

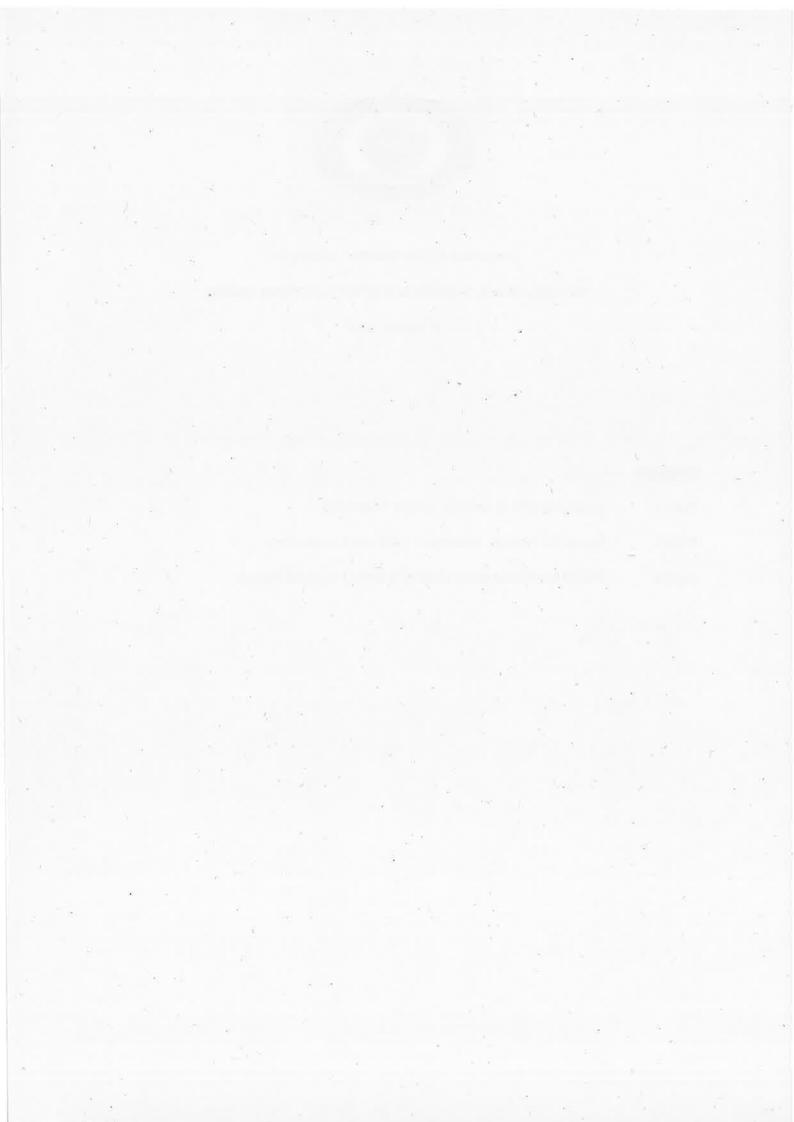
Supporting Documentation relating to:

58 Bridge Street, Walsall Licensing Sub Committee Hearing.

1st March 2022

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WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B			
	Crime No.	N/A	
	URN	N/A	
Statement of Jennifer Mellor			
Age if under 18 over 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")	Occupation Walsall Licensin Officer, West midlands Police		
This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.	y me) is true to the best of my know iable to prosecution if I have wilfully	ledge and belief and I make stated in it anything which I	
Signature: (witness)	D. D. C.	ate 21 February 2022	
Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply	witness details on rear)		
! am Jennifer Mellor 60384, Walsall Licensing and	Regulatory Services Officer cu	rently stationed at Walsall	
Police Station.			
This statement supports the representations mad	e by West Midlands Police for a	new Premise Licence at	
58 Bridge Street, Walsall and its purpose is to pro			
forthcoming Licencing hearing on 1st March 2022			
police officers and officers of Walsall Borough Co		in add are adeal into v	
This premise is situated within the Cumulative Im	pact Area which was only renew	red and agreed in	
September of last year. During the review of the			
(CIP), off sales have been included for the first til			
change prior to the consultation taking place. The	e application for 58 Bridge Stree	not only sits within the	
CIP, it is surrounded by licensed premises in one	of the main areas that attracts p	people into the town of an	
evening. There are a number of nightclubs, Spo	rts bar and venues offering take	away services within the	
same street, one of these nightclub has a capaci	ty of over a 1000 persons. Havi	ng another licensed	
premises not only within the CIP but in close pro	ximity to this densely populated	street of licensed premises	
has clear potential to impact on crime and disord	er and public nuisance.	A STATE OF THE REAL PROPERTY OF	
Under the Home Office Guidance, issued under	section 182 of the Licensing Act	2003, the definition of	
Cumulative Impact is: "Cumulative impact is the			

