might otherwise keep it a safer place from being there.

More generally but still under the umbrella of the 4 general licensing objectives. This establishment exists purely to make a private owner richer. There is no other benefit. It hardly employs anyone and brings no discernible benefits to the wider community, only significant downsides. It can in fact only make the 4 licensing objectives harder to meet!! The only possible, remotely advantageous effect I can think of is that it may provide a doorway and respite for someone looking for safety, for example following a street-incident. But when my wife and I went to look in Merkur when it first opened (to our dismay), there was one young employee in there, who barely spoke English and couldn't have been more disinterested in us if he'd tried. So if you genuinely want to make decent, sensible decisions for the betterment of communities there is absolutely no justifiable basis whatsoever on which to grant this application.

Neal and Mo Hooper
XXX Etchingham Park Road
N3 XXX

Glenn Cleaver's Representation

Glenn Cleaver, Annette Lyen & Ellie Cleaver-Lyen
Bourne House
X Redbourne Avenue
Finchley, London N3 XXX
Tel: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Barnet Licensing Administration
Licensing Team
2 Bristol Avenue
Colindale
London
NW9 4EW By Email to: licensingadmin@barnet.gov.uk
Reference: GABNG1/23/68648 5 June 2023

Dear Sirs

Change (Variation) to Licence – Mercur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane, London N3 2BJ
With reference to the above application, we would like you to note our objections for the following reasons: -

Disturbance to Local Residents

The original planning application to convert the Nat West Bank building into an Adult Gaming centre was originally rejected (later approved on Appeal with Conditions) due to the likely disturbance to residents.

There are a number of establishments on Ballards Lane that have late licences until 2am on Friday and Saturday nights, which means that customers often park in Redbourne Avenue and surrounding roads and cause significant disturbance in the early hours when they return to their cars. Before leaving the area they regularly stand and talk by their cars or have a cigarette and this causes significant disturbance to the residents when they are trying to sleep.

Mercur boast in their brochure that they offer a 24-hour service particularly for their customers who are shift workers. Consequently, if the license hours are extended, as is being requested, due to the location of the building adjacent to Redbourne Avenue (on the corner of), it is obvious that anyone driving to the establishment will park in Redbourne Avenue and this will further add to the disturbance caused to the neighbours, not only at weekends but also during weekdays.

In addition, regulations do not allow smoking within the premises so anyone wishing to have a cigarette will go outside and congregate adjacent to the building on Redbourne Avenue or they will go to the area behind the building. Again, this will cause disturbance to the residents and discarded cigarettes will litter our road. On many occasions we have seen employees of Mercur Slots having a smoke along the side of the building on Redbourne Avenue. A lone smoker is not an issue, but disturbance will be caused to the residents if this is done by a group of their clients, especially if they come to Mercur Slots from a local bar.

Ballards Lane, where Mercur Slots is located, is under a Public Spaces Protection Order due to nuisance and problems in the area, detrimental to the local community's quality of life. Extending the license to 24 hours will be detrimental to the quality of life, particularly the residents of Redbourne Avenue.

Inappropriate Establishment for Residential Area

Redbourne Avenue is a residential road with young families with children of school age. Although legal, gambling is not something that should be encouraged or promoted by Local Authorities as it can lead to damaging addiction and financial difficulties. It is often those who can ill afford to gamble who regularly frequent betting offices, casinos and gaming centres.

There is not a local need for a 24-hour service at Mercur Slots. The Mercur Slots in North Finchley, less than 2 miles away, has extended opening until 2am. Mercur Slots in Cricklewood, less than 5 miles away offers 24-hour gambling! Anyone wishing to gamble beyond midnight can easily do so in North Finchley or in Cricklewood.

Ballards Lane already has five betting shops, all of which have gaming machines. In our opinion, this is already too many for a relatively short high street such as Ballards Lane and whilst we accept that betting is legal in the UK, a gaming centre offering 24-hour access seven days a week, should not be encouraged.

Parking

Throughout the day residents of Redbourne Avenue have considerable difficulty parking in their own road due to vehicles being parked on the road by people working in offices and shops along the high street or using the restaurants and bars at night. It is unrealistic to believe that customers at 48 Ballards Lane will not drive to the area at various hours throughout the night and this will mean additional parking demand on our road and surrounding roads.

