

From: [Bright, Margot \(Cllr\): WCC](#)
To: [Licensing Team: WCC](#); [reps. licence: WCC](#)
Subject: Ref: 20/03575/LIGN, Gambling Act-New/Pending Decision/ 74 Queensway W2 3RL
Date: 19 May 2020 16:47:03

Objection: from Cllr Margot Bright.

This application is for 74 Queensway W2 3RL, in my ward, Lancaster Gate. I also serve as Deputy Cabinet Member for Public Protection & Licensing, and am a member of Westminster City Council's licensing committee. I will of course not sit on the sub-committee that adjudicates on it.

I strongly support the detailed objection from SEBRA (South East Bayswater Residents Association), which is itself supported by BRA (Bayswater Residents Association) and QRA (Queensway Residents Association) and the Safer Neighbourhoods Panel. These associations speak for the local community and I share their view that the proposed Adult Gaming Centre would cause the community significant harm.

May I just add a few points to those already made, relevant to the Licensing Objectives under s1 Gambling Act 2005, 'Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime', and 'Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling':

- Queensway and the immediately surrounding streets are a recognised 'hot spot' for ASB (anti-social behaviour) and drug-related crime within Westminster, hence their inclusion in a Community Protection Zone. Young people and teenagers are frequently involved, as are vulnerable people with drug and alcohol addictions who live in the numerous hostels, HMO's and supported housing adjacent to Queensway on Inverness Terrace, Queensborough Terrace, and other nearby streets.
- Problem gambling, particularly on the very fast-running FOBT machines proposed for this Adult Gaming Centre, is a natural partner for those with the above other addictions.
- Queensway itself is London's second Chinatown after Soho, with a cluster of popular Chinese restaurants and a large and growing population of students from China and Hong Kong. Many of them live in the Imperial College Halls of Residence nearby in Pembridge Gardens, or in one or other of the hostels mentioned above.
- Adding to the longstanding concerns about problem gambling voiced by London Chinese community organisations, worries are now being expressed in China and Hong Kong about problem gambling among those young people coming here to study. In an article in the South China Morning Post, "Why Chinese students are at risk of becoming gambling addicts in the UK", a specialist in problem gambling says:"They come to the UK, free, maybe a bit immature and also lonely--that's all the risk factors right there." He says they are a specially vulnerable group who should

be, but are not, protected by their colleges. (See link:
<https://www.scmp.com/print/news/world/europe/article/3023311/why-chinese-students-are-risk-becoming-gambling-addicts-uk>

I believe the Licensing Objectives cannot be served in this very particular location, and the application should be rejected.

Cllr Margot Bright

<https://www.scmp.com/print/news/world/europe/article/3023311/why-chinese-students-are-risk-becoming-gambling-addicts-uk>