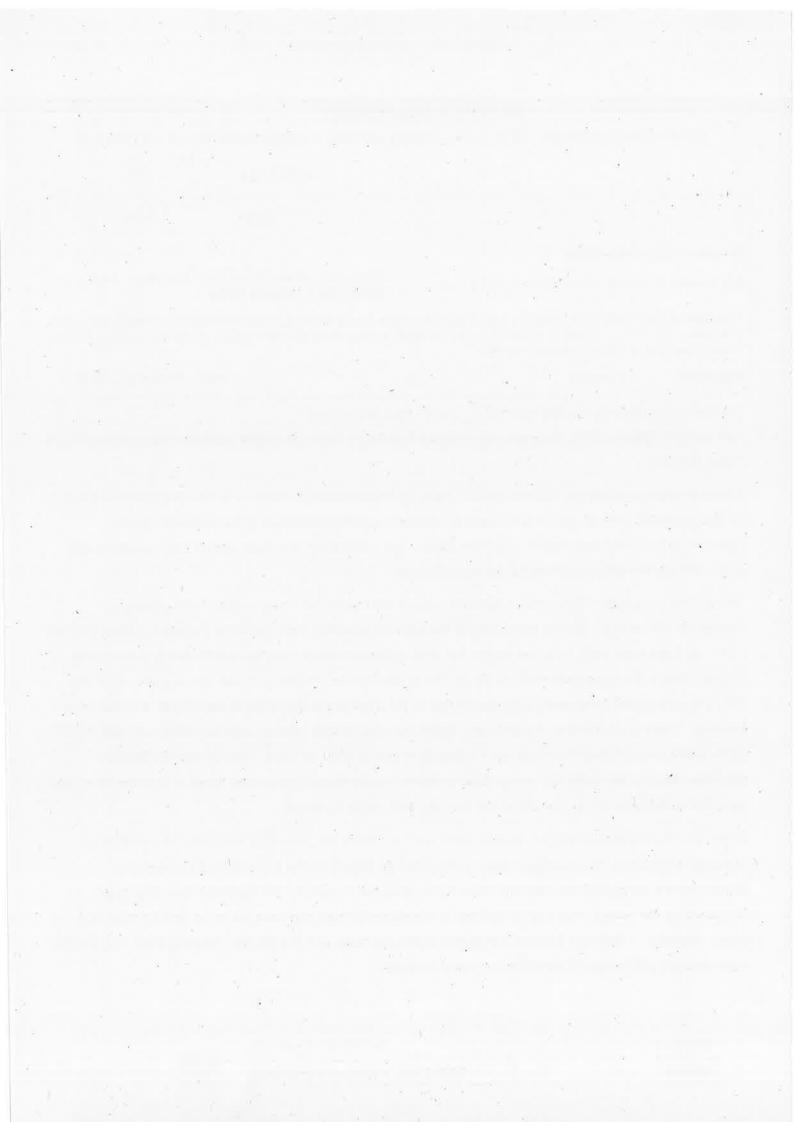
Under the Home Office Guidance, issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, the definition of Cumulative Impact is: "Cumulative impact is the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a number of licensed premises concentrated in one area." Cumulative impact has been described as the "stress" that a large number of licensed premises can have on crime and disorder and public nuisance. I believe it is the accumulation of the premises and the people attending them that creates the increased problems and demands on many services.

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Signature witnessed by

03/2016

OFFICIAL – (when complete)



OFFICIAL - (when complete)

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Crime No.

N/A

URN

N/A

Statement of Jennifer Mellor

On Saturday 12th February between the hours of 17:00 hours and 21:30 hours an event was held at a venue in Bridge Street. This event forms part of the recovery of the night time economy as detailed in the original representations dated 28th January 2022. This event had been occurring prior to the regulations imposed on us by the Government due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During these times police evidenced on Bridge Street, disorder, drunkenness, a theft and an assault on a Police Officer. Police also received a report of a male offering drinks to children present in the street and on further inspection this male had a bottle of sprits on him together with an offensive weapon. Empty glass bottles were seen on the floor which officers' believed could have contained alcohol, gas canisters and balloons were seen in the street and officers noticed a smell of cannabis in the air. All these incidents occurred within yards of 58 Bridge Street and at a time when sales of alcohol could be taking place should this application be granted.

On 15th February 2022 I attended a Town Centre Operational meeting, it was at this meeting amongst other issues, that current street drinkers were discussed. This is a concern for Walsall and work is taking place to engage and support with these people. The public nuisance caused by these persons are further exasperated by the additional people who congregate with them. By having an additional licensed premise on Bridge Street has the potential to displace the street drinking adding further to public nuisance.

I exhibit (JRM/WMP001) Crime figures as referenced in Insp Hobday's statement.

