



Al- Khazra Markazi Masjid

53 – Chadderton way – Oldham – OL1 2EF

Licensing Office
Oldham Council
Sir Robert Peacock House
Vulcan Street
Oldham
OL1 4LA

Re: Licensing application for ‘Coldhurst Off Licence, 162 Chadderton Way, Oldham, OL1 2EW’

To Whom It May Concern

We are writing, as a recognised Islamic establishment on the same road and representing a community in excess of four hundred people, to express our grave concerns and fears of the repercussions to the proposed licensing of the above premises.

We feel that enabling an alcohol license would further increase the crime and disorder of this area as alcohol becomes more readily available and the associated anti-social behaviour particularly in the youths. Oldham has already experienced a 60% crime rate increase in the last 3 years (<https://www.numbeo.com/crime/in/Oldham>) and couple that with the 35% loss of officers in the Greater Manchester area alone, we are afraid that issuing a license would mean more anti-social behaviour and no Police officers to deal with it as demonstrated all around Oldham with violent off licenses robberies due to alcohol.

We therefore believe that this would have devastating effects on children and youth and the quality of life in the area as it would attract more crime and anti-social behaviour.

We also believe that the negative impact on health that access to alcohol will have. Public Health England have said that nine of the region’s ten boroughs have a higher rate of alcohol related deaths than the national average. Greater Manchester Health Partnership said it knows “that drugs and alcohol adversely affect our people, our communities and our public services more than in most other places in England”. (Oldham Chronicle.co.uk). We feel that a license would bring further issues to a community already deprived and feeling the after effects of a particularly troublesome two year period of Covid.

We would also ask for you to have a Community Consultation before granting of an alcohol license.

I do hope you take our letter and reasons for refusal of an alcohol license seriously as it will be us, the people who live, work and worship in the area to face the effects of it.

Yours faithfully,

Al- Khazra Markazi Masjid