

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Owojori, Ola](#)
Subject: Re: Application for a premises licence 79 Camberwell Road our ref 887724
Date: 02 March 2026 18:03:17

Hi dear Owojori ola ,

Re: Formal Applicant Response to Representations

Premises: Oscar's Barbershop, 79 Camberwell Road, SE5 0EZ

Licence Application: 887724

I write in response to the representations submitted in respect of my application for a premises licence.

I would like to begin by making something absolutely clear: Oscar's Barbershop does not currently sell alcohol. The reason I have applied for a premises licence is precisely because I wish to ensure that any provision of alcohol in the future is lawful, properly regulated, and fully compliant with the Licensing Act 2003.

The intention behind this application is not to convert the premises into a bar, nightclub, pub, or informal drinking venue. The premises will remain a professional barbering business. The sale of alcohol, if granted, would be strictly ancillary to barbering services and offered only to customers receiving a haircut or grooming service.

Nature of the Business

Oscar's Barbershop is a small, appointment-based grooming establishment. It is not configured or promoted as a hospitality venue. There is no bar counter, no event hosting, no DJs, no entertainment, and no intention to introduce such activities. Only low-level background music is played during normal working hours.

Shutters and Closing Procedures

Concerns have been raised regarding activity continuing behind closed shutters. I wish to clarify that when shutters are lowered, this simply indicates that the shop is closed to new customers. Haircuts sometimes run slightly beyond 8:00pm or 9:00pm while completing a booked appointment. Once shutters are down, no new customers are admitted. Remaining persons inside are either finishing a haircut or cleaning and closing the premises. The shop is not used as a private social space

after hours.

Alcohol Supply – Proposed Controls

If the licence is granted, alcohol would be supplied only under strict conditions. I am willing to accept the following:

- Alcohol supplied only to customers actively receiving a haircut
- Maximum of one alcoholic beverage per customer per visit
- No vertical drinking
- No off-sales
- No external drinking at any time
- Clear signage requesting customers leave quietly
- Refusal of service to any intoxicated individual
- CCTV maintained and available to authorities
- Staff training in responsible alcohol retailing

The purpose is to provide a modest hospitality option to clients — not to encourage drinking or attract non-customers.

Street Drinking and Anti-Social Behaviour

There is no evidence that my business has caused crime or disorder. I do not tolerate anti-social behaviour and would not permit loitering outside the premises. Customers attend for haircuts and leave once their appointment is complete.

Waste Management

There was one isolated period where waste accumulated due to failure by my previous private waste contractor. I terminated that agreement and appointed a new licensed waste collection provider. Waste is now properly stored in commercial containers and collected regularly. There is no ongoing refuse issue.

Bicycles

Bicycles referenced in representations belong to staff members who commute to

work. They are secured to an existing post outside the premises in a manner consistent with normal London practice. They do not obstruct pedestrian access. However, I am willing to review positioning if required.

Licensing Objectives

I fully understand the four licensing objectives and the importance of protecting residents in a predominantly residential area. I respectfully submit that the concerns raised are largely speculative and relate to historic issues associated with other venues, not my business.

With proportionate and enforceable conditions in place, I firmly believe the licensing objectives will be fully upheld.

I remain open to mediation and to agreeing reasonable additional safeguards to reassure both residents and the Sub-Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Oscar Mendez Beltre

Applicant

Oscar's Barbershop

79 Camberwell Road, SE5 0EZ

Licence Application 887724

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Owojori, Ola [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 4:27:51 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Application for a premises licence 79 Camberwell Road our ref 887724

Dear Oscar Beltre Mendez,

Further to your application for a premises licence, several representations have been submitted against your application. I attach copies of the representation for your attention and please let me know how you wish to respond to the concerns raised in the representations.

Kind regards

Ola Owojori

Principal Licensing Officer

Southwark Council | Licensing | Regulatory Services

3rd Floor, Hub 1 | PO Box 64529 | London | SE1P 5LX

Tel - [REDACTED] Mobile - [REDACTED]

Licensing email - [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Owojori, Ola](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Application for a premises licence 79 Camberwell Road our ref 887724
Date: 04 March 2026 22:13:47

Dear Ola,

Thank you for forwarding the applicant's response and the proposed conditions.