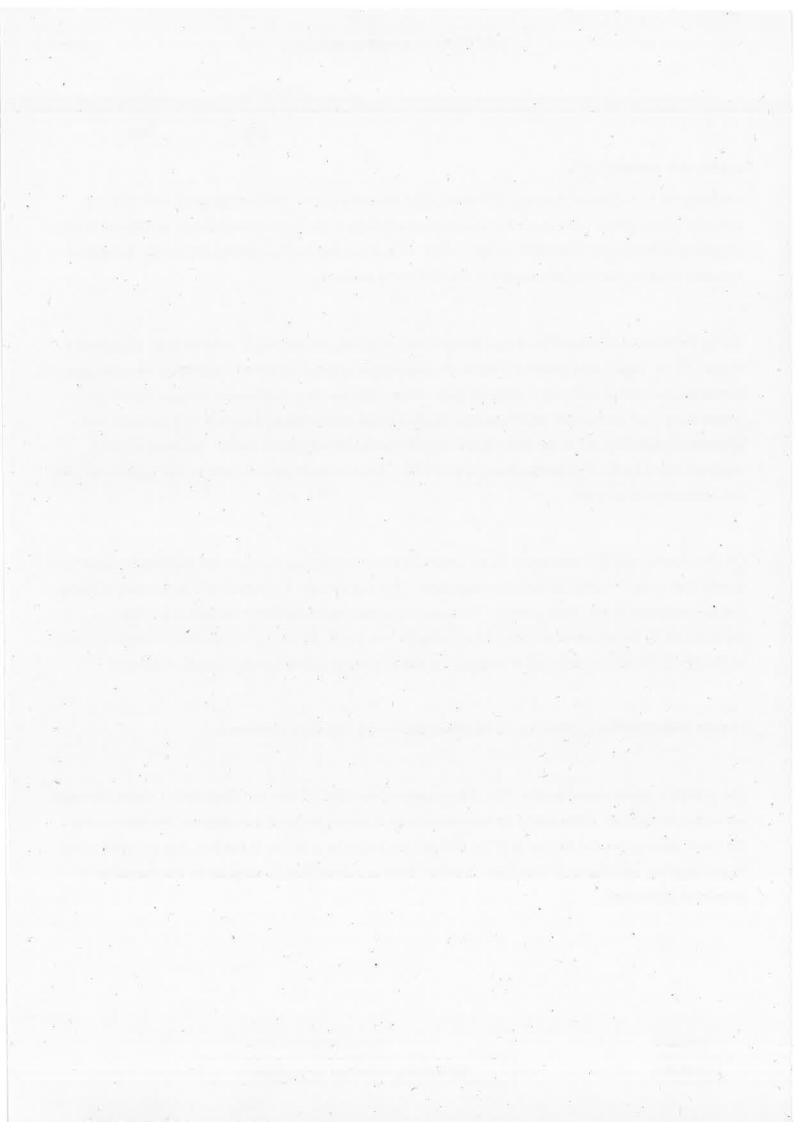
The guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, Crime and Disorder 2.1 states Licensing authorities should look to the police as the main source of advice on crime and disorder. We believe with the information above, the existence of the CIP and the evidence provided at the time, the exhibited crime figures together with Inspector Hobdays statement there is overwhelming evidence for the committee to refuse this application.

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Signature witnessed by

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OFFICIAL - (when complete)



WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

1 5452		Crime No.
		URN
Statement of Ni	icholas James HOBDAY	
Age if under 18	(if over 18 insert "over 18")	Occupation Police Inspector 2228
This statement make it knowing which I know to		h signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I ce, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything a true.
Signature:	(witness)	Date 19/02/2022