A 24-hour operation will mean additional cars parking in Redbourne Avenue during the early hours of the morning and causing a disturbance to local residents.

For all the above reasons, we ask that Change (Variation) to the license is rejected.

Yours faithfully

Glenn J Cleaver CEng MICE & Annette Lye

Cllr Ross Houston's Representation

From: Houston, Cllr Ross <Cllr.R.Houston@barnet.gov.uk>

Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 7:03 PM

To: Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@Barnet.gov.uk>

Cc: Rich, Cllr Danny <Cllr.D.Rich@Barnet.gov.uk>; McGuirk, Cllr Kathy <Cllr.K.McGuirk@barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Variation of Bingo Premises Licence, Application - Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane, Finchley N3 2BX

Please use this version:

Hi Zekiel

I would like to object to the proposal, and ask that a ward councillor is able to speak on this.

The hours applied for are completely inappropriate in a residential area characterised by family accommodation.

We have experienced increasing levels of anti social behaviour in the local area and having a gambling premises open all hours is not going to help. This is a concern to the local Safer Neighbourhood Panel.

The neighbouring roads are quiet and residential and I do not think we should be encouraging people to be using a facility at all hours.

This area is an one where a lot of schoolchildren pass through. I am concerned about the message that allowing the town centre to become a 24/7 gambling area will send out. I am also concerned that a late night/all hours facility will attract young people as there are no other late night/all night facilities in the local area. This will be the only place to 'hang out' and potentially encourage young people into gambling. I am also concerned by the recent rise in gang activity locally.

Many thanks

Cllr Ross Houston

Sara Gilbert's Representation

From: Caroline Walsh <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:22 PM
To: Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@Barnet.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Please : Object to planning application // GABNG1/20/63022

Sara Gilbert
xx Cyprus Rd
Finchley
N3 XXX

On 17 Aug 2020, at 13:06, Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@barnet.gov.uk> wrote:

good Afternoon,

Thank you for you comments,

In order to validate your Representation,

Please can you provide your Full name and Address.

Kind regards

Zekiel Cudjoe
Licensing Officer
Commercial Premises
London Borough of Barnet
8th Floor
2 Bristol Avenue
Colindale
London
NW9 4EW
0208 359 3110

RE (Regional Enterprise) Limited is a joint venture between Capita plc and London Borough of Barnet.
Registered in England 08615172. Registered Office: 17 Rochester Row, London, England SW1P 1QT.

From: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 August 2020 10:13
To: Caroline Walsh <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX & XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>
Subject: RE: Please : Object to planning application // GABNG1/20/63022

Dear Sara Gilbert,

Thank you for your email.

We have passed your email across to the appropriate officer to look into this matter and advise you accordingly.

Regards,

Licensing Team

Customer Service Advisor for Re

Address: 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

Email: LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk

Work: 0208 359 7995

Website: www.capita.co.uk/property

www.re-ltd.co.uk

<image001.png>

Re (Regional Enterprise) Ltd is a joint venture between Capita plc and The London Borough of Barnet. Registered Office: 17 Rochester Row, London, England SW1P 1QT. Registered in England 08615172.

Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email?

RESTRICTED

The information in this e-mail and any attachments is confidential and may be subject to legal professional privilege. Unless you are the intended recipient or his/her representative you are not authorised to, and must not, read, copy, distribute, use or retain this message or any part of it. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately.

From: Caroline Walsh <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX >

Sent: 12 August 2020 17:15

To: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Please : Object to planning application

Thank you Sara for your very articulate objection. I forwarded this on so I hope they accept it.
Caroline x

On 12 Aug 2020, at 17:13, Caroline Walsh <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX > wrote:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sara Gilbert <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX >

Date: 12 August 2020 at 16:07:37 BST

To: Caroline Walsh <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX >

Subject: Re: Please : Object to planning application

Hi Caroline

I sent this

I oppose this development on several counts:

The area is already very busy with through traffic at all times of day and night and the additional traffic and parking needs of visitors to the facility will increase congestion

Increased noise for people living nearby

Gambling is an addictive habit and we should not be making this available to people on a 24 hour basis especially when we already have betting shops on the street and this is a time of inevitable recession and financial hardship.

