

From:

Sent: 29 August 2025 16:23

To: Tucker Matt: H&F <Matt.Tucker@lbhf.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Notice of Hearing - The Black Bull

Hi Matt,

Please could I request a speaking slot for this hearing. I can confirm that I still strongly object to this application and would like it denied in its entirety. Please find below the reasons for my objection:

1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Late-night pubs correlate directly with alcohol-related crime. King Street is not a late-night economy zone but a residential and mixed-use area. Selling any alcohol, especially until midnight would:

- Increase the risk of violent incidents, with national figures showing over 60% of weekend night assaults linked to alcohol.
- Attract people seeking “one last drink,” leading to anti-social behaviour at closing time.
- Place strain on local policing, particularly in an area without the infrastructure of central nightlife hubs.

When the Black Bull originally opened, the surrounding area was not residential. Offices and commercial uses dominated, meaning there were fewer risks to neighbours. That is no longer the case. The context has changed fundamentally, and what might once have been tolerated cannot now be justified.

2. Public Safety

Safety risks include:

- Drunk patrons leaving onto the busy road and cycle lane which already has a lot of accidents (King Street).
- Strain on emergency services at late hours, when resources are limited.
- A compromised sense of safety for Premier Inn guests and residents in Ravilious House. Ravilious House residents are metres away from the Black Bull courtyard with no form of segregation between the courtyard and their front doors, creating an increased feeling of insecurity for the residents.

The Metropolitan Police originally objected, only withdrawing after demanding strict new conditions such as CCTV, incident logs, and door staff risk assessments. The fact that such conditions were required at all is proof that this site poses significant safety concerns if alcohol is sold late into the night.

3. Prevention of Public Nuisance

This is the most acute issue:

- **Ravilious House bedrooms** are only metres away from the pub's single-glazed frontage. Music, chatter, and dispersal noise will be unavoidably intrusive.
- The WHO advises outdoor night noise should not exceed 40 dB, yet normal pub operations easily exceed this threshold. Prolonged sleep disruption is linked to cardiovascular disease, mental health decline, and chronic stress.
- The pub's **large forecourt** encourages outdoor congregation and late-night smoking, amplifying nuisance.
- Guests at the Premier Inn next door will also be disturbed, undermining both amenity and local reputation.

When the pub was first licensed, there were no adjacent residential properties to disturb. Today, it sits in the heart of a family-friendly neighbourhood, where noise carries directly into homes. No signage or conditions can realistically mitigate this.

4. Protection of Children from Harm

- **Sleep disruption:** Children in nearby homes will suffer disturbed nights, which WHO research shows directly harms learning and cognitive development.
- **Exposure to disorder:** Children risk witnessing late-night drunken behaviour or its aftermath (vomit, litter, public urination) in the morning.
- **Community wellbeing:** Families deserve a calm, safe environment. Extending alcohol sales into the night undermines this, exposing children to harm in their own neighbourhood.

Conclusion

When the Black Bull was last licensed, the local context was commercial, not residential. The area has since transformed, with homes, a hotel, and families now in immediate proximity. What might once have been acceptable is no longer compatible with the licensing objectives.

- Crime and disorder will increase.
- Public safety will be compromised.
- Public nuisance is inevitable.
- Children's wellbeing will be harmed.

No conditions can sufficiently address these risks. The only responsible decision, consistent with the Licensing Act 2003, is to refuse the application in its entirety.

Kind Regards