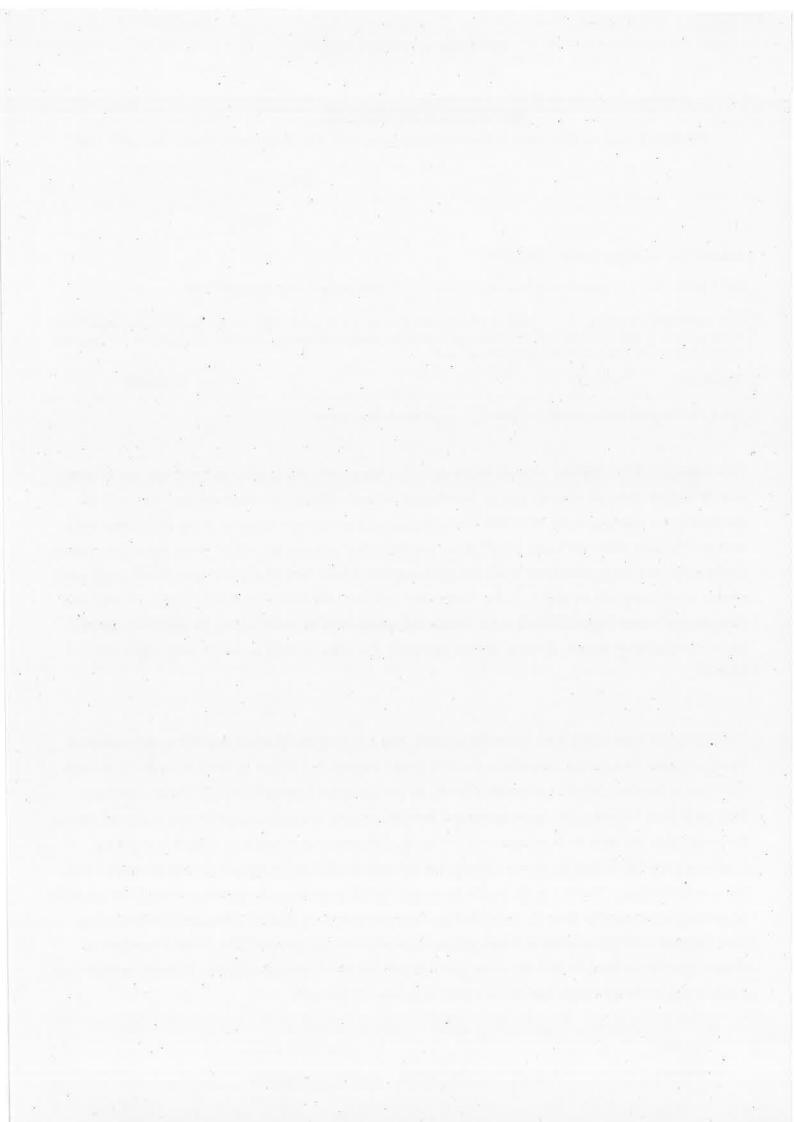
I am Inspector 2228 HOBDAY of West Midlands Police. My current role is with the Neighbourhood Policing Unit for Walsall borough, where I lead on harm reduction work with partner organisations - this includes overseeing our licensing work. The sale of alcohol is a regulated activity because of the well proven likes between this and crime and harm. Public policy and legislation realises that not all of the harm underpinned by the sales and the consumption of alcohol can be directly traced back to any one specific individual sale, person or premises and so allows for the designation of both Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) and Cumulitative Impact Zones (CIZ) by public authorities responsible for pulbic safety. Walsall town centre is currently designated as both of these, due to the nature and scale of crime and harm occuring in the location.

The PSPO has been in effect for a number of years, and was recently renewed due to the continuation of these problems. Despite the best efforts of public bodies this has not helped us reduce the levels of crime and harm in the town centre to acceptable levels, so the Cumilitive Impacy Policy (CIP) was introduced. Both restrictions involve public consultation and detailed scrutiny of the need for their use, balanced against the impact they will have on busnesses and the public. Despite these restrictions Walsall town centre continues to be the hotspot for violent ctime in the borough, as well as the hotspot for overall volume of all crime in the borough. This is a public health and public safety issue all public bodies in Walsall are focussed on tackling in partnership. Both the Safer Walsall Partnership and the Walsall Safeguarding Partnership have adopted reducing violence and exploitation as priorities for the borough. The elected members of Walsall Council are firmly behind this work, and represet the will of Walsall residents. Partners are currently collaborating on developing a new delivery plan to accelerate this work.

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	Crime No).
Total Sp. Mary St.	UR	N
Statement of Nicholas James	HORDAY	

OFFICIAL - (when complete)

Levels of crime and harm in Walsall town centre were obviously low during the pandemic, when much of the hospitality trade was severly restricted and vastly reduced numbers of people visited public spaces, especially those with traditional high footfall. However, Walsall continues to be blighted by these problems. When we look deeper we can see that we have a particular problem around Bridge Street and the surrounding environs, peaking within the night time economy (10pm to 5am, Friday into Saturday and Saturday into Sunday). Unsurprisingly this coincides with a high concentration of both on and off sales of alcohol.