Gambling is detrimental to the mental health of many people, young and old and we should not be making it easier to access especially in an area where there is no other entertainment. (cinemas/theatres/clubs).

The availability of late night stores and pubs selling alcohol in the vicinity in combination with this venue is a toxic mix for people who are vulnerable by virtue of low or reduced income, or mental health problems, both of which are likely to rise at the moment at a time of reducing employment and increased housing difficulties.

There are already several homeless people living in the area and this would be a tempting place for people to spend many hours when there is no other place to go, no other local entertainment, spending money that they do not have.

If indeed this development is sold as healthy "family entertainment" then it would be more appropriately sited with the swimming pool and restaurants at the Lido on the High Road Finchley than in a residential and shopping street.

The one advantage of such a development may be that the rates imposed by council would bring in much needed cash to the area but this will be far outweighed by the negative aspects, the casualties of such a business and the resulting costs (policing, social care, damage limitation of various sorts) that the council and other local services will be forced to pick up. There can be no other reason for such a development, and I would question the moral stance of the council should they agree to it.

However I had an immediate reply saying they couldn't email it to whoever they were supposed to send it and they couldn't email me and that they had truncated my response (cant understand why to any of these but anyway I did my best!!

Sara

Saz Cameron's Representation

From: Saz Cameron <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 12:23 PM
To: Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@Barnet.gov.uk>
Cc: Wonga, Tatiana <Tatiana.Wonga@Barnet.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: objection to licence application GABNG1/23/68648

**** Warning External Email ****

Thanks – my address is XX Redbourne Avenue, London, N3 XX
On electoral roll I am listed as Sara House.
Thanks
Sara

From: Cudjoe, Zekiel <Zekiel.Cudjoe@Barnet.gov.uk>
Date: Monday, 22 May 2023 at 12:11
To: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Cc: Wonga, Tatiana <Tatiana.Wonga@Barnet.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: objection to licence application GABNG1/23/68648

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your prompt response regarding the application for Merkur Cashino located at 48 Ballards Lane, London.

To ensure that we can accept your comments as a valid representation, we kindly request that you provide us with your full address.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter, and if you have any further questions or require any additional information, please feel free to reach out to us.

Kind regards,
Zekiel Cudjoe
Licensing Officer
Regulatory Services
Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, London, NW9 4EW
0208 359 3110

From: Saz Cameron <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 4:33 PM
To: LicensingAdmin <LicensingAdmin@barnet.gov.uk>
Subject: objection to licence application GABNG1/23/68648

You don't often get email

**** Warning External Email ****

Dear Sir or Madam

I wish to object in the strongest terms to Merkur's application to remove the default hours for bingo as stated in 16c of the application.

Myself and over 600 local residents objected to the original application and much to our disgust and anger, Merkur were granted a licence. I remember from the initial application they originally applied to operate 24 hours a day, but then withdrew these operating hours, to appear to appease the uproar from local residents. This new application for extension of hours just shows what Merkur's plan was all along.

These kinds of shops are damaging to the future of our highstreet and extremely damaging to vulnerable members of the public who might be dealing with gambling or alcohol addiction. This is just exploitative. Nobody needs to go and play bingo in the middle of the night on the Highstreet! This facility already exists at Merkur in North Finchley – again shameful that it was allowed to happen in the first place.

Sara House

Matters for Decision

MATTERS FOR DECISION

Merkur Slots, 48 Ballards Lane Finchley London N3 2BX

Hours premises are open to the public are not restricted under the Gambling act 2005.

Standard Days and Timings

Day	Proposed start time	Proposed finish time	Granted as application	Amended to:	Refused
Monday	09:00	24:00			
Tuesday	09:00	24:00			
Wednesday	09:00	24:00			
Thursday	09:00	24:00			
Friday	09:00	24:00			
Saturday	09:00	24:00			
Sunday	09:00	24:00			

Added conditions, if any:

Reasons for decisions above:

