

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to register an objection to the application for an off-sales licence for a Co-op store at 1 Mounthooly Way, Aberdeen, on the following grounds:-

There is already an overprovision of off-licences in this area. There are two large supermarkets (Lidl and Morrisons) just round the corner on Hutcheon Street and West North Street/King Street. Both of these have extensive stocks of alcohol for sale, and are open long hours, which means that alcohol of all kinds is already available locally 7 days a week and until late in the evening.

Further to this, there is already a Co-op store on George Street, just yards from its junction with Hutcheon Street, where a significant proportion of floorspace is given over to alcohol, available every day till late evening. (It is to be expected that the same would be true of the alcohol provision at the proposed Co-op in Mounthooly Way) There is also a Sainsbury's Local Store nearby in George Street, on the corner of Maberly Street.

In addition to these, there are several smaller 'neighbourhood' shops in the area which sell alcohol, and are also open long hours - eg. in the Spital, and round the corner from the bottom of Jute Street.

From the point of view of the Licensing Objective of Protecting and Improving Public Health, it is important to note that it is recognised that "*the majority of alcohol is sold from off-sales premises*", and also that "*there are issues of harm that correlate with the operation of off-sales premises*" One would expect that the issues of harm would, logically, be exacerbated where availability of alcohol is markedly increased, as one would expect in a sizeable store such as the one proposed at Mounthooly Way, which, unlike the Lidl, Morrisons, Sainsburys and other Co-op stores, is not situated in or adjacent to a retail centre, but is adjacent to a residential area.