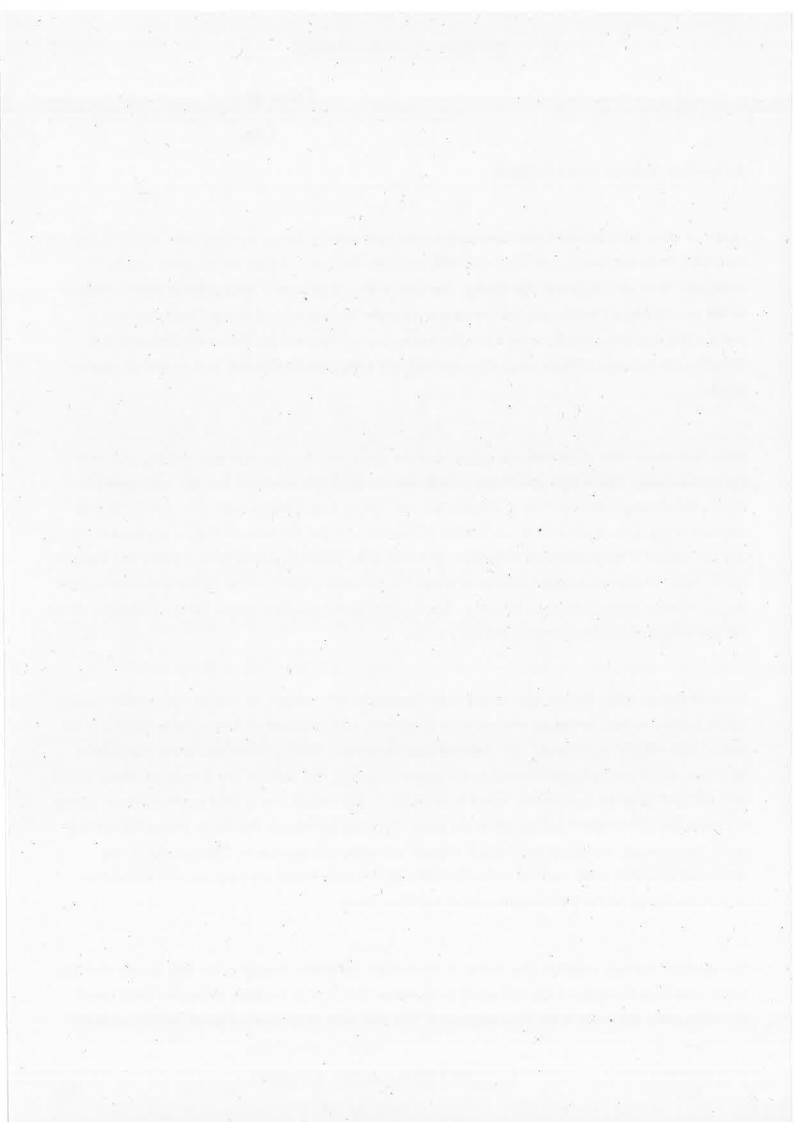
Since September 2021 West Midlands Police have put additional resources into high visibility foot patrol in the above locality. This is both specifically to cope with the night time economy, but also more widely to cope with increased violence. This is at significant cost, clearly financially but also at the cost of policing attention and support in other localities. We are so concerned about this problem that we are even changing the shift pattern of Neighbourhood Constables to increase our presence overnight on a Friday and Saturday night - again depleting our presence in other areas. It is therefore a priority of the partnerships to maximise the use of other methods for reducing crime, violence and harm in our town centre. Chief amongst these are the use of licensing controls such as the CIP.

It should also be noted that the town centre is also special for the borough, as it is the most visible location for the public and has the highest concentration of retailers, hospitality and visitors to the borough. It is the towns 'shop window' to the public, and therefore not only are crime and violence issues the most visible here, they also have the biggest impact on the towns reputation. Bad publicity has a negative impact on the commercial helth of the town centre, which in turn leads to less footfall, empty retail premises, leading to an increased feeling of neglect and danger to the public. Reduced tax income also mean less public funds to tackle these issues, and a downward spiral of health and prosperity can ensue. Other issues closely connected to alcohol sales, such as anti-social behaviour, homelessness and begging, can also make a very visible impact on the publics perception of the town centre.

One example of easily available information on the internet that shows Walsall in this light can be found at 'https://crimerate.co.uk/west-midlands' which today states "Out of all of the West Midlands's larger towns and cities, West Bromwich is the most dangerous. The next most dangerous is Walsall, and Birmingham

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Statement of Nicholas James HOBDAY	engels, but it is	

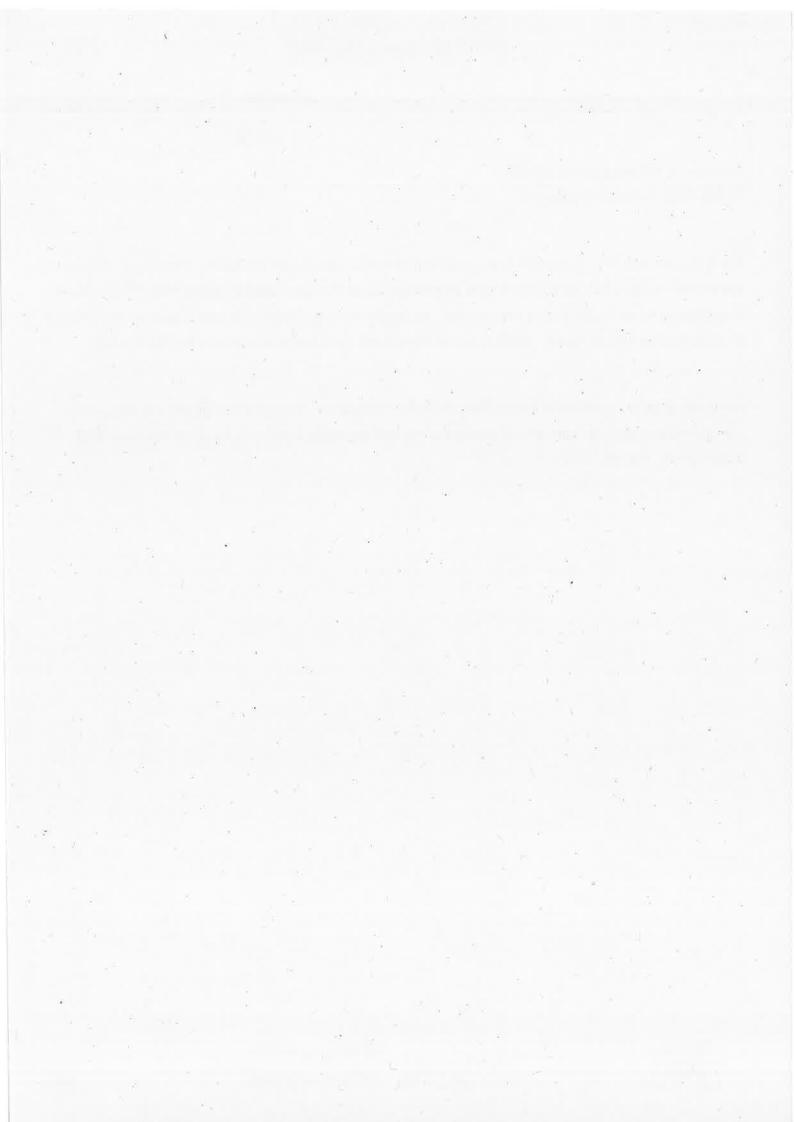
For all the reasons laid out above it is essential that we restrict the overall availability of alcohol in Walsall's town centre, making full use of the benefits accorded to us by the Cummunitive Impact Policy (CIP). This is in addition to robustly challenging any premises we identify as specifically being responsible for the increase in crime and harm to the public. This applies throughout the Zone and at any time of the day or night.

