



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
E-mail address	licensing.north.division@kent.police.uk or
Telephone Number:	01634 792733 - Licensing co-ordinator - Geoff Rowley Licensing officers - PC SMUTS 11250 PC HUNT 11044

Details of premises representation is about

Name of Premises:	Gepetos
Address of premises:	42 High Street Chatham Kent ME4 4DS
Date application received by police	11/12/2025 @ 0926
Date representation sent to Licensing Authority	19/12/2025
<p><i>Must be within 28 days of receipt –</i> <small>The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005. Part 4 Reg. 22.</small></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 checked="" 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 assessed the application for a new premises licence for Gepetos, 42 High Street Chatham Kent ME4 4DS. Kent Police make representations against and request that the licence is not granted.

Please see additional word document detailing representations

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.

Signed: _____ Date: 19/12/2025

Print name: PC Carrie KNIGHT Force Number: 11605
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.

Representations regarding new premises licence for Gepetos 42 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4DS -

Kent Police have been asked to assess a new premises licence application for Gepetos, 42 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4DS. The documentation provided consists of an application, a plan of the premises, and a DPS consent form. The application was submitted to Kent police on Thursday, 11 December 2025, with a closing date for representations of 8 January 2026. From assessing the provided documentation, Kent Police make formal representations against the application and request that it is not granted for the following reasons.

The application states the premises will operate as a general store for groceries and alcohol. The opening times have been provided as 06:00 to 23:00 hours, with the supply of alcohol between 09:00 and 23:00 hours.

Gepetos is located along Chatham High Street, a road which runs from the main High Street into Rochester town centre. Less than five minutes from the premises is the Pentagon Shopping Centre and Chatham bus station, the main transport hub for the Medway towns. The premises is within a short walk of the main Chatham High Street and is surrounded by a mix of retail premises, convenience stores, restaurants, and bars.

The site falls within an area of Chatham that is subject to Medway's Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) and has a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) — previously known as alcohol-controlled zones — which restricts the drinking of alcohol in designated public areas. The information for this is outlined in Medway Council's cumulative impact and stress area policy, which was last reviewed in 2024 and expires in 2027, meaning it is relevant to the area.

The CIA identifies Chatham as being one of the most deprived areas of Medway, suffering an unacceptably high rate of alcohol-related crime, disorder, and public nuisance. This includes hidden harm such as domestic abuse offences, anti-social behaviour and nuisance, environmental degradation such as littering, public urination and defecation, street drinking, and drug misuse. Specific locations within the CIA that have been identified as hotspots for activity include High Street, the Pentagon Shopping Centre, Best Street, New Road, and The Brook.

The proposed Gepetos store is located west of the mapped area of the CIA, near the corner of Hammond Hill, placing it in a zone already under considerable pressure from alcohol-related issues.

Given the nature of the location and the concerns highlighted within the CIA/PSPO areas, it is incumbent upon the applicant to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the local area and to address concerns associated with it. This includes conducting appropriate research into the area's challenges and considering how their proposed operation may impact the existing environment. It is the applicant's responsibility to propose robust and proactive measures — through enforceable conditions and operational practices — that will effectively mitigate risk and uphold the licensing objectives, particularly in relation to the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, and the prevention of public nuisance.

The application has been assessed and no mention of the premises falling within the CIA has been noted. When addressing concerns surrounding the licensing objectives, the application simply describes in general terms that they will have CCTV in force, Challenge 25 in operation, a

refusals book, and an incident log. Under their explanation relating to the prevention of crime and disorder, the applicant states CCTV and Challenge 25; under public safety they have indicated CCTV and not serving drunks; under prevention of public nuisance they have stated there will be signage asking patrons to leave quietly; and under the protection of children from harm they state CCTV and Challenge 25.

The applicant's reliance on CCTV, Challenge 25, and basic logs is minimal compliance only. These measures do not adequately address the heightened risks of crime, disorder, nuisance, and safeguarding in Chatham's Cumulative Impact Area.

Providing a more tailored set of conditions would be beneficial because it ensures that the specific risks associated with the premises and its location within the CIA are properly addressed, rather than relying on generic measures that only demonstrate minimal compliance. Conditions such as staff training in conflict management, the use of door supervisors, a dispersal policy to reduce late-night nuisance, and noise control measures directly target the concerns of crime, disorder, and public nuisance that are heightened in this busy town centre environment. By adopting bespoke safeguards that go beyond CCTV and record-keeping, the premises can demonstrate a proactive commitment to upholding the licensing objectives and mitigating the cumulative impact of additional licensed activity in an already sensitive area. In the view of Kent Police, the applicant has failed to address concerns and has not provided conditions which mitigate such risks.

The Licensing Authority must consider the potential cumulative impact of granting additional licences in areas already identified as being under stress. Areas which have been recommended as adding positively to the area are establishments such as family-friendly venues, restaurants, community venues, and other leisure businesses where the sale of alcohol is ancillary to the main activity.

Additionally, the premises falls within Chatham Grip Hotspot (a home office funded scheme), as an area identified with persistently high levels of serious violence and related crime. These areas receive **targeted, Home Office-funded hotspot policing**, meaning officers are deployed frequently and visibly to reduce violence, deter offending, and protect the public. The fact that this location has been formally identified as being within a Grip hotspot indicates a **heightened level of risk and vulnerability in the immediate vicinity**. Any application for a licence in such an area must therefore be considered with caution, ensuring that no additional activity is permitted that could undermine public safety, increase crime and disorder, or place further strain on policing resources

Kent Police are of the opinion that the application has not demonstrated understanding of the area or provided reasonable conditions which will alleviate such concerns. It is felt that by granting such licence would exacerbate issues being experienced within the CIA and do not promote the licensing objectives. Kent Police respectfully request that this application be refused.