

THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

c/o Blackett, Hart & Pratt, LLP
Aire House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont
Durham, DH1 1TH
19 December 2022

Licensing Department
Durham County Council
PO Box 617
Durham
DH1 9HZ

STACK, 2-6 Silver Street, Durham DH1 3RB

I am writing on behalf of the City of Durham Trust to object to the application for the grant of a premises licence made on behalf of STACK (Durham) Ltd.

The Trustees of the City of Durham Trust discussed this application at their meeting on 13 December and decided unanimously to oppose the application. The Trust does not normally even discuss licensing applications, but this one is so extensive and in such a sensitive location that we resolved to oppose it. 2-6 Silver Street, the former Marks and Spencer store, is at the heart of the city's retail district and the proposed change of use would result in the loss of valued retail provision and its replacement by yet more food and drink outlets.

The above explains the general background to our concerns. However, we are very specifically concerned that this application completely fails to satisfy the requirements of the Council's *Statement of Licensing Policy*, and it fails to promote all four of the licensing objectives. Accordingly, the Trust wholeheartedly endorses the detailed objections already submitted by the Crossgate Community Partnership.

The Trust wishes to highlight two particular concerns. The first is that Moatside Lane is totally unsuitable as an emergency exit. One of our Trustees has experience as a former member of the University staff of carrying out an emergency drill with students using Moatside Lane. Even in daylight and without the fear associated with a real emergency, the lane proved totally unsuitable.

The second concern is about the very nature of the license that is being sought. It is for the premises as a whole, not for the individual drinking establishments within them. This sharing of responsibility for the licensing arrangements is likely to leave loopholes and make it even more difficult to achieve the licensing objectives. The fact that the application is so obviously cut and pasted from a previous application in a very different location only reinforces this concern about the lack of proper oversight.

In view of the above concerns, the City of Durham Trust urges that the application must be refused.

Yours sincerely

John Lowe
Chair, City of Durham Trust