For these reasons, on behalf of West Midlands Police I support the representations made and request the sub-licensing committee to refuse the granting of this new premises licence for the premises Leoo Shop, 58 Bridge Street, Walsall, WS1 1JG.

Signature .

comes in as third most dangerous

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The West Midlands Crime Statistics

Home • West Midlands

Search postcode, town, city, village name...

Crime in the West Midlands

The West Midlands is the third safest county in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The overall crime rate in the West Midlands in 2021 was 45 crimes per 1,000 people, and the most common crimes were violence and sexual offences, which happened to roughly every 22 out of 1,000 residents.

Out of all of the West Midlands's larger towns and cities, West Bromwich is the most dangerous. The next most dangerous is Walsall, and Birmingham comes in as third most dangerous. There are safer parts of the West Midlands, starting with Sutton Coldfield which ranks as the safest area in West Midlands, followed up by Solihull in second place, and Stourbridge in third place.

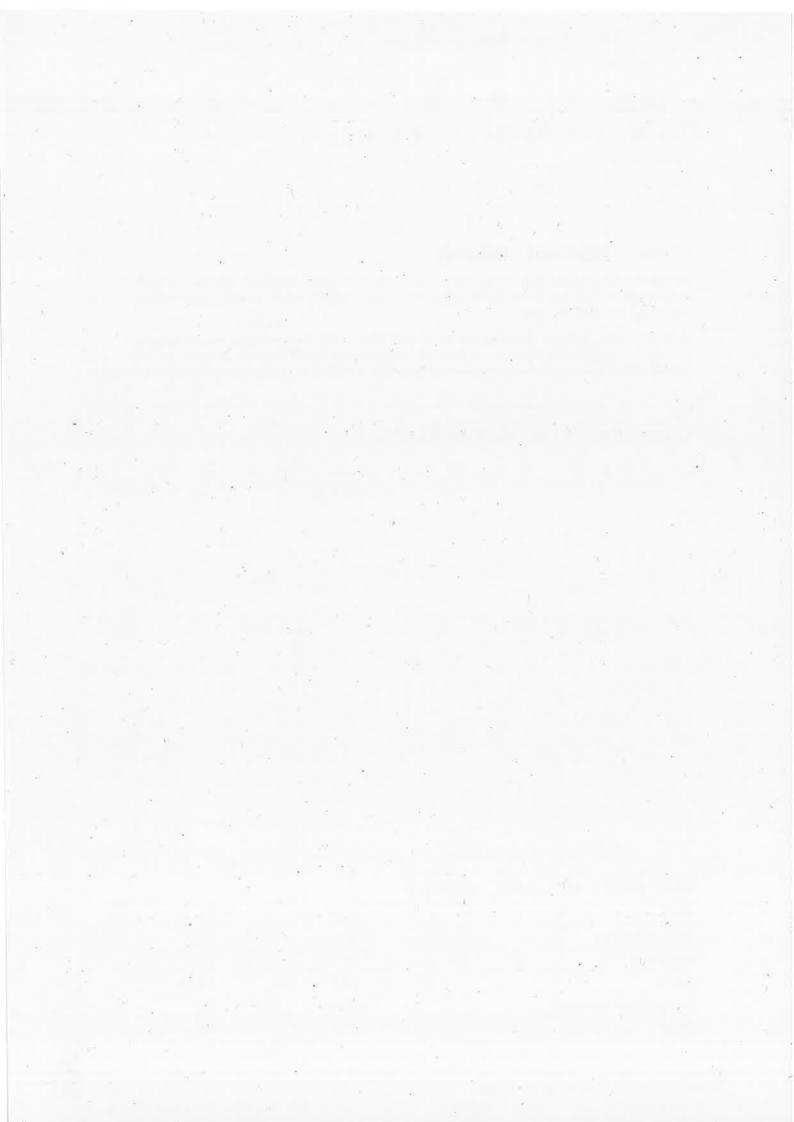
Crime Map of The West Midlands

West Midlands Crime	Summary		
Crime • •		Count ▲ ▼	Rate ▲ ▼
Anti-Social Behaviour		18,644	6.37
·Bicycle Theft		819	0.20

