

COMMUNITY AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Department of Public Health

To: Licensing Department
London Borough of Merton
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden SM4 5DX

Public Health
London Borough of Merton
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden SM4 5DX

Direct Line: 020 8545 4834

Date: 17/05/2018

**Re: Application to vary/for a Premises License under the Licensing Act 2003 –
Wimbledon Food n Wine, 226 Merton High Street, Colliers Wood, London,
SW19 1AU**

License Number	WK/201800801
Name of Premise License Holder	Mr Allirajah Thamilselvan
License Type	Off-License
Ward	Abbey

As a responsible authority under the 2012 amendment to the Licensing Act 2003, the Director of Public Health for Merton wishes to submit a representation for this premises license variation, on the following licensing objectives:

- 1. The prevention of crime and disorder**
- 2. Public safety**

The premises in concern is currently licensed to sell alcohol (off the premises) from 07:00 to 23:00, Monday to Sunday. The applicant is seeking to extend these hours to sell alcohol from 07:00 to 02:00, seven days a week. Public Health is concerned about the extension of license hours for the following reasons:

- Public health data shows some areas for concern within the premises postal code
- Evidence of concern from local residents with regard to existing issues related to alcohol in the area
- Location of the premises is in close proximity to a tube station (South Wimbledon) which is served by the night tube on weekends, where customers who may already be under the influence of alcohol will have the availability of late-night opening off-licenses nearby.

Introduction and Background

Tackling alcohol misuse is central to achieving the outcomes in Merton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

A crucial element of tackling alcohol-related harm is ensuring that health and wellbeing considerations are met by premises licensed to sell alcohol within the borough, in order to prevent alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour, ensure public safety, and prevent harm to children.

Alcohol misuse is currently one of the biggest Public Health issues in the U.K., and it imposes a huge burden on our society.



Irresponsible drinking costs the taxpayer a staggering **£21 billion a year**.¹



Alcohol is currently the **biggest risk factor** for death, ill-health, and disability among 15-49 year olds in the UK.²



The cost of alcohol-related conditions to the NHS is **£3.5 billion** annually.³



Alcohol is a contributing factor in **75% of stabbings**, and **60-70% of murders**.⁴

¹ Home Office, 2012.

² . Strang, J., Drummond, C., McNeill, A. et al (2014) Addictions, dependence and substance misuse In: Davies, S Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer 2013: Public Mental Health priorities: investing in the evidence.

³ <https://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/alcohol-statistics>. Accessed April 2018

⁴ British Medical Association (BMA)

Evidence of detrimental impact on the licensing objectives

1. The prevention of crime and disorder

The link between alcohol and violence has been recognized as far back as the 4th century BC. Alcohol-related violence causes substantial injury and death.⁵

Local data suggests there is a serious issue with crime and violence in the area surrounding the premises postcode.

Within 200m of the premises postcode, SW19 1AU,

- A. Alcohol-related issues in under 26 year olds falls in the **top 1%** of the borough
- B. BTP-reported violence falls in the **top 5%** for the borough
- C. Alcohol related issues (all ages) fall in the **top 20%** for the borough
- D. BTP-reported anti-social behaviour falls in the **top 20%** for the borough
- E. BTP-reported criminal damage falls in the **top 20%** for the borough

The above data suggests there is a significant impact of alcohol consumption in the local area. While the above data does not relate to the specific premise, any premises that supplies alcohol in the area will be contributing to the trends relating alcohol to crime and disorder. This is especially pertinent in this case where there is evidence of irresponsible trade and breaching of licensing objectives.

Moreover, the premises is located in close proximity to a tube station which is served by the night tube on weekends (South Wimbledon, Northern Line). The premises is therefore likely to be on the route home for commuters who may already be under the influence of alcohol, encouraging them to stay out longer and drink more.

2. Public safety

- The recent Annual Residents Survey for Merton (2017) highlights that 17% of residents in this area of the borough are very worried or fairly worried about people being drunk and rowdy in public places. 23% are very concerned or fairly concerned about groups hanging around in the streets, and 15% of residents are very concerned or fairly concerned about people using or dealing drugs.⁶

⁵ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3170096/#R2>

⁶ https://www2.merton.gov.uk/residents_survey_research_report_2017.pdf

- In terms of alcohol harm overall, in 2012, Merton ranked 55 out of 326 local authorities. This is to say that over 83% of boroughs in England have less alcohol harm overall than Merton. Within the borough, there is an element of variance in the degree of alcohol harm between different wards. Figge's Marsh, where this premises is located, has a higher admission ratio of hospital stays for alcohol-related harm than the figure for Merton and that for London.
- The crime rate in Abbey Ward is 6.6 offences per 1000 population. This is higher than the Merton value (5.4 per 1000 population), and the highest number of offences recorded is 'anti-social behaviour'.⁷

Conclusion

There is evidence revealing serious concerns about alcohol harm in the local population, and the location of the premises in concern is that which serves potentially vulnerable individuals. Therefore, we request that the application of variation to the Premise License WK/201800801 be rejected, and the premises licensed hours remain unchanged.

Yours sincerely,



Signed Electronically

Dr Rooah Omer

Specialty Registrar in Public Health

On behalf of Dr Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health

⁷ https://www2.merton.gov.uk/figges_marsh_ward_health_profile.pdf

APPENDIX

Select Street

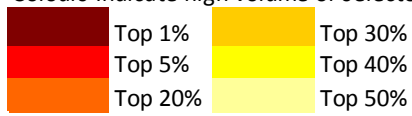
MERTON HIGH STREET ▼

Select Postcode

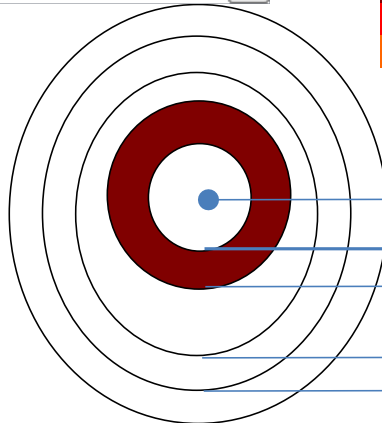
SW19 1AU ▼

Alcohol Related (Aged Under 26) ▼

Colours Indicate high volume of selected incidents or venues



eg. A Top 1% rank is given to any of the distance bands that contain more than 1 Alcohol Related (Aged Under 26)*



- Selected Location
- 100 metres from selected location
- 200 metres from selected location
- 300 metres from selected location
- 400 metres from selected location
- 500 metres from selected location

Ambulance Recorded Assaults



Head Injuries



Alcohol Related



Bus Driver Reported ASB



BTP ASB



BTP Criminal Damage



Gun, Knife and Weapon Injuries



Least Serious Injuries



Alcohol Related (Aged Under 26)



Bus Driver Reported Violence



BTP Violence



Data from September 2016-August 2017

All Infographics on page 2 from Noun Project artists, accessed at <https://thenounproject.com/>

Credits:

£ icon by Chameleon Design

Heart icon by Ben Davis

Criminal icon by Bakunetsu Kaito

Ambulance icon by dDara