

The Rt Hon Sir John Hayes CBE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Christine Marshall & Matthew Hogan
Executive Director Commercialisation & Interim Director
South Holland District Council
Priory Road
Spalding
Lincs PE11 2XE

10 August 2021

Dear Christine & Matthew,

24 hour Gaming Centre, Hall Place, Spalding

I write regarding the application for a gambling/bingo licence for a 24 hour adult gaming centre in the former Dorothy Perkins shop in Hall Place, Spalding.

The proposal for 24 hour opening is unwelcome and, leaving aside the loss of valuable town centre retail space, given that there are existing gaming businesses nearby, unnecessary. The extraordinary suggestion that the proposed business should be open through the night could very easily lead to increased anti-social behaviour and add extra pressure on our local constabulary required to police the establishment. Furthermore, it is very likely to lead to problem gambling to the detriment of my constituents. There are clearly, on this basis, secure grounds for objecting this proposal.

As you know, there are currently a number of betting shops with gaming machines and the New Horizon Gaming Centre in the town centre so, clearly, this area of entertainment is already well catered for.

I have received a large number of complaints about this application from my constituents who believe, as I do, that the Council, in the light of its policy on Place, should reject this application as a matter of course.

I, therefore, hope the Panel will, indeed, reject this application, without qualification.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Hayes'.

**The Rt Hon Sir John Hayes CBE MP
South Holland and The Deepings**