

**OTHER PERSON 1**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 12:12 PM  
**To:** Regen, Licensing <[Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Objection to a license extension

Sure I live at [REDACTED]

On Thu, Mar 14, 2024 at 12:11 PM Regen, Licensing <[Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk)> wrote:  
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email lodging a representation.

Please give us your address as required for a valid representation.  
<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/business/licences/business-premises-licensing/how-to-lodge-a-representation>

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Unit Support Officer  
Licensing | Regulatory Services  
Southwark Council, 3rd Floor, Hub 1 | PO Box 64529 | London | SE1P 5LX  
Tel - 020 7525 7421 Licensing email - [licensing@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@southwark.gov.uk)

In future if you wish to submit a licensing application, a quicker way would be to apply online

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 12:07 PM  
**To:** Regen, Licensing <[Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Objection to a license extension

Hello

I would like to object to the license extension of units 1 & 2 777 Old kent road london se15 1nz. It is Empire Lounge.

I live [REDACTED] and this place is already a nuisance. They already don't follow their current rules and serve alcohol and have lock ins as much as they want. The sound really disturbs me in my house/bedroom. The patrons also park their cars all over the sidewalk making access to my front door difficult. I have also video of people having sex

in the back alley behind the business, which is in between my house and the business. There are frequent fights and shouting in the street late at night. To be honest, I dont know why this place is still open. There was a functional weed grow house just above it! I have strong suspicions this business was involved. So far the council has done nothing but be useless to our constant complaints. I would really appreciate an actual investigation into this business. I mean come one, at one point this business BUILT A WOODEN FRAME around fire escapes and exists for god knows what purpose! They just do what they want. Come on guys, wise up!

I hope my concerns are heard this time,



## **OTHER PERSON 2**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2024 5:01 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@southwark.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Empire Lounge. units 1&2, 777 old Kent road, SE15 1NZ 882544

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for replying to my email.

My address is: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Kind regards  
[REDACTED]

On Fri, 22 Mar 2024 at 16:52, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@southwark.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email lodging a representation.

Please give us your full address (please include the post code), as required for a valid representation.  
<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/business/licences/business-premises-licensing/how-to-lodge-a-representation>

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Unit Support Officer  
Licensing | Regulatory Services  
Southwark Council, 3rd Floor, Hub 1 | PO Box 64529 | London | SE1P 5LX  
Tel - 020 7525 7421 Licensing email - [licensing@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@southwark.gov.uk)

In future if you wish to submit a licensing application, a quicker way would be to apply online

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2024 3:21 PM  
**To:** Regen, Licensing <[Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Empire Lounge. units 1&2, 777 old Kent road, SE15 1NZ

To whom may consider,

Dear Madam/Sir

I'm writing to you to inform you, how much concern my family and I have about extending the closing time up to 2 am after midnight of Empire Loung night club, as we are already

suffering a lot from sleepness as a result of the noises and loud speaking of the people who come out of the club after current closing time (12midnight) and then sitting outside of our doorsteps, on the street ( [REDACTED] and start to chatting loudly smoking, drinking almost up to two am. therefore we are kindly asking Please do not extend the closing time more than 12 midnight.

Very Kind regard

[REDACTED]

## **OTHER PERSON 3**

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:38 PM

**To:** Regen, Licensing <Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Representation objecting to the Application : Licence number: 882544

[REDACTED]  
28 March 2024

[licensing@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@southwark.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam Southwark Council Licensing Team

**Licence number:** 882544

**Trading name and address:** The Executive Lounge

**Ward:** Old Kent Road

**Applicant Name:** Speedlink Services Ltd

**Application:** Premises -New Premises application for the provisions:

1. Permit the sale of alcohol by retail and the provision of recorded music Sunday to Thursday 11:00hrs until 00:00hrs, Friday and Saturday 11:00hrs until 02:00hrs.
2. To allow the provision of Late-Night Refreshment Sunday to Thursday 23:00hrs until 00:00hrs, Friday and Saturday 23:00hrs until 02:00hrs.
3. To allow the premises to be open Sunday to Thursday 11:00hrs until 00:30hrs, Friday and Saturday 11:00hrs until 02:30hrs.
4. To allow for extra hours of licensable activities on notable days as applied.

**Please maintain the privacy of this representation by way of redaction where necessary so my details are not divulged in accordance to Data Protection Act 1998.**

### **1. Representation objecting to the Application**

As the owner of [REDACTED] I am submitting this representation **objecting** to the aforementioned 29 February 2024 application, referenced under Licence number: 882544, by Mr George Nwachukwu, Director of Speedlink Services Ltd.

I make this representation following the Licensing Objectives, 1) The prevention of crime and disorder 2) Public safety 3) The prevention of public nuisance and 4) protection of children from harm.

### **2. Residential Area**

The premises on the application, noted as the former Carphone warehouse shop site, is situated in a residential area with the rear of the building being only 7 meters from the nearest residential building at ground level [Fig 1]. It should be noted that many of the residents are families with young children.



