

**From:** Celine McDaid  
**Sent:** Mon, 26 Feb 2024 12:54:02 +0000  
**To:** Breese, Robert  
**Subject:** Fwd: licence proposal for 165 Fleet Street  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

THIS IS AN EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear Robert Breese,

[robert.breese@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:robert.breese@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

I am writing as a **resident of [REDACTED] Johnson's Court** with regard to the new premise licence application for 165 Fleet Street. Please note on file that I **on object utterly to the requested licence** and proposed activities on the ground floor and basement of 165 Fleet Street.

The objections I have relate to the licencing objectives: public safety and the prevention of public nuisance, definitely disorderly behaviour and the potential for crime.

I live with my young family (3 year old) in the courtyard directly behind 165 Fleet Street. There already exists problems with the courtyard in the evening and nighttime as people congregate here, thanks to the benches in situ, the water feature, and even in adverse weather as there is covered shelter provided by the archway leading to Gough Square. A number of street sleepers also inhabit this area, and in my experience over the past 10 years, the great number (not all) are dependent on alcohol and / or illegal substances.

The acoustics in the area are incredible, owing to tall, brick buildings on all sides. Private conversations are not as private as the speakers believe them to be, and when there is rowdy behaviour it is often so loud as to make the radio / tv in audible inside. When late at night, it is highly disruptive to sleep for everyone in my house, my child included.

To propose a licence where alcohol can be served not long after schools open and to run until 2am - with kicking out time at 2.30am - is to guarantee unwelcome activity in the surrounding courtyards where people will inevitably relocate. On warm evenings, drinks will be taken here also in far greater numbers than they already are. I have no doubt that Bolt Court, Gough Square, Hind Court, Wine Office Court, Red Lion Court, Crane Court and Gunpowder Square will see the same unwelcome, disorderly behaviour. So will New Street Square, but at least they have their own security staff 24/7.

More importantly than the noise pollution I have a serious concern about safety, especially coming home from work (which can sometimes be 11pm or later). I have already been physically assaulted twice in the alleyways leading from Fleet Street to my home in the past 5 years, and the people involved were not sober. I know I am not the only person in this area to have experienced this.

I have no desire to have my home become an unwelcome place or access to it to become scary to the point where it will impact when I can work / what time until, for fear of my safety or that of my young child. Even after school there are occasions we have been stopped in Johnson's Court by drunks. The alleys are dark and narrow and this is extremely unsettling, and intimidating, especially for a child - as is raucous behaviour amongst groups.

There have already been a number of occasions I've had to interrupt people having sex up against the wall outside our living room , having been turfed out of a nearby establishment - this is usually around midnight. If the licence goes ahead, I expect a lot more public disorder of this nature, but longer into the night. I implore you not to put me in a position of having to explain to my child what those scary groans are - or worse, her getting accustomed to it.

To have a licence to sell alcohol from as early as 10am to as late as 2am is completely in stark contrast to the needs or appetites of people living within the immediate and extended vicinity.

No signs asking patrons to leave quietly ever work.

Thank you for noting this objection. Please send me an email acknowledging receipt of this objection.

Best wishes  
Celine McDaid