



**Kent  
Police**

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

**Details of person making objection**

Name of Chief Officer of Police	CC Tim Smith
Postal Address: (Area Headquarters)	Medway Police Station Purser Way Gillingham Kent
E-mail address	mark.squires@kent.police.uk
Telephone Number:	01634 792276

**Details of premises representation is about**

Name of Premises:	Tesco Express
Address of premises:	Unit 1 Pullman House 90 Corporation Street Rochester
Date application received by police	26/11/2024
Date representation sent to Licensing Authority	19/12/2024
<p><i>Must be within 28 days of receipt –</i> The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005, Part 4 Reg. 22.</p>	

**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: -**

*Please tick one or more of the licensing objectives that the representation relates to:*

Prevention of crime and disorder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prevention of public nuisance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Protection of children from harm	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

If yes, complete the following statement: -

The relevant representation within the meaning of S.18(6) of the Licensing Act satisfy the requirements of S.18(9) of that Act and are as follows:

Due to the exceptional circumstances of this case, I am satisfied that the designation of the person concerned as the premises supervisor under the premises licence would undermine the crime prevention objective because ....

N/a

*Please use separate sheets where necessary*

The relevant representations within the meaning of S.18(6) of the Licensing Act satisfy the requirements of S.18(7) of that Act and are as follows:

**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 information to support our objections:

Please see attached document.

*Please use separate sheets where necessary*

**Suggested conditions that could be added to the licence to remedy the representation or other suggestions the Licensing Sub Committee may take into account:**

*Please use separate sheets where necessary. Consider s106 Licensing Act 2003.*

As per Licensing Subcommittee's consideration.

Reason for Representation:

[Empty box for Reason for Representation]

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>  
December 2024

Print name: Mark Squires

Force Number: 13355

pp Chief Officer of Police for the Police Area in which the licensed premises are situated

Representation may be made at any time during the 28 consecutive days starting on the day after the day on which the application to which it relates was given to the authority by the applicant. Please return this form along with any additional sheets to the Licensing Authority. This form must be returned within the Statutory Period.

This is a new premises licence application for a convenience store, which if granted would allow the premises to operate and sell alcohol on an off-sale basis Monday to Sunday from 0600 to 0000 hours.

The premises is located near the centre of Rochester High Street next to Rochester train station. There is a nearby Co-Op, an area in which is associated with street drinkers and anti-social behaviour in the past and is a regular location targeted by shoplifters.

Rochester High Street and surrounding areas currently forms part of a Cumulative Impact Policy Area (CIP) and the area suffers with a high volume of alcohol related crime, disorder and public nuisance. It is also covered by a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). A particular issue in this area relates to antisocial behaviour and street drinking, a concerning issue which can be directly linked to off-licence premises within this area. Rochester High Street is a busy town centre, with a significant number of retail outlets many of which already sell alcohol on an off-sale basis. There is also a big problem with the local homeless community begging on the High Street to feed their alcohol addiction.

Kent Police are concerned that the granting of another off-licence in this immediate area would make alcohol even more widely available and is likely to attract further street drinkers and antisocial behaviour resulting in issues worsening and becoming a greater problem. The selling of alcohol to street drinkers would be considered a failure to promote the licensing objectives of preventing crime and disorder and preventing public nuisance.

Other causal links to off licenses include:

Violent assaults, verbal and physical abuse, sexual offences and harassment, domestic abuse, drink driving, public disturbances, public decency, urination, litter, noise and harm towards the vulnerable and children.

Rochester town centre is patrolled by a dedicated town centre policing team. This application has been brought to the attention of these officers who are in support of the view that another application should not be granted. Tackling street drinking and antisocial behaviour in this area remains a priority and alcohol confiscations and seizures from persons consuming alcohol within this CIP and PSPO area continue to occur on a regular basis.

The application does not acknowledge that the premise falls within a CIP area and a stress area and is a general application not specific to Rochester and this location and makes no mention of how it will deal with the local issues. Although this is a well-run countrywide company with a good reputation one application does not fit every location across the country. We would expect a company of this size to acknowledge the existence of the CIP and demonstrate what measures they will be putting in place to alleviate the problems.

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 add to, nor impact on the cumulative impact of the area. Kent Police do not believe that the proposed conditions offered within

this application demonstrate exceptional circumstances so request that this application is rejected.