Figure 1 Empire Lounge Next to Residential Buildings of Sylvan Grove

In respect of [Licensing Act 2003 Southwark Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 – 2026](#) , licensing policy hours for a residential area, require restaurant premises close at 23:00 daily, stated under **SECTION SEVEN – HOURS OF OPERATION**. The application to re-permit and extend the current provisions approved in 2021 for the sale and supply of alcohol beyond 23:00, which is the usual limit for residential areas and the current granted 01:30, would therefore not be appropriate.

In light of the applicants prior successful Licence applications this new Licence application demonstrates a further encroachment on clearly defined polices, in pursuant to Licencing Act 2003, designed to protect residents. This can be seen as further attempt to solidify the applicants' current activities of its Empire Lounge restaurant to that of a de facto nightclub while situated next to a residential area.

The negative impact to residents of Sylvan Grove, has escalated following the previous successful application by the same applicant in 2021 which permitted extension to its then, opening hours and provisions for supply of alcohol. Please see the comparison table of the prior 2021 application 875588 which was granted and new 2024 application 882544, yet to be determined.

Points	2021 Application 875588 Previously Granted	2024 New Application 882544 To be determined	Analysis of differences if Licence is granted on new application
1	The supply of alcohol (on and off the premises) on Sunday to Thursday from 11:00 to 00:00 and on Friday and Saturday from 11:00 to 01:00 the following day	Permit the sale of alcohol by retail and the provision of recorded music Sunday to Thursday 11:00hrs until 00:00hrs, Friday and Saturday 11:00hrs until 02:00hrs.	Will permit extending alcohol sales as part of the operation for a further 1 hour on Friday and Saturday night from 1am to 2am
2	Provision of late night refreshment (indoors) on Sunday to Thursday from 23:00 to 00:00 and on Friday and Saturday from 23:00 to 01:00 the following day	To allow the provision of Late-Night Refreshment Sunday to Thursday 23:00hrs until 00:00hrs, Friday and Saturday 23:00hrs until 02:00hrs.	Will permit extending indoor refreshment sales as part of the operation for a further 1 hour on Friday and Saturday night from 1am to 2am
3	Overall opening times shall be from on Sunday to Thursday from 11:00 to 00:30 and on Friday and Saturday from 11:00 to 01:30 the following day	To allow the premises to be open Sunday to Thursday 11:00hrs until 00:30hrs, Friday and Saturday 11:00hrs until 02:30hrs.	Will permit extending opening hours as part of the operation for a further 1 hour on Friday and Saturday night from 1.30am to 2.30am
4	Non Standard Timings: On Bank Holidays the permitted hours in respect of licensable activities are 11:00 to 02:00 and the permitted opening times are 11:00 to 02:30	To allow for extra hours of licensable activities on notable days as applied.	Will permit extending opening hours and licensable activities in addition to Bank Holidays and beyond 11:00 to 02:00 and opening 2.30am respectively

Figure 2 Licence Application Comparison (2021 and 2024)

### 3. Crime Disorder and Public Nuisance

For the residents of Sylvan Grove, the experience of the applicants Empire Lounge, can be seen as more than a general nuisance to the surrounding area. The effects of which have not abated following a long history of complaints over 5-6 years from local residents regarding breach of planning rules, loud music and disorderly behaviour of its patrons.

If this application is approved it will result in further escalation of anti-social behaviour, disorder and violent crime all of which will be a matter of public record.

To repeat, salient points from my prior objections, I cite the following quote from a prior representation which still describes the current circumstances:

Appendix C: Representations from responsible authorities from in respect of Empire Lounge, 777 Old Kent Road, London SE15 1NZ from Mr George Nwachukwu prior licensing application dated 6 April 2020 Sub -committee review:  
<https://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s88989/Appendix%20C%20Representations%20from%20responsible%20authorities.pdf>

*“The applicant has operated the same premises for a number of years and during this period there have been many complaints from nearby residents in relation to noise and disturbance from the use of the venue. In addition to noise from amplified music, in particular low frequencies (bass notes), the complaints have also related to noisy patrons in the street, vehicle movements & parking, urination in the street, waste deposition and grease from the kitchen extraction. The complaints were more prevalent in 2017, 2018 & early 2019, but there has been a more recent complaint in February of this year about loud music. When questioned the applicant stated that someone had left the rear door open (an infringement of an existing premises licence condition).”*

#### 4. Recent Metropolitan Police Recorded Incidents reported In and around Empire Lounge

Metropolitan Police Crime Statistics for the **December 2023** in specific area 777 Old Kent Road, London SE15 1NZ recorded 15 crimes in the vicinity.

The following Police Crime Map [Fig 3], illustrates as an example the highest concentration of crimes recorded by the Police in the local vicinity specifically centres around the applicants Empire Lounge.

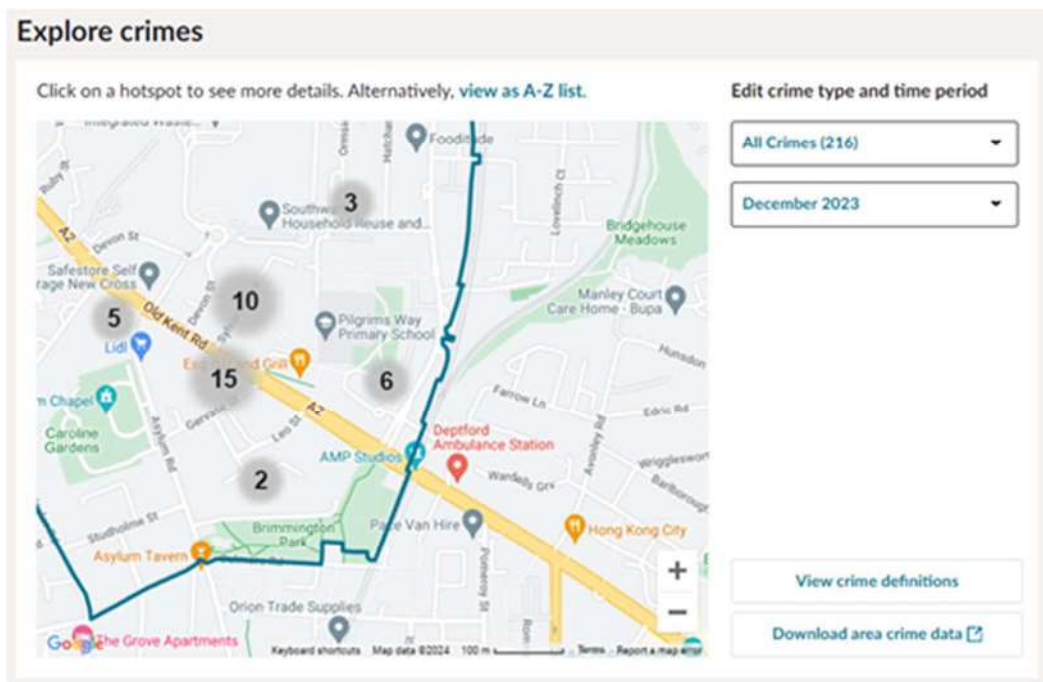


Figure 3 Source: <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/metropolitan-police-service/old-kent-road/?tab=CrimeMap>

#### 5. Escalation in Metropolitan Police Recorded Incidents In and around Empire Lounge

I also provide comparative analysis of reported crimes for [Fig 4] sourced from [Metropolitan Police Records](#) using search criteria in like for like periods: *February to December in 2021 2022 and 2023:*

Location: *“On or near Sylvan Grove”*

LSOA name: "Southwark 018B"

Feb 2021 – Dec 2021	Total	Feb 2022 – Dec 2022	Total	Feb 2023 – Dec 2023	Total
Anti-social behaviour	44	Anti-social behaviour	64	Anti-social behaviour	128
Criminal damage and arson	6	Criminal damage and arson	2	Criminal damage and arson	2
Other theft	2	Other theft	8	Drugs	6
Public order	4	Possession of weapons	2	Other theft	4
Violence and sexual offences	6	Public order	2	Possession of weapons	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>Violence and sexual offences</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Public order</b>	<b>16</b>
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Robbery</b>	<b>2</b>
				<b>Vehicle crime</b>	<b>2</b>
				<b>Violence and sexual offences</b>	<b>22</b>
				<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>184</b>

Figure 4 Source: <https://data.police.uk/data/>

The compiled statistics, with relevant crime types clearly demonstrate in the period before and after the applicants prior granted Licence application that recorded crimes emanating in and around Empire Lounge have markedly increased.

I wish to draw attention to my previously raised objection to the 2021 Licence application (ref 875588), stating the following, which has proven to be correct:

*"If the application is approved and the Empire Lounge expands into the former Carphone Warehouse site, Unit 1 777 Old Kent Road, London SE15 1NZ, crime and disorder will increase, not decrease, based history of the applicants Empire lounge operation and on the trends of crimes emanating from that operation and its patrons."*

## 6. Conclusion

In summary, if this new Licence application is approved the Empire Lounge will be operating as a de facto nightclub inviting an increase in crime, disorder and public nuisance offenses by way of extended hours of operation till 02:30 and the supply of alcohol throughout the week. The closing time limit should be set to 23:00 in line with policies defined in [Licensing Act 2003 Southwark Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 – 2026](#).

Following the previous 2021 Licence application which was granted, there has been an increase, as expected, in recorded crimes emanating in and around the area of the Empire lounge. Extending its operational hours, will result in a further increase in recorded crimes and incidents, further impacting the residents in the direct vicinity, many of which are families with young children.

I look forward to your acknowledgement.

Regards

[Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

PS:

I have also attached this representation email as a PDF with the additional compiled statistics spreadsheet file :

- MetPolice\_Crime\_Statistics-On\_or\_Near\_Sylvan\_Grove\_Feb2021-Jan2024.xlsx
- Representation objecting to Executive Lounge Licencing Application date 29 Feb 2024 ref 882544 sent 27 Mar 2024.pdf