While I acknowledge the applicant's clarification, I remain concerned that the practical realities of operating a barber shop are incompatible with the proposed sale of alcohol and that the licensing objectives may not be adequately safeguarded.

1. Alcohol Not Truly Ancillary to Haircuts

A standard men's haircut typically takes approximately 15–20 minutes. In contrast, consuming a full alcoholic drink (for example, a bottle of beer) would ordinarily take 30 minutes or more.

Also how can you drink and also get a haircut? It isn't practical.

This creates a clear mismatch in service timing. If alcohol is supplied during a haircut, customers are likely either:

- to remain on the premises after their haircut has concluded in order to finish their drink, or
- to leave the premises with an unfinished alcoholic beverage.

Either scenario undermines the assertion that alcohol would be strictly ancillary to barbering services. In practice, it risks encouraging social drinking behaviour and customers lingering after their appointment has ended.

If the premises is genuinely a barber shop first and foremost, then customer dwell time should be determined by haircut duration — not by the time required to consume alcohol.

2. Risk of Post-Service Consumption and Street Drinking

Although "no off-sales" is proposed, unfinished alcoholic drinks create an obvious enforcement difficulty. It is unrealistic to expect staff to physically prevent a customer from leaving with a partially consumed bottle.

This may unintentionally contribute to street drinking, particularly if customers choose to finish drinks immediately outside the premises. That would directly impact the licensing objectives relating to:

- Prevention of public nuisance
- Prevention of crime and disorder

3. Enforcement and Monitoring Practicality

While conditions such as "one drink per customer" and "only during a haircut" are

proposed, in practice these are extremely difficult to monitor and enforce:

- How is “actively receiving a haircut” defined once the haircut has concluded?
- How will compliance be verified in real time?
- How will responsible service be maintained in a small barbering environment where staff are simultaneously cutting hair?

Unlike a pub or restaurant, a barber’s primary skill set and operational focus is not alcohol management. Introducing alcohol service creates regulatory complexity that seems disproportionate to the nature of the business.

4. Availability of Non-Alcoholic Hospitality Alternatives

It is common practice for local barber shops in the area to offer bottled water or soft drinks as a courtesy to customers. This achieves the same hospitality objective without introducing alcohol-related risk.

Bottled water, in particular:

- Can be safely consumed during a haircut
- Can easily be taken away without regulatory implications
- Does not encourage extended stay
- Does not pose a nuisance or disorder risk

Given that comparable local barber shops operate successfully without alcohol, it is unclear why alcoholic drinks are necessary to the business model.

5. Proportionality

This is a predominantly residential area. Even modest alcohol availability in a non-traditional setting can gradually change the character of premises use over time.

While the applicant may not intend to operate as a bar, the structural incentives created by alcohol service (longer stays, social atmosphere, repeat visits primarily for drinks) risk shifting the nature of the premises.

The Licensing Act 2003 requires a precautionary and evidence-based approach to safeguarding residents. The potential risks here appear avoidable given that alcohol is not integral to the barbering service.

Conclusion

For the reasons above, I respectfully submit that the sale of alcohol in this setting is unnecessary and presents avoidable risks to the licensing objectives. Hospitality can be provided through non-alcoholic alternatives without introducing enforcement difficulties or encouraging extended social drinking.

I therefore maintain my representation and ask that these concerns be carefully considered by the council.

Thanks,



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Owojori, Ola](#)
Subject: Re: Application for a premises licence 79 Camberwell Road our ref 887724
Date: 03 March 2026 17:29:39

Hi

Sorry but No, this is not sufficient. Why does the premises need a licence to 10.30pm when it is a barbers? They are clearly looking to use the premises for the sale of alcohol and not just a barbers

With all the unsocial behaviour in the area its not acceptable to just add to the problems

How do the residents challenge this?

[REDACTED]
