

Dear Haringey Licensing Committee,

Re: Game Nation, 450-454 Tottenham High Road, N17 9JD

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proliferation of Adult Gaming Centres, in particular to the proposed opening of a 24-hour gambling outlet on 450-454 High Road, N17 9JD.

I am deeply concerned that granting of a 24-hour license for this premises will increase the risk of gambling-induced crime, both opportunist and organised.

There are a high number of vulnerable adults in the area, due to the location of local hostels, a high concentration of HMOs, and this being the most impoverished area in Tottenham. The area is also over-represented for men aged 18-35, the demographic most at risk of suffering from gambling addiction. A 24-hour establishment would offer a non-stop opportunity for addicts to gamble and make it even more of a challenge for them to overcome addiction.

There are too many betting shops and adult gaming centres (AGCs) in Haringey. 57 of the 64 establishments are located east of the railway tracks, and 20% are on Tottenham High Road alone. The granting of a 24-hour license for this premises would pose a considerable threat to community safety, and the wellbeing of my constituents.

I would appreciate it if you could consider the concerns expressed here and provide me with a response which outlines the council's plans regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully,

David

Rt Hon. David Lammy
Member of Parliament for Tottenham

From: Cllr Gordon Ruth <Ruth.Gordon@haringey.gov.uk>

Sent: 30 May 2022 23:31

To: Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@haringey.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to Game Nation's application to extend opening hours of outlet at 250-254 High Road, Tottenham

For the attention of the licensing committee.

I would like to lodge my objection to the application from Game Nation to lift the current hours of operation at its outlet at 250-254 High Road, Tottenham, N17. The current restrictions allow for opening hours from 9am until midnight on Monday to Saturday and until 11pm on Sundays. Lifting the restriction would therefore allow for 24-hour opening at the venue.

My objections are on the following grounds:

Under the Gambling Act 2005 the licence holder must share the objectives for the prevention of gambling as a source of crime and disorder, for being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime. The applicant must also ensure that gambling is conducted in a fair and open

way and must protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed and exploited by gambling.

Since the venue opened local residents have complained to me as an elected councillor that the establishment:

- Acts as a magnet for antisocial behaviour on the High Street;
- Does not adequately enforce the restrictions already included in the licence to ensure that young and vulnerable people are excluded from the premises;
- Allows people under the age of 25 into the premises without challenge;
- Allows vulnerable adults into the premises without adequate challenge;

Local residents have not seen any evidence of Game Nation conducting or sharing local risk assessments or been made aware of any mitigations taken by the applicant to ensure the safety of children or young and vulnerable adults.

The venue is already the focus for people who are rough sleeping and for people who suffer from drug and alcohol addictions. The extension of the opening hours is likely to reinforce addictive behaviour and normalise gambling to an even greater extent.

Residents are concerned that the lifting of opening restrictions to allow for 24-hour opening will have a negative and detrimental impact on the High Road, will encourage antisocial behaviour and make the area more unsafe for young and vulnerable adults and for local residents making their way home.

Local residents are extremely concerned that 24-hour opening for a gaming venue would further encourage antisocial behaviour throughout the night in an area already blighted by high crime rates.

I would ask that this application is rejected.

For the record I also live in the ward as well as represent Tottenham Hale as an elected councillor. My address is 158 Dowsett Road, Tottenham, N17 9DH.

Regards,

Cllr Ruth Gordon
Labour Member for Tottenham Hale Ward
Cabinet Member for house building, placemaking and development