



Chief Officer of Police Representation in relation to an application for grant of a premise licence made under Part 3 **Section 17** Licensing Act 2003 (S18 Licensing Act 2003)

Details of person making representation	
Name of Chief Officer of Police	Chief Constable 9852 Tim Smith
Postal Address: (Divisional Headquarters)	Medway Police Station Purser Way Gillingham Kent ME7 1NE
E-mail address	licensing.north.division@kent.police.uk
Telephone Numbers:	01634 792733
Licensing Co-ordinator	PSE G. Rowley 57309
Licensing Officers	PC A. Smuts 11250
	PC C. Knight 11605
	PC M. Squires 13355
Details of premises representation is about	
Name of Premises:	B&M Retail LTD
Address of premises:	134-142 High Street Gillingham Kent ME7 1AS
Date application received by police	12 th September 2024
Date representation sent to Licensing Authority <small>All representations must be made within 28 days of receipt of initial application The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005, Part 4 Reg. 22.</small>	4 th October 2024

The Chief Officer of Police has received an application for the grant of a premises licence made under the provisions of Section 17 Licensing Act 2003, and under Section 18 of that Act, asks the Licensing Authority to consider these representations in respect of: -

Prevention of crime and disorder	X
Public Safety	X
Prevention of public nuisance	X
Protection of children from harm	X

Is this a representation regarding the Designation of Premises Supervisor under S18 (9) Licensing Act 2003? No

Please give the reason for the representation and detail the evidence supporting it:

Having considered this application, Kent Police make objections and request that a premises licence is not granted. Kent Police submit the following in support our objections:

This is a new premises licence application which if granted would allow the premises to sell alcohol on an off-sale basis Monday to Sunday from 0700 to 2300 hours. The applicant has indicated that the premises will operate as a home store selling food, electricals, homeware, furniture, DIY and gardening products and alcohol.

The premises is located on Gillingham High Street junction with King Street in a busy part of the high street surrounded by a significant number of retail outlets many of which already sell alcohol on an off-sale basis.

Gillingham High Street currently forms part of a Cumulative Impact Policy Area (CIP) and as such is recognised as a deprived area suffering with a high volume of alcohol related crime, disorder and public nuisance which affects the safety of the general public.

Associated crime, disorder, nuisance and safety issues include, but not limited to:

- Violent assaults
- Sexual abuse and offences
- Domestic abuse
- Harassment
- Street drinking, public urination and exposure
- Offences against children. (Harm to children would not be limited to physical harm, but also psychological harm.)

This area is also covered by a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), commonly known as an Alcohol Control Zone. A particular issue in this area relates to antisocial behaviour and street drinking, a concerning issue which is directly linked to off-licence premises in this area.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to research the local area when considering what measures, they propose to adopt, in order to reduce risk and to promote the licencing objectives. This application makes no mention of the area's demographic, or local initiatives and it appears that the applicant has failed to acknowledge the existence of the CIP. It is the understanding of Kent Police that there is a rebuttable presumption of refusal of the application by the Authority in all but exceptional circumstances, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the premises would not adversely affect the licensing objectives. Good conditions alone do not constitute an exceptional application.

Kent Police are concerned that the granting of another unexceptional off-licence premises in this immediate area, an area that already contains many off-licenced premises, would make alcohol even more widely available and is likely to attract further street drinkers and antisocial behaviour resulting in the associated issues worsening and becoming a greater problem.

Kent Police respectfully request that this application is refused.

Signed:	PC A. Smuts	Force no.:	11250
Print name:	Andre Smuts	Date:	04/10/2024

pp Chief Officer of Police for the policing area where the premises is situated.