



Working together for a safer London

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ROMFORD MINI MARKET, 84 South Street, Romford, RM1 1RX

**Police wish to make representation against the variation of hours applied for by the applicant.**

- The premise is situation within the saturation area identified in the Havering licensing policy, full details can be found on the Havering website.
- The town centre is saturated with off licences premises all within a short distance of each other. The premises below are all with or near to 200 Metres of Romford Mini Mart.

Key News and Food - SOUTH STREET  
Am and Pm - SOUTH STREET  
Sainsburys - THE BREWERY  
Londis - SOUTH STREET  
Lidil - ATLANTA BOULEVARD  
Maxim Food stores - VICTORIA STREET  
Afforda - SOUTH STREET  
J and B connivance store - SOUTH STREET  
Asda - LIBERTY MALL

The borough of Havering is amongst the highest within the Metropolitan Police for alcohol fuelled violence.

I have enclosed the most recent data on ABH and GBH assaults on the last page of this representation. This gives you an indication of the factors police are presented with in the town centre. It also illustrates the time and days of these offences.

- Off licences play a key role in fuelling the availability of alcohol and often are cheaper than pubs and bars. There is a term in policing referred to as

pre loading. This is where a person consumes alcohol prior to attending licensed premises, so the full effects of the alcohol consumed as probably not been felt by that person yet.

- The town centre experiences several issues on pre loading, off licences that sell within the ring road do so with the condition that the alcohol is not consumed in the streets within the ring road.
- This is often disregarded by the person who purchases the item and is consumed within a proximately of the off licence. Many subjects then remain in the town centre afterwards.
- Off licences do not inform customers of this as it would probably result in loosing a sale.

Police are tasked to deal with such issues; they have powers to remove the alcohol and open and sealed containers, if they believe that they will consume or being consumed within the designated area.

The saturation zone within the town centre is the designated area. Police spend a lot of there time dealing with such matters in an attempt to prevent further crime and disorder and public nuisance.

There have been approximately 120 people who have had alcohol confiscated from tasking results alone for the town centre within 12 months.

**This is not the final figure this represents when officers in the designated zone have supplied a tasking return to the intelligence unit.**

- Alcohol confiscation which is a direct result of off licence sales. Many premises are often totally unaware of the affects they create. These issues are a constant task for officers.
- Police also issues section 27 notices under the violent crime and reduction act, which requires a person to leave a locality if the officer feels their presence will cause or contribute to alcohol related crime. 341 such notices have been given in the last 12 months.
- These figures I present to you I hope give you a clear picture of what police area tasked to deal with in the area.

ROMFORD MINI MARKET falls within the saturation zone and within the designated area for alcohol confiscation.

The cumulative impact on this area by allowing these premises additional hours will add to the levels of disorder already at this location, an aggregated effect.

There is evidence to suggest that customer from off licences contribute to the global difficulties within the town centre.

This area suffers from a series of difficulties that have arisen from a concentration of licensed premises in the town centre. The cumulative effect is violence on and off premises, noise and nuisance, large gatherings of people, littering and fouling and a deteriorating public realm.

There is not a single operator who is to blame but together they all impact on the town centre, the current situation of the impact does not promote the licensing objectives.

- The town centre after 1900 hours onwards changes in atmosphere and the people are here predominantly for night time economy of bars and clubs, restaurants. There is not a large amount of residential accommodation compared to other major towns which may well be why supermarkets choose to close earlier than other city centres.
- I would suggest that a large amount of people buying from off licences after this time do so and consume it within close proximity. It is far from families and mature adults buying to take home from my experience.

I ask the committee **not to** grant any further hours to this recently licensed premises. The police believe this will generate further crime and disorder along with public nuisance through cumulative impact. This application will therefore not promote the licensing objectives.

If I can be of any further assistance in this matter please do not hesitate to contact me in the licensing office.

Yours sincerely

PC David Fern  
Metropolitan police - Havering  
Licensing officer