

Licensing Authority  
Leicester City Council  
City Hall  
115 Charles Street  
Leicester  
LE1 1FZ  
**Sent by email only:** licensing@leicester.gov.uk



Your ref

29 September 2022

Dear Sirs

**Representation - Merkur Slots UK Limited, 6 Haymarket, Leicester, LE1 3GD**

We are instructed by Awesome Chips of Unit 19 Haymarket Leicester LE1 3GD to make a representation objecting to the above application for a Bingo premises licence under Section 159 of the Gambling Act 2005.

Our client has business interests that will be affected by the authorised activities, and those business interests are close to the premises which are the subject of the application. Our clients are therefore an interested party as defined in the Gambling Act 2005.

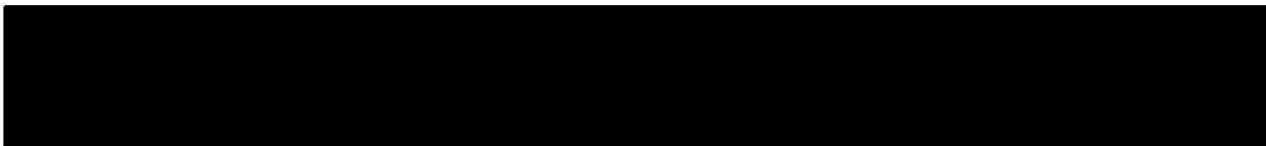
The Gambling Act 2005 Section 1 sets out the following licensing objectives:

- (a) Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime.
- (b) Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.
- (c) Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

This representation relates to Gambling Act 2005 Section 1(a) and (c).

A. Background

The application premises are situated in a very prominent position in Leicester at 6 Haymarket and are opposite to the clock tower.



Our client is aware that there are a large number of Gambling Act 2005 premises in and around the immediate area which are all very close to the application site at the following addresses:

- 14-16 Haymarket, Leicester, LE1 3GD
- 17-19 Haymarket, Leicester, LE1 3GD
- 20 Haymarket, Leicester, LE1 3GD
- Unit 21 Haymarket Shopping Centre, (21Charles Street), Leicester, LE1 3YR
- 7 Belgrave Gate, Leicester, LE1 3HP
- 26 Belgrave Gate , Leicester, LE1 3GP
- 6-8 Silver Street, Leicester, LE1 5ET
- 17-19E Bond Street, Leicester, LE1 4SX
- 20-22 Church Street, Leicester, LE1 4AG
- 62 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FB

Merkur themselves already operate premises in the centre of Leicester at 92 Granby Street.

Those people who congregate in the immediate area of the application site are clearly at times under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol which in itself creates a public health issue and Gambling Act 2005 issue in terms of their vulnerability. This creates serious challenges to any premises operating at the application site. The application site is a former Pizza Hut which had an open frontage so it could clearly be seen to be operating as a family orientated restaurant, as opposed to the more closed frontage of the proposed Bingo premises, which would be more of an attraction to vulnerable persons.

11% of Leicester's population reside in the most deprived 5% of areas nationally for health deprivation. 36% of Leicester's population reside in the most deprived 20% of areas nationally for health deprivation.

Our clients have witnessed first-hand the area outside the premises and around the clock tower being a magnet for homeless people, vulnerable people as defined in the Gambling Act 2005 and people who commit crime and cause anti-social behaviour. Our clients have witnessed ambulances and the police being called to this area and the area remains a problematic one.

Examples of crime and anti-social behaviour in and around the clock tower includes a serious incident which happened on Thursday January 13th 2022 involving a large group of people gathered by the

Leicester clock tower. Leicestershire Live reported that 6 people were arrested with 2 people charged and 11 police cars, 2 police vans and another couple of undercover police personnel were required to attend.

On 11 November 2021, a man was beaten and punched in an attack near the clock tower.

Other examples include;

2018

<https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/man-involved-brawl-leicester-clock-2019063>

2019

[Homeless man waved knife at terrified shoppers near Leicester's Clock Tower - Leicestershire Live \(leicestermercury.co.uk\)](https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/homeless-man-waved-knife-at-terrified-shoppers-near-leicester-clock-tower-2019063)

June 2022

Belgrave Gate - NE of the Clock Tower:

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Recent Local police update - the 'Our Priorities' and 'Crime Map' are highlight the seriousness of the problem:

<https://www.leics.police.uk/area/your-area/leicestershire/central-leicester/city-centre/on-the-team/our-priorities>

#### B. Leicester City Council Gambling Act 2005 Policy

The Leicester City Council Statement of Gambling Policy was approved by full council on 25 November 2021.

Amongst other things, the policy states:

- (a) Part B Section 2 Location “The city council will pay particular attention to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling as well as preventing crime and disorder.
- (b) Part B Section 4 Local Risk Assessments  
The Policy refers to the requirement to have a Local Risk Assessment and to pay particular attention to Paragraph 6.42 and 6.46 of the Gambling Commission guidance.
- (c) Part B Section 5 Conditions - it is not clear from the application whether any conditions are proposed with the application, and whilst our clients submit that the application should be refused

in its entirety, should the Licensing Committee be minded to grant the application, there is absolutely no doubt that conditions must be attached to the premises licence, which should include those conditions set out on page 10 of the Leicester City Council gambling Policy

- CCTV
- Door Supervisors (this is essential with the premises being opposite the clock tower)
- Specific opening hours (again, essential with the premises being opposite the clock tower)
- Supervision of entrance
- Others referred to on page 10.

C. Representation

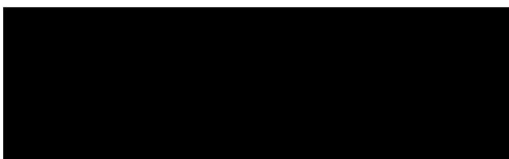
We are instructed to make representations on behalf of our client relating to licensing objectives (a) and (c). We rely on all of the above.

The location of these premises directly opposite the clock tower, the fact that anti-social behaviour and crime occurs in and around the clock tower leads our client to the view that the grant of a Bingo premises licence at this site will not support or comply with licensing objective 1(a) and the premises will be connected to crime and disorder, or be associated with crime and disorder.

There is clear evidence that in and around the application site are vulnerable people. These are vulnerable people who are often under the influence of alcohol and drugs and whose decision making progress is impaired. These are vulnerable people who may be homeless people and who have no source of income, or very little income, and these premises will not in the specific circumstances of this application, protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. The figures with regard to deprivation in Leicester have been set out earlier in this letter. There will be public health issues if this application is granted. There is a cost of living crisis in the country at the moment with Interest rates expected to increase and an energy crisis impacting on everyone.

We would be grateful if you would confirm receipt of this representation and let us know when the Committee Hearing will take place.

Yours faithfully





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Your ref  
29 September 2022

Dear Sirs

**Representation - Merkur Slots UK Limited, 6 Haymarket, Leicester, LE1 3GD**

We are instructed by the Irish Clothing Company Limited who operate their business from 7 Silver Street, Leicester and who also own the Freehold of 8-14 High Street, Leicester which is let out to Caffe Nero to make a representation objecting to the above application for a Bingo premises licence under Section 159 of the Gambling Act 2005.

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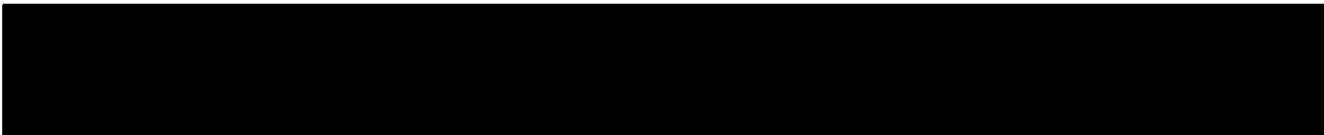
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(d) Part B Section 6 Door Supervisors

The City Council states it will take into account the location of the premises, the likely clientele and the history of the premises. It seems clear to our clients that these premises must have door supervisors at all times.

C. Representation

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We would be grateful if you would confirm receipt of this representation and let us know when the Committee Hearing will take place.

Yours faithfully





**Victoria Marshall**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 18 October 2022 13:39  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** No 6 Haymarket, Leicester

**Application by Merkur Slots UK Ltd – 6 Haymarket Leicester LE1 3GD**

1. As the next door business to the application I am an interested party and have concerns over another application – indeed I would have 24 hour gaming venues either side of my jewellers shop. When running a shop in a core retail area this was not my expectation of how the area might turn.
2. The Clock Tower has always been a focal point and unfortunately frequently attracts those with time on their hands and too much alcohol or drugs in them. These are vulnerable people and should be protected from a proliferation of gambling establishments.
3. Moreover, the Clock tower and surrounding shops are often shown on TV when Leicester features in the national news, multiple gambling sites are not positive for the city's image.
4. The recent paving and landscaping improvements to Haymarket and the Clock tower area have greatly improved the ambience, deserves to be a genuine retail area.
5. At best the police are stretched and to have to be mindful of potential late night congregations is an unnecessary addition.

[REDACTED]  
MD Mallard jewellers  
8, Haymarket  
LE1 3 GD