

**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: 17/04/2018

**Re: In support of a Metropolitan Police review of a premises license under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003**

**Ronnie's Cutter, 37-39 Upper Green East, Mitcham, CR4 2PF.**

License Number	LN/000000704
Name of Premise License Holder	Ronak Patel
License Type	Off-License
Ward	Figge's Marsh

As a responsible authority under the 2012 amendment to the Licensing Act 2003, the Director of Public Health for Merton wishes to support the review submitted by the Metropolitan Police for this premises license, on all four licensing objectives:

- 1. The prevention of crime and disorder**
- 2. Public safety**
- 3. Prevention of public nuisance**
- 4. The protection of children from harm**

Public Health is requesting this license review for the following reasons:

- Evidence of breaching of licensing objectives
- Evidence of selling alcohol to children, and unsupervised selling of alcohol by a child
- Evidence of two undocumented workers at the premises
- Public health data shows some areas for concern within the premises postal code.

## 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**.<sup>1</sup>



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



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



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

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<sup>1</sup> Home Office, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> . 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.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

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

#### a) **Bus-driver reported violence**

Within 100m of the premises postcode, the number of incidents which have occurred falls in the **highest 5%** of areas in the borough.

#### b) **Bus-driver reported anti-social behavior**

Within 300m of the premise, the number of incidents which have occurred falls in the **highest 5%** of areas in the borough.

#### c) **Alcohol related issues**

Within 300m of the premises post code, the number falls in the **top 20%** for the borough.

#### d) Figures for **gun, knife and weapon injuries** within 200m of the premises postcode fall in the **top 30%** for the borough.<sup>6</sup>

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 situated in Figge's Marsh, one of the most deprived areas in the country<sup>7</sup>, home to a sizeable population of vulnerable people.

Figge's Marsh is ranked as the **No. 1 ward** in Merton for gun, knife and weapon injuries, and for violence. The Metropolitan police responded to a stabbing incident immediately outside the Ronnie's Cutter, where the perpetrator was seen to enter the premises afterwards, and this occurred outside of licensed opening hours. In such a high-risk area, there is absolutely no tolerance for irresponsible trading such as this.

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

<sup>6</sup> Data in Section 1 parts a-d published by the GLA in January 2018. (See appendix)

<sup>7</sup> Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015.

## 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.<sup>8</sup>
- 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 Figge's Marsh is 9.3 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'.<sup>9</sup>

## 3. Prevention of public nuisance

- The premises in concern are located in the Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) of Mitcham Town Centre, an area where it is recognised that there is a problem with the impact of alcohol on public nuisance, particularly with regard to street drinking. The Metropolitan Police have received reports that the premises in concern have been providing drinking cups with alcohol purchases to street drinkers, in turn facilitating anti-social behaviour in the area.

## 4. The protection of children from harm

- Evidence submitted by the Metropolitan police reveals that there was found to be a child selling alcohol unsupervised at the premises, and a test purchase where a 15 year old was able to successfully purchase alcohol at the premises without any challenge.
- More than 40% of children who start drinking in early youth will go on to abuse alcohol/become alcoholics later in life, and underage drinking is associated with other risky behaviours such as teenage pregnancy and youth offending<sup>10</sup>. It is therefore of paramount importance that we protect our youths from the harm associated with the illegal selling of alcohol to those underage.
- The population of Figge's Marsh is different to other wards in Merton in that there are a higher proportion of young people (0-29 years) living in the area. The premises in concern is also situated within walking distance (400m) from three local school, and is likely to be on the route to and from school for children.

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<sup>8</sup> [https://www2.merton.gov.uk/residents\\_survey\\_research\\_report\\_2017.pdf](https://www2.merton.gov.uk/residents_survey_research_report_2017.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www2.merton.gov.uk/figges\\_marsh\\_ward\\_health\\_profile.pdf](https://www2.merton.gov.uk/figges_marsh_ward_health_profile.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.merton.gov.uk/health-social-care/publichealth/jsna/lifestyle-risk-factors/adults-substance-misuse/alcohol-jsna.htm>

## **Conclusion**

The premises in concern have failed to display that they are a responsible retailer, and have participated in, and facilitated, numerous unlawful engagements. In conjunction with the evidence revealing serious concerns about alcohol harm in the local population, we believe that the licensed premises are not running at a level where they can prevent crime and disorder, assure public safety, prevent public nuisance, and protect children from harm. Therefore, we request that the Premise License LN/000000704 be revoked as soon as is possible.

Yours sincerely,



Signed Electronically

Dr Rooah Omer

Specialty Registrar in Public Health

On behalf of Dr Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health

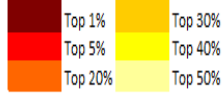
**APPENDIX**

UPPER GREEN EAST

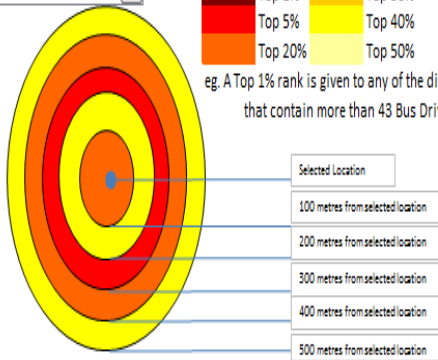
CR4 2PF

Bus Driver Reported ASB

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 43 Bus Driver Reported ASB\*



Ambulance Recorded Assaults



Head Injuries



Alcohol Related



Bus Driver Reported ASB



BTP ASB



Gun, Knife and Weapon Injuries



Least Serious Injuries



Alcohol Related (Aged Under 26)



Bus Driver Reported Violence



BTP Violence



Indicator	Count	Distance
Ambulance Recorded Assaults	10	100
	8	200
	10	300
	14	400
	11	500
Gun, Knife and Weapon Injuries	1	100
	0	200
	1	300
	0	400
	0	500
Head Injuries	3	100
	3	200
	1	300
	0	400
	2	500
Least Serious Injuries	2	100
	2	200
	4	300
	9	400
	4	500
Alcohol Related	0	100
	0	200
	1	300
	1	400
	0	500
Alcohol Related (Aged Under 26)	0	100
	0	200
	0	300
	0	400
	0	500
Bus Driver Reported ASB	9	100
	2	200
	20	300
	8	400
	0	500

Data from September 2016-August 2017

Bullseye

**USER INPUT**  
 SELECT POSTCODE FROM LIST  WARD  WARD NAME   
 CLICK HERE>

**PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

AMBULANCE DATA

RANK ALL ASSAULTS 4 out of 20 wards	RANK SEXUAL ASSAULTS 7 out of 20 wards
RANK ALL WEAPON INJURIES 1 out of 20 wards	RANK KNIFE INJURY 1 out of 20 wards
RANK GUN INJURIES 1 out of 20 wards	RANK VIOLENCE AGAINST AMBULANCE CREW 3 out of 20 wards

POLICE DATA: recorded crime and ASB

RANK ALL VIOLENCE 1 out of 20 wards	RANK RAPE 4 out of 20 wards
RANK THEFT FROM PERSON (OTHER) 4 out of 20 wards	RANK PERSONAL ROBBERY 2 out of 20 wards
RANK CRIMINAL DAMAGE 2 out of 20 wards	RANK POSSESSION OF DRUGS 1 out of 20 wards
MPS ASB RANK 3 out of 20 wards	MPS POSSESSION OF WEAPON 1 out of 20 wards

Other data sources

NIGHT TIME VIOLENT DISORDER 6 out of 20 wards	DELIBERATE FIRES 11 out of 20 wards
Probation Clients with Alcohol misuse Risk 1 out of 20 wards	Probation Clients Alcohol Risk and High risk of causing harm 18 out of 20 wards

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

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