

## 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  
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### Re: Application for a Premises License under the Licensing Act 2003- Lidl UK GmbH, 23 Streatham Road, Figges Marsh, London, CR4 2AD

License Number	WK/201802748
License Type	Off license
Ward	Figges Marsh

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 application, on three of the four licensing objectives namely:

- 1. The Prevention of Crime and Disorder**
- 2. Public Safety**
- 3. The Protection of Children from Harm**

The applicant is seeking to sell alcohol (off the premises) from 07:00 to 23:00 Monday –Sunday. Public Health is concerned about this application to sell alcohol off the premises for the following reasons:

- Public health data shows some areas for concern within the premises postal code
- Proximity of the premises to a local primary school and special school, and a large public open space

## 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 serious issue with crime and violence in the area surrounding the premises postcode.

Within 300m of the premises postcode, CR4 2AD

- Bus driver reported anti-social behaviour falls in the **top 40%** of the borough

Within 400m of the premises postcode, CR4 2AD

- Ambulance recorded assaults fall in the **top 50%** of the borough

Within 500m of the premises postcode, CR4 2AD

- BTP-reported anti-social behaviour falls in the **top 1%** of the borough
- BTP-reported criminal damage falls in the **top 5%** of 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.

### 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>6</sup>
- The recent Annual Residents Survey for Merton (2017) also highlights that crime is the second highest issue (after gangs) that young people in Merton are personally most concerned about, with almost a quarter (24%) of young people citing it as an issue.
- In terms of alcohol harm overall, in 2012 Merton ranked 55 out of 326 local authorities and was in the higher percentiles for:
  - Male mortality chronic liver disease (104/326)

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

<sup>6</sup> [https://www2.merton.gov.uk/residents\\_survey\\_research\\_report\\_2017.pdf](https://www2.merton.gov.uk/residents_survey_research_report_2017.pdf)

- Female alcohol-specific hospital admissions (106/326)
  - Male alcohol-specific hospital admissions (109/326)
  - Male alcohol-attributable hospital admissions (151/326)
  - Alcohol-related violent crimes (192/326)
  - Alcohol-related sexual offences (208/326)<sup>7</sup>
- Within the borough, there is an element of variance in the degree of alcohol harm between different wards. Figges 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.<sup>8</sup>
  - The crime rate in Figges Marsh is 95 offences per 1,000 population in 2017. This is higher than the Merton value, which is 65 offences per 1,000 population.<sup>9</sup> The highest number of offences recorded is 'violence against the person'.

### 3. The protection of children from harm

The creation of healthy places is crucial to ensuring future generations have the best possible chance at a healthy future. This is not only essential for individual wellbeing, but also for society as a whole. A healthy place means an environment that makes the healthy choice the easy choice (for example, limiting fast food outlets and sales of alcohol near schools and public spaces), and that protects children from being exposed to antisocial behaviour and crime on their streets. However:

- The premises postcode, CR4 2AD, is a mere 3 minute walk (0.1 miles) from Gorrington Park Primary School.
- The premises postcode, CR4 2AD, is a mere 8 minute walk (0.4 miles) from Eagle House School.
- The premises postcode, CR4 2AD is a mere 1 minute walk ((269 ft) from Figges Marsh park, a large public open space frequented by children and young people, with an outdoor gym and outdoor tennis tables.
- As stated previously on page 3, within 500m of the premises postcode, CR4 2AD, BTP-reported anti-social behaviour falls in the **top 1%** of the borough and BTP-reported criminal damage falls in the **top 5%** of the borough.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www2.merton.gov.uk/health-social-care/publichealth/jsna/lifestyle-risk-factors/adults-substance-misuse/alcohol-jsna.htm>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www2.merton.gov.uk/figges\\_marsh\\_ward\\_health\\_profile.pdf](https://www2.merton.gov.uk/figges_marsh_ward_health_profile.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)

**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 for a premises license WK/201802748 be rejected.

Yours Sincerely,

Natalie Lovell

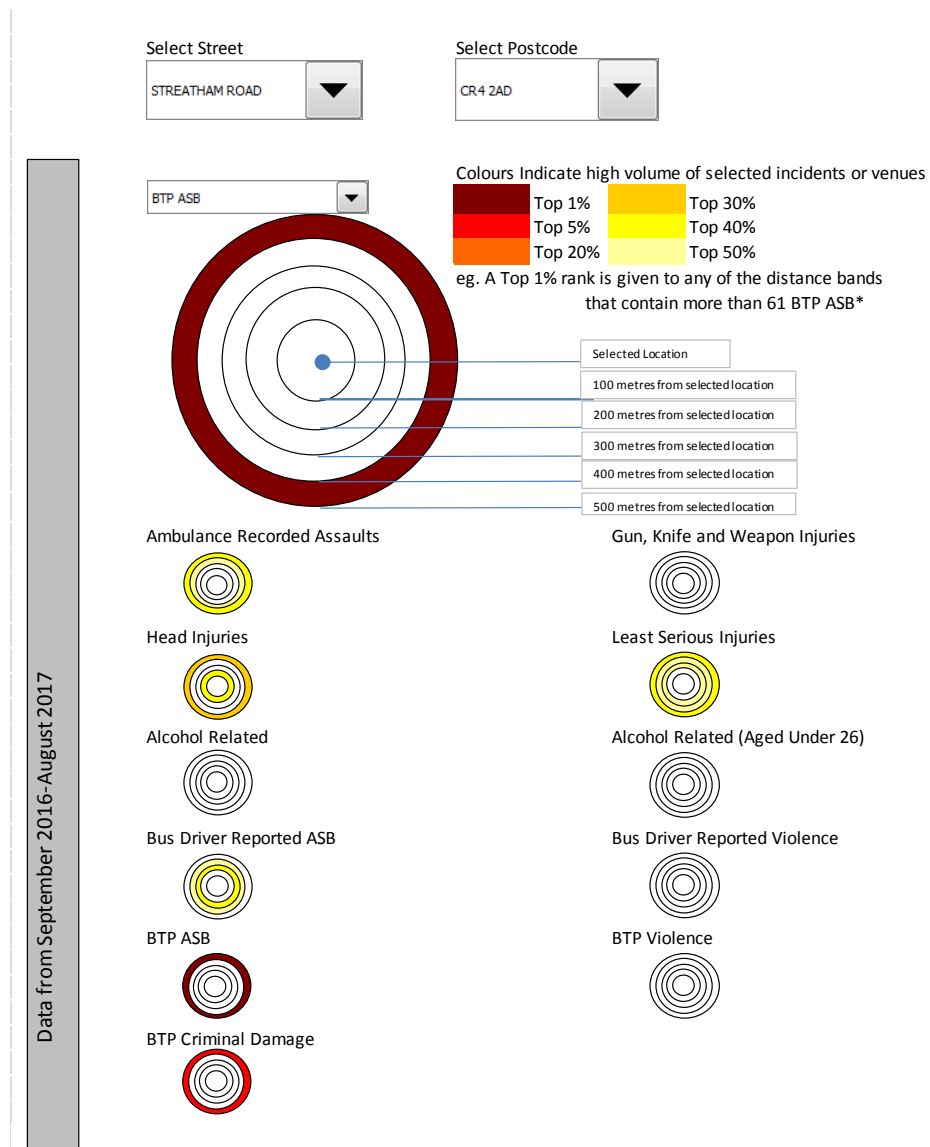
Signed electronically

Natalie Lovell

Healthy Places Officer

On behalf of Dr Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health

# APPENDIX



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