 Burglary
 6,963
 2,38

 Criminal Damage and Arson
 10,903
 3,72

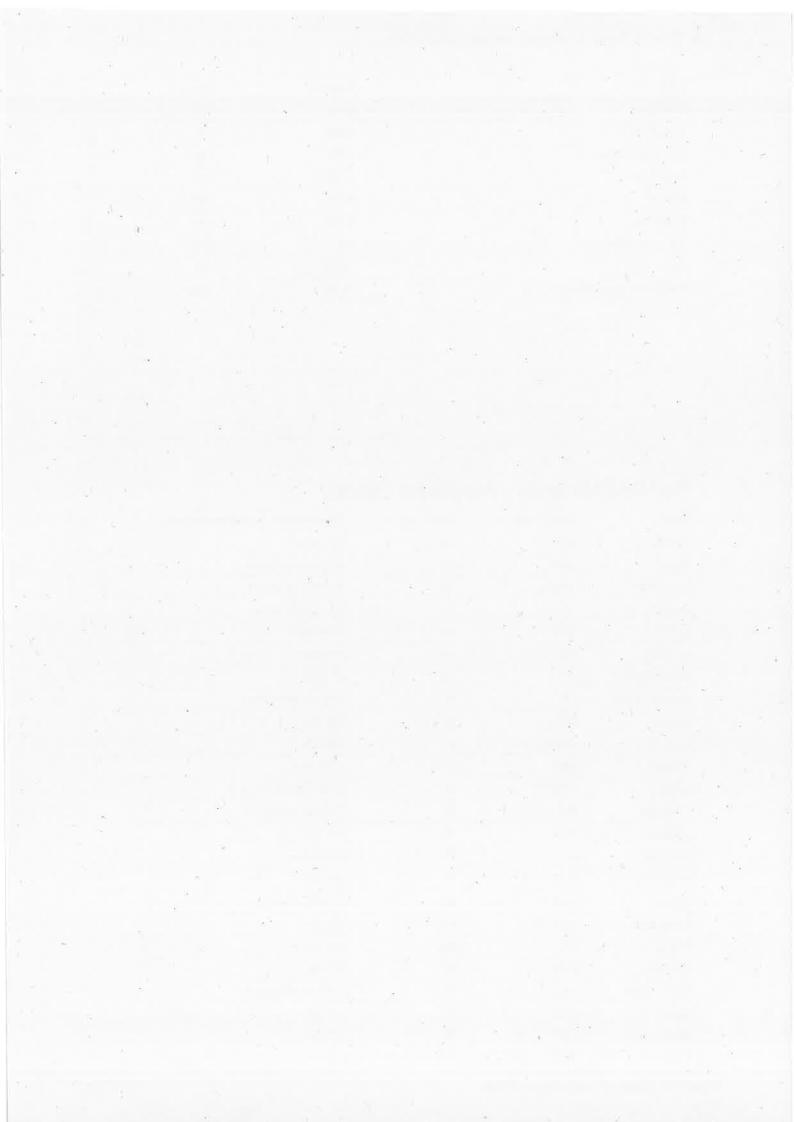
 Drugs
 3,073
 1.05



	Count * *	Rate • •
10	2,872	0.98
	7,454	2.55
	1,832	0.63
	13,527	4.62
	2,733	0.93
	4,757	1.62
	976	0.33
	11,091	3.79
	64,589	22.05
		2,872 7,454 1,832 13,527 2,733 4,757 976 11,091

The West Midlands's Po	opulation Centres
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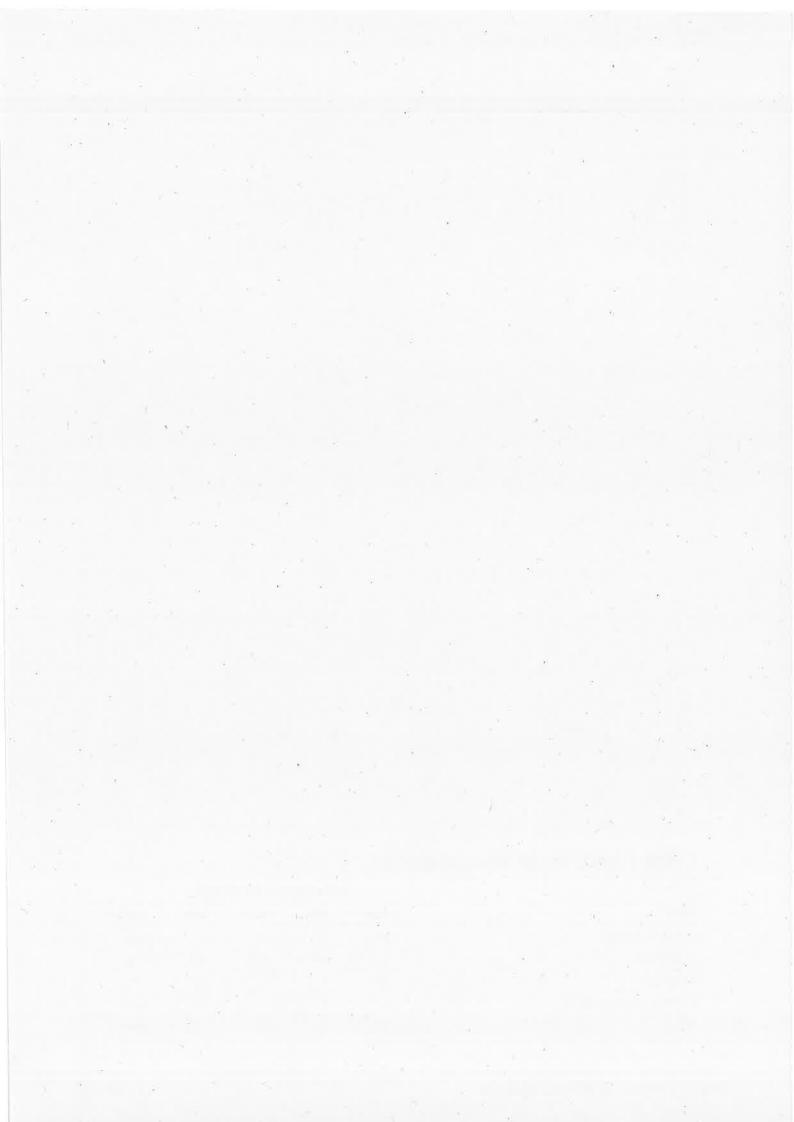
Name A ▼	Total Crimes ▲ ▼	Crime Rate ▲ ▼	Rate Difference from West Midlands
Aldridge	1,143	29	55% safer
Bilston	1,917	57	21% more dangerous
Birmingham	57,545	50	9% more dangerous
Bloxwich	2,533	48	7% more dangerous
Brierley Hill	1,428	44	1.1% safer
<u>Brownhills</u>	787	37	21% safer
Castle Bromwich	377	33	36% safer
Chelmsley Wood	926	67	33% more dangerous
Coseley	892	38	17% safer
Coventry	15,258	40	13% safer
Darlaston	934	44	0.99% safer
<u>Dudley</u>	3,990	47	4.5% more dangerous
<u>Fordbridge</u>	474	54:	17% more dangerous
Halesowen	1,656	28	62% safer
Kingshurst	9	11	4022% safer
Kingswinford	1,262	25	82% safer
Oldbury	1,264	49	9% more dangerous
Rowley Regis	1,434	40	12% safer.
Sedgley	905	. 29	55% safer
Smethwick	2,210	. 41	9% safer
Smith's Wood	546	50	11% more dangerous
Solihull	2,920	27	67% safer
Stourbridge	1,950	30	49% safer



Name A *	Total Crimes A 7	Crime Rate * *	Rate Difference from West Midlands
Sutton Coldfield	2,575	. 24	88% safer
Tipton	2,091	, 46	2.7% more dangerous
Walsall	3,836	52	14% more dangerous
Wednesbury	946	49	8% more dangerous
West Bromwich	4,443	56	20% more dangerous
Willenhall	2,230	42	7% safer
Wolverhampton	11,262	46	1.7% more dangèrous

Crime Trends in the West Midlands

	Crime Rate Per 1,000 Residents						
Crime	2018	2019	2020	2021	Trend		
Anti-Social Behaviour	15	12	18	6	Safer		
Bicycle Theft	1.1	0.88	0.78	0.28	Safer		
Burglary	10	8	7	2.4	Safer		
Criminal Damage and Arson	9)	8	7	3.7	Safer		
Drugs	1.5	1:9	2.0	1.0	Safer		



	Crime Rate Per 1,000 Residents						
Crime	2018	2019	2020	2021	Trend		
Other Crime	1.2	1.5	.1.9	0.98	Safer		
Other Theft	8	7	6	2.6	Safer		
Possession of Weapons	0.78	1.0	1.1	0.63	Safer		
Public Order	4.8	6	8	4.6	Safer		
Robbery (inc. mugging)	2.7	3.0	2.3	0.93	Safer		
Shoplifting	6	6	3.9	1.6	Safer		
Theft From the Person (inc. pickpocketing)	1.1	1.1	0.74	0.33	Safer		
Vehicle Crime	13	11	9	3.8	Safer		
Violence and Sexual Offences	26	33	41	22	Safer		

Last updated: 09 Apr 2021

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