

From: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Olave, Hart Street, and All Hallows Staining, with St Catherine Coleman

St Olave's Church

London EC3R 7NB

19 September 2017

Dear Sirs

Objection to the variation of a premises license (Tower Ward) for Roma, 14 New London Street EC3R 7NA

We write on behalf of the PCC to express in the strongest possible terms our objection to the granting of a variation of the licence for these premises.

We have a duty of care to the Rector of this church, and to his family and those living in or near the Rectory, located above the church. The operations and activities of Roma – sited within metres of the church - already cause an unacceptable level of distress and we believe this licence should be curtailed rather than extended. Our objections relate to all four licensing objectives:

Prevention of crime and disorder

- Patrons of the establishment spill out in an uncontrolled way in large numbers in the early hours of the morning. They are frequently drunk and disorderly, with arguments and fights breaking out. This is unacceptable. There appears to be little attempt by management to police these disturbances.

Public safety

- As above, there are grave concerns about the ability of the management of the premises to control the behaviour of patrons. The Rector and members of his family should not have to worry about their safety when returning home late at night. By virtue of his role, the Rector will sometimes be required to make visits during the night (to minister to the dying, for example) and it is unacceptable that his safety should be put at risk during encounters with drunk or aggressive patrons outside the premises.

Prevention of public nuisance

- Music is played at loud levels throughout the evening into the early hours. It prevents anyone living locally, including in the Rectory, from getting any sleep. This is followed, when the premises close, by a further great surge of noise as patrons come out and stand around in the street outside, and is clearly a major public nuisance.



Protection of children from harm

- There are frequently young children staying in the Rectory (including the grandchildren of the Rector). The noise and disturbance to which they are regularly subjected in the early hours of the morning is unacceptable. The shouting and swearing wakes them and causes great distress.

We would make two additional points:

- The licensing authorities must take into account the **cumulative** negative impact that Roma's activities have on the health and wellbeing of those living close by. Weekend after weekend residents are subjected to this appalling disturbance and the resulting anxiety and loss of sleep. An extension of the licence through weekdays will make this far worse, when the authorities should in fact be seeking to remedy the problem by reducing the licensing hours.
- Other premises close to Roma, including the large hotels, share our objections to this licence and are providing video evidence showing the nature of the problem. All individuals living or staying in this area have a right to undisturbed sleep.

If you need us to elaborate on any of these points, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Churchwarden.

Churchwarden
On behalf of the PCC

Town Clerk
(Licensing)
City of London
Guildhall
London, EC2P 2EJ