



# LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

# REPORT

13 February 2025

Subject heading:

**Moon & Stars**  
99-103 South Street Romford RM1 1NX  
Gaming machine permit variation  
Paul Jones, Public Protection Officer  
licensing@havering.gov.uk  
01708 432777

Report author and contact details:

This application to vary a licensed premises gaming machine permit is made by JD Wetherspoon PLC further to the provisions of schedule 13 of the Gambling Act 2005. The application was received by Havering's Licensing Authority on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## Geographical description of the area and description of the building

The Moon & Stars is located in South Street in Romford's town centre.



## Details of the application

This application is to vary the extant licensed premises gaming machine permit, to increase the number of category C machines available for use from six to seven.

## Comments and observations on the application

The application was made in accordance with the provisions of schedule 13 of the Gambling Act 2005 and in accordance with Havering's gambling policy. Paragraph 11.6 of Havering's gambling policy states:

If a premises wishes to have more than two machines then it needs to apply for a permit and the Licensing Authority must consider that application based upon the licensing objectives, any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission issued under Section 25 of the Act, and "such matters as they think relevant." The Licensing Authority considers that "such matters" will be decided on a case-by-case basis but generally, there will be regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling or at risk of child sexual exploitation.

The Authority will also expect the applicant to satisfy it that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machines. Measures, which will satisfy the Authority that there will be no access, may include the adult machines being in sight of the bar, or in the sight of staff who will monitor that the machines are not being used by those under 18. Notices and signage may also be helpful. As regards the protection of vulnerable persons, applicants may wish to consider the provision of information leaflets/helpline numbers for customers who may have a gambling addiction, from organisations such as GamCare and GambleAware.

Pubs that choose to make machines available to the public must only do so during the hours that the premises licence allows the sale of alcohol. They should also adhere to the code of practice for gaming machines in clubs and premises with an alcohol licence.

It should be noted that the Licensing Authority can decide to grant the application with a smaller number of machines and/or a different category of machines than that applied for. The Licensing Authority cannot attach conditions to the applicant's permit.

Paragraph 11.7 states:

It should also be noted that the holder of a permit must comply with any code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machines. Notifications and applications for three machines will generally be dealt with by Licensing Authority officers. Those for four or five machines will be determined by licensing officers in consultation with the Chair of the licensing committee, and **applications for six or more machines will be referred to a licensing sub-committee.**

## Summary

The application was referred to the Police for comment. No response was made.