

Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Application for a Premises Licence 199 Westburn Road
Aberdeen AB25 2UE

I refer to the above application and in terms of Section 22(1)(a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, I make the following objection under the licensing objective of Protecting and Improving Public Health.

My objection focuses on the following two points

1. Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Scottish Public Health Observatory data (PHS)

In the Aberdeen City Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy (November 2023), it was noted that alcohol-related hospital admissions in Aberdeen City were lower than the Scottish average. A fact that appears to have been used to support the board's determination that there was no overprovision of off-sales premises within Aberdeen City when this was reviewed in 2023. PHS data confirms that Aberdeen City is below the Scottish average for alcohol-related admissions and alcohol-specific deaths. However, according to the ONS data for 2021 alcohol-specific deaths in Scotland are significantly above the average for the UK as a whole, being 22.4 per 100,000 people for Scotland versus 14.8 for the whole of the UK. In fact, Aberdeen City alcohol-specific deaths are higher than almost every other region of the UK outside Scotland.

In addition, when looking at the statistics for males with alcohol problem drinking (PHS data), Aberdeen City has the second-highest rate when compared to other council areas and is significantly above the Scottish average.

From this, I conclude that Aberdeen City has serious issues concerning alcohol and health which must be taken into consideration when considering new alcohol licence applications.

2. Distance to existing off-sales premises in the area.

It is well-documented that there is a link between alcohol-specific deaths or alcohol-related hospitalisation and not just availability but also density, particularly off-sales.

I was surprised to discover that there are already more than 190 off-sales premises in Aberdeen City (Scottish Government statistics August 2022), a figure which has been increasing over the past 10 years.

Specifically with regards to the application location at 199 Westburn Rd., there are several existing off-sales in the area. The closest is the Coop (295 Rosemount Place) and Spar (66 Midstocket Rd) which are 0.5km and 0.45m (5 - 6 min walk at 4.75 km/h) away respectively. Both of these are convenience stores of a similar size and type to the proposed premises.

Other premises which provide off-sales in the area include:

Rosemount Market, 217 Rosemount Place, 0.7 km, 8.75 mins (walk)

Sainsbury's Local, 97 Rosemount Place, 1km, 12.6 mins

Rosemount Store, 1 Rosemount Terrace, 0.9km, 11.4 mins

Fountainhall Wines, 29 Fountainhall Rd, 1.1km, 13.9 mins

Premier, 132-134 Hutcheon St, 1.1km, 13.9 mins

For these reasons, and in terms of Section 22(1)(a) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, I object to the application as the granting of it would be inconsistent with one or more of the licensing objectives, namely Protecting and Improving Public Health.

Yours Sincerely,