



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 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:	
Licensing Co-ordinator	Geoff Rowley 01634 792733
Licensing Officers	PC Smuts 11250 PC Knight 11605
Details of premises representation is about	
Name of Premises:	Best Food Centre
Address of premises:	15-19 New Road Chatham ME4 4QJ
Date application received by police	7 th April 2025
Date representation sent to Licensing Authority	1 st May 2025
<p>All representations must be made within 28 days of receipt of initial application</p> <p><i>The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005. Part 4 Reg. 22.</i></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: -

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

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 under the appropriate headings:

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:

This is a new premises licence application which if granted would allow the premises to sell alcohol on an off-sale basis, daily between 0800 and midnight, seven days a week.

The premises is located on New Road Chatham, approximately 100 meters east of Gibraltar Hill Service Station. This road comprises predominantly of residential, terraced houses on either side.

This area of Chatham forms part of a Cumulative Impact Policy area (CIP) and suffers with a high volume of alcohol related crime, disorder, public nuisance and domestic violence. It is also covered by a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), colloquially known as an Alcohol Control Zone. As such it is incumbent upon an applicant to research the local area when considering what measures they propose to adopt to reduce risk and promote the licencing objectives.

This application makes no mention of the area's demographic, or local initiatives and has failed to acknowledge the existence of the CIP. (Details of the CIP are readily available and accessible online within the Medway Council Statement of Licensing Policy.) It also appears that the applicant has failed to identify or to address how it will assist in dealing with issues such as street drinking or to the other issues identified within the CIP.

As documented within Medway Authority Statement of Licencing Policy about this specific area within Medway, Kent Police, responsible authorities, local businesses and Chatham residents have evidenced and linked alcohol related crime, disorder and nuisance with alcohol misuse in part, to issues of street drinking and as well as other, more hidden alcohol related harms, such as domestic abuse and health harms. For these agreed issues, Medway Authority, as well as police are concerned with the cumulative effect of yet another run of the mill off licence premises within this CIP area. Where its discretion is engaged the Authority regards the prevention of public nuisance, crime and disorder to residents as a material consideration in any application. Applications within a CIP area are to be measured against a higher threshold.

Due to 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. Kent Police believe the proposed conditions offered by the applicant fall far short of demonstrating exceptional circumstances. Kent Police are of the opinion that there are no meaningful conditions that can be added to this licence that will ensure that the four licensing objectives are being fully promoted and would ensure that the issues already experienced within this CIP area would not be exacerbated.

Kent Police respectfully request that this application be refused.

PC 11250 Andre Smuts, on behalf of:
D/Chief Insp. Gary Cook

Date: 1st May 2025

North Division Area Commander