

Representation to the Licensing Committee

The Late Night Levy agenda item, scheduled for the Licensing Committee Hearing – 11th Feb '26

Dear Licensing Committee,

This representation is submitted on behalf of CILLA (Camden and Inner London Licensing Association).

Camden's 'Late Night Levy Review', dated September '25, notes that the Late Night Levy (LNL) in Camden hasn't achieved its intended objectives in many areas. Camden's LNL is in its 10th year of implementation and the Review notes that the way it allocates funds and monitors activity has been less than positive. As an operator of late-night licensed premises, I believe the Review to be well researched and written. I agree with most of its findings.

The Review contains many comments that relate to the lack of transparency as to how the £306K annual Late Night Levy contributions are allocated and distributed to the various parties, for implementation. Compared to progress made by other local authorities like Hackney and Islington councils (referenced in the Review), it is disappointing that after 10 years of Camden's licensed premises paying in their mandatory Late Night Levy fees, there doesn't appear to be a lot to show for it.

The Review provides this feedback from these national business trade bodies.

UK Hospitality: *'firmly opposed to the Late Night Levy'*

NTIA (Night Time Industries Association): *'strongly oppose the continued implementation of the LNL in Camden'*.

BBPA (British Beer & Pub Association): *'does not agree that the LNL should be maintained in Camden'*.

The Review points to a widening credibility gap appearing within Camden when it comes to realising positive results with Late Night Levy funds.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE LATE NIGHT LEVY CONSULTANCY GROUP

The Late Night Levy Consultancy Group has some well-intended senior attendees. I've attended three of these meetings and found its progress to be slow and lacking genuine force or effectiveness. I feel awkward when other operators ask me. *'How did the meeting go? What's the latest?'* I'm uncomfortable because it is a slow-moving meeting of 'advisers' (including me) without a decision maker (Councillor?) present.

I really want to report back to CILLA and the Licensing Committee that the LNL Consultancy Group achieves better value for money for the stakeholders and there is more transparency in the way Levy fees are distributed, and how police visibility in Camden is enhanced, but at the moment, I can't. I can't seem to make a difference. I'm apprehensive about the widening credibility gap between LNL policy and what's happening on the front line (particularly in Camden Town) between 12 midnight and 6am.

I'm not blaming any individuals. I'm saying that structurally, the Consultancy Group doesn't work. It needs a decision maker in the meeting and a set of tangible objectives. Would one or two councillors from the licensing committee, who have a genuine interest in the late night economy, be willing to attending the Consultancy Group?

POLICE STATS

In Camden's Public Relations Pack dated 24/11/25, on page 106, the MET police's year on year crime stats for Camden were published, including heat maps (the redder the area on the maps, the greater the concentration of crime). Copy of those police crime stats enclosed at the end of this document (Appendix 1).

In contrast to Camden's 'Summary of Report' of the LNL Review (copy attached, see page 3) where it's noted that crime rates have 'generally gone down', police stats from the Public Relations Pack note the numbers exactly – a reduction of 5.5% in crime year on year – nothing to get excited about. Although Violence against the person and Violence with Injury may have gone down year on year, the overall crime rates haven't really gone down and the VAWG category has increased by a massive 950%. Here are the sums for the totals, year on year:

2023 – 2024: **16,030 crimes**

2024 – 2025: **15,140 crimes**

Total difference: -890 (or 5.5%)

THIS IS WHAT GOOD POLICING LOOKS LIKE IN CAMDEN TOWN BETWEEN 12 MIDNIGHT AND 6AM

Here are the two most stand-out MET police performance actions we've seen in 2025 in Camden Town's Late Night Economy.

- 1. POLICE RESPONSE TEAMS:** I speak for quite a few late-night operators in Camden Town when I say that police incident response teams have been speedy, targeted, thoughtful and accurate in their enforcement and mediation

with the public and licensed premises throughout 2025. I commend them for their actions as worthy of notice and trust. They're showing us what 'good' is.

Police response teams can only do so much when they attend an incident and most of it is mopping up after the incident has already happened. If Late Night Levy funding provided visible uniformed police officers on the High Street (72 Hours a week as the Review notes), there would presumably be less need for the Response Teams because the deterrent and disruptive presence of uniformed police officers would help reduce crime (and the need for a response team) before it even happens.

If there have been 72 hours a week of visible policing going into Camden's late night economy (after midnight), Camden Town's late night operators don't recognise even a small proportion of these hours being allocated to Camden Town (the red-hot crime area) for many years.

2. **PCSO's ON THE HIGH STREET – TWO SIGHTINGS.** For the first time in two years, PCSO's were energised and visible on the High Street after 12 midnight for two evenings recently (29th November & 7th December 2025). They made a big difference in terms of being visible to undesirables, acting as a deterrent & disruptors of crime. These were such rare (and welcomed) sightings, that I wrote to the sergeant who organised their deployment, copying in Camden Council officers. Again, their actions were worthy of notice and trust. The PCSO's were showing us what 'good' is.

But sadly, sightings of visible police officers on the High Street are so rare that control of the streets in the late-night economy hours is in the hands of the undesirables.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The CILLA Members, many of whom have contributed for 10 years to the Late Night Levy fund, welcome this Review. When the government passed the Late Night Levy funding initiatives into law in 2012, it intended for the operators (the contributors) to get 'something for something' – that was the phrase that the law makers used at the time. But it's been years of 'pay something, get very little', as the Review alludes to.

Looking at the evidence in the Review, I don't believe that Camden should extend the LNL charges to the late-night refreshment premises when it's not delivering for residents and businesses in its current form. Reducing the credibility gap should happen before extending the Levy to other business groups.

By way of a reminder, the night time economy doesn't just include members of the public out late celebrating and having a good time. It includes London's night workers who run our public transport systems, hospital operatives, emergency services, office cleaners, local residents, and of course the staff who run Camden's licensed premises. These people aren't invisible and they are entitled to reasonable levels of public safety.

Camden Town is a major transport hub, with one of the biggest night time economies in the country. The number 29 bus route runs up Camden High Street (24/7). It's the third busiest route in London, with most buses being at full capacity on weekend nights when they either reach or depart Camden Town.

Summary:

Going forward, I believe Option A in the Review Report of 24/11/25 (attached) is too ambitious a task for Camden's stakeholders to execute in its present form. It contains good ideas but is too complicated.

Simple plans work. We need to show everyone what 'good' looks like. The credibility gap between the policy makers & the people on the front line needs to be closed. We need to uphold the 4 licensing objectives, not undermine them. Here are my recommendations:

Simplify Option A by focussing on these proposed four main priorities:

1. Allocate an undiluted 100% (not 70% as stated in Appendix 2) of the LNL funding to the MET police for visible policing in the late-night economy, then monitor that visibility.
2. Reconfigure the Late Night Levy Consultancy Group to include councillors (decision makers), and more active business operators who understand the late-night economy.
3. Commit to all the periodic reporting that is noted in Appendix A – this is good.
4. Think twice about taxing Late Night Refreshment premises. No-one wants to increase the credibility gap (especially the MET Police) by taking more money from operators and not being able to deliver.

Thank you for considering this representation.

Jeremy Ledlin. M: [REDACTED] E: [REDACTED]

Appendix 1 – The MET police’s year on year crime stats for Camden, as noted in Camden’s Public Relations Pack dated 24/11/25, on page 106.

CRIME VOLUMES 2023 TO 2024 AND 2024 TO 2025

Violence against the Person

Year	Count Of Offences
2023-24	3195
2024-25	2300
Grand Total	5495

Violence with Injury

Year	Count Of Offences
2023-24	1103
2024-25	671
Grand Total	1774

Theft from Person

Year	Count Of Offences
2023-24	5371
2024-25	5560
Grand Total	10931

Robbery

Year	Count Of Offences
2023-24	962
2024-25	743
Grand Total	1705

VAWG

Year	Count Of Offences
2023-24	26
2024-25	246
Grand Total	272

ASB

Year	Count Of Offences
2023-24	4718
2024-25	5000
Grand Total	9718

Drugs

Year	Count Of Offences
2023-24	655
2024-25	620
Grand Total	1275

From:
To:
Cc:

Subject: PCSO's in Camden Town - Late at night - So Good.

Dear Sergeant Chitty,

Feedback from Camden Town's Late Night economy & last week's police meeting with members of Camden's neighbourhood.

It was good to meet you after last week's police meeting (showcasing police initiatives) at Great Portland St on 3rd December. Thanks for your time and explaining your involvement in raising awareness of VAWG. As a reminder, I'm in hospitality and operate late night licensed premises in Camden Town. I'm also a Camden resident. You asked me to email you the Group WhatsApp messaging I showed you on my phone, relating to the recent late night PCSO activity on Camden High Street where two PCSO's were assigned duty's around informing the public about VAWG police initiatives. Please see attached.

My staff and I were so pleased to see the PCSO's on Camden High Street, energised and visible after midnight, moving up and down the street, passing by our premises on an hourly basis, speaking with the public (many of them females). Apart from seeing crime response teams, uniformed police presence in Camden Town between midnight and 6am hasn't been noticeable for a long time and it was so refreshing to see the PCSO's in action.

And then again last Saturday 7th December, there were four PCSO's patrolling up and down Camden High Street, providing the same important VAWG messaging. After midnight, high visibility police presence, the deterrent, the crime disruptors. One of my staff on duty commented: 'They're like rock stars'.

Although it may appear trivial to some... for the past 5 years, one of Camden Town's resident hot dog carts (with operator) appears in the middle of the High Street footpath, 20 metres away from our pub around midnight every Friday and Saturday night (organised crime using a PDQ machine for sales, unlicensed, unregulated). When customer dispersal happens at closing time, hot dog man blocks the footpath and prevents our customers from safely and quickly getting home. If the public stop and order up a hot dog and pull out their phone to pay, they risk getting it stolen, