

## POPULATION HEALTH

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE · AUDENSHAW · DENTON · DROYLSDEN · DUKINFIELD · HYDE · LONGDENDALE · MOSSLEY · STALYBRIDGE

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Doc Ref  
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**Re: Representation from the Population Health Department at Tameside Council regarding the application for a new gambling premise licence in regards to Unit 8 & 9, Droylsden Shopping Centre, M43 7YY.**

I, Simon Watts on behalf of Public Health make representation in relation to the application for a new gambling premises licence review at Unit 8 & 9, Droylsden Shopping Centre, M43 7YY.

The representation relates primarily to the protection of vulnerable groups, including children. The attached report highlights evidence relating to gambling harms in the area and the proximity of this new application to vulnerable groups.

In summary, it is estimated that there are 5,400 adults in Tameside who are suffering from gambling harm, 570 of whom live in Droylsden. Younger people and those on lower incomes or unemployed have been found to be more at risk of suffering harm from gambling. Given this application is in the centre of Droylsden, which is one of the more deprived locations in Tameside, and is in close proximity to a number of schools and other gambling establishments, approving the application would put the local population, including children, at increased risk of harm from gambling.

Based on the evidence summarised in the attached report, Public Health feel that the granting of this licence will undermine the licencing objective of the “protection of children and vulnerable adults”.

Yours Sincerely,

Simon Watts  
Registrar in Public Health

**Public Health Evidence in Response to Gambling Licence Application – Droylsden**

**Introduction**

This brief report summarises available evidence on gambling harms in response to a recent application for a new gambling premise licence in Droylsden.

**Context - Gambling Harms**

Recent research suggests approximately 3% of the adult population are likely to have a gambling problem (1), though this is likely to be an underestimate (2). In Tameside, this equates to 5,400 adults (3). For Droylsden, this is the equivalent of 570 adults (4). It is estimated that a further 6-10 people close to gamblers are harmed for every person who gambles problematically (5).

14% of children age 11-16 in the UK have gambled in the last week, and 39% in the last 12 months according to national research (6); this is more children than had smoked, drank alcohol or taken drugs. In 2019, nearly 7,000 secondary school students were surveyed across Leeds about gambling; of the 24% who had admitted to gambling previously, bingo was the second most popular gambling method (7), only 1% behind the most common method.

Tameside's gambling licencing policy highlights a number of groups who are vulnerable to gambling harms, including those listed below (8):

- Children and young people aged 16-24
- Those who live in deprived areas

Tameside MBC has worked with other councils in Greater Manchester, the Gambling Commission and a regional counselling charity to ensure that people can access support if they are gambling problematically, but also to improve public awareness of gambling harms as a health issue. This has involved counselling clinics being set up in Tameside, as well as proactively communicating with residents about the potential harm from gambling (9). To date, only 6 referrals for gambling counselling support were made for residents from Droylsden postcodes during 2019, though 570 adults are estimated to be experiencing harm (10).

Granting a new licence in this area would undermine the efforts made to date to reduce harms and potentially lead to mixed messages for local residents.

**Proximity of Licence Application to Existing Licences in the Area and Vulnerable Groups**

There are already 5 venues where residents can gamble close to the centre of Droylsden, in close proximity to where the new application has been made, figure 1 below. As one can see from the map, the addition of a further licence in this area would increase the density of gambling establishments, and in an area where there are 9 primary schools and 2 secondary schools in close proximity, potentially increase the exposure of younger residents to gambling.

**Figure 1 – Location of Gambling Establishments in Droylsden**



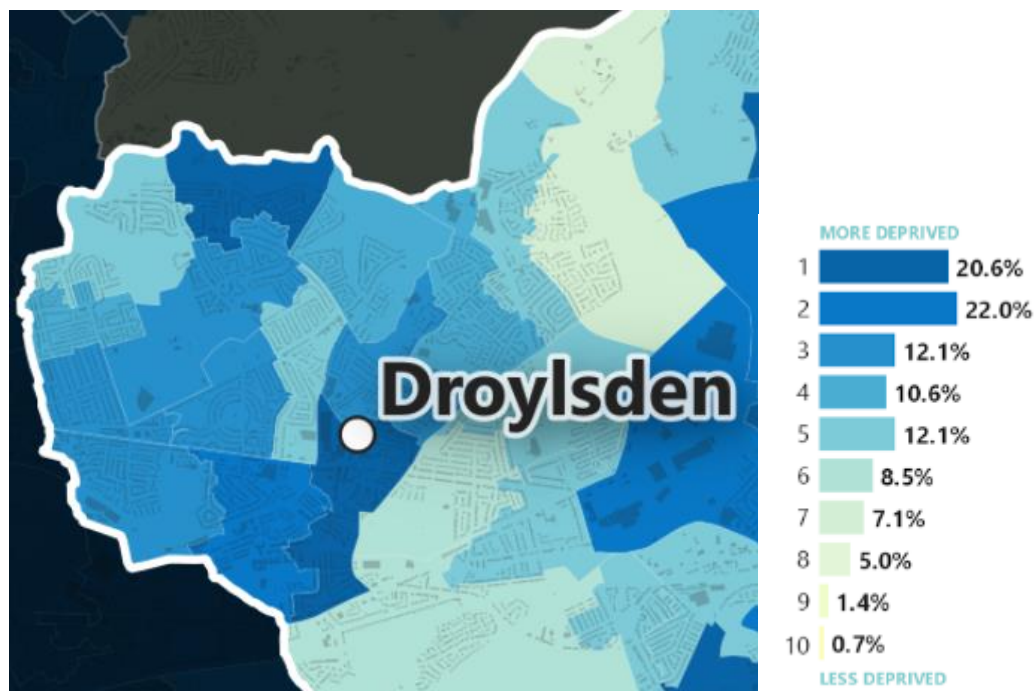
Note, the recent application from Merkur Slots is the circle in red.

Source: Tameside Licencing Data

## Deprivation

The centre of Droylsden where the application is being made is in the top 10% most deprived LSOAs nationally, figure 2. As such it's residents are likely to already be experiencing a higher level of gambling harm (11).

Figure 2 – LSOAs by Deprivation Decile in Droylsden



Source: Sheffield University: <https://imd2019.group.shef.ac.uk/>

Note, percentages apply to the Tameside population as a whole

## Summary

The centre of Droylsden has high levels of deprivation relative to the rest of Tameside and England, a high density of existing gambling establishments, and also a high number of schools close by.

Given the evidence reviewed, it is likely that the addition of a further gambling establishment in this area would put the local population, including children, at increased risk of harm from gambling and counteract some of the progress made in supporting local residents over the last 12 months.

Based on the evidence outlined above, Public Health feel that the granting of this licence will undermine the licencing objective of the “protection of children and vulnerable adults”.

## References

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