

## Public Health response to application

Public Health are submitting an objection to the application for a new premise license for 57 Harnall Lane. This is due to the fact that Public Health does not feel that the application complies with the following two licensing objectives:

- The prevention of public nuisance
- Public Safety

The location of the premise in this application is opposite the Salvation Army Harnall Lifehouse, who provide support and accommodation for single homeless people, including rough sleepers.

While estimates of alcohol use rates among the homeless varies considerably, there is agreement among experts that homeless people have much higher rates of alcohol misuse than the general population<sup>1234</sup>. The location of the proposed off-license premise will therefore be in close proximity to a higher than average number of vulnerable people dependent on alcohol. Having 'easy' access to alcohol (due to this close location) could have a detrimental effect on the alcohol recovery treatment services some of the clients of Harnall Lifehouse may be receiving. This ease of access could therefore also have a detrimental impact on the physical and mental health of clients from Harnall Lifehouse. The easy access to alcohol to clients of Harnall Lifehouse could also contribute toward difficulties for staff to fully support the clients to engage with other services in the city (due to there being a greater chance of the client being under the influence of alcohol).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/visions/housing-and-homelessness-vol4/substance-use-pathways-homelessness>

<sup>2</sup> Baumohl, J. and Huebner, R. (1991). Alcohol and other drug problems among the homeless: Research, practice and future directions. *Housing Policy Debate*, 2(3), 837-866.

<sup>3</sup> Teesson, M., Hodder, T. and Buhrich, N. (2003). Alcohol and other drug use disorders among homeless people in Australia. *Substance Use and Misuse*, 38(3-6), 463-474.

<sup>4</sup> Glasser, I. and Zywiak, W.H. (2003). Homelessness and substance misuse: A tale of two cities. *Substance Use and Misuse*, 38(3-6), 551-576