

From: noreplyweb@wolverhampton.gov.uk on behalf of City Of Wolverhampton Council
<noreplyweb@wolverhampton.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 September 2019 10:15
To: Licensing
Subject: Public Notice Objection received

Your details

Name

Customer name
Ms Helen Lewis

Address

Customer address

[REDACTED]

Premises details

Name/Address of premises
B&M Retail Limited - Store in the Mander Centre

Objection details

Reason for objection

Prevention of crime and disorder, Prevention of public nuisance, Protection of children from harm, Public safety

Further details

I object to this proposal on the grounds that it breaches all four of the objectives set out in licensing guidance.

I ask that the Council undertakes a full Cumulative Impact Assessment before agreeing this licence as I feel sure that this will show the many negative outcomes that will follow from agreeing a licence that allows a city centre store (mostly known for household goods and some foodstuffs) to sell alcohol 7 days a week, starting at the ridiculous time of 7am.

It is hard to imagine what justification is being used by the store for the need to sell alcohol for 16 hours a day in an area already saturated with pubs.

The city centre has more than enough drinking establishments but these are at least monitored by bar staff and door staff and people can be turned away when they have had enough and get difficult. B&M store will not be able to do this - they will sell people alcohol who will then take it into the city centre and surrounds to drink it. This means the problematic behaviour is not contained and the area becomes even more unsafe for everyone, children but also women and older people and even young men who studies show are most likely to be victims of alcohol

related violence.

Children (accompanied and unaccompanied) will be using the store before and after school and at weekends and will be exposed to the sale of alcohol and seeing shelves of alcohol available in the setting of a B&M store at all hours of the day sends a harmful message to them about the acceptability of drinking around the clock and will act effectively as advertising alcohol to children. Adults will have access to alcohol they can take home or drink outside the premises (hard to police the controlled drinking zone as things stand) and this makes the town centre an even less safe place for children.

Studies have shown that drunkenness is more likely if people have access to cheap alcohol which they can drink off the premises at all hours of the day and night, seven days a week. Drunkenness is associated with increased crime, disorder and public nuisance (including peeing in public places, indecent exposure, violent and abusive behaviour, including hate crimes and domestic violence). This puts children, adults, shop workers and those passing through the city centre at more risk.

Studies have also shown that, for those who may use alcohol problematically, having access to cheap alcohol that can be consumed off the premises means they are likely to drink more often, more quickly and more in quantity. As well as the increased risk of crime and disorder, this is bad for the individuals concerned and their families and children who will be subject to harm potentially.

I have asked the Councillor for St Peter's to take forward my objections as someone who works in the city and uses the city centre at all hours of the day and night and wants to feel safe. It is often the case that drunken people make me feel unsafe as a woman in town and I fear agreeing this application will worsen a situation and it isn't needed.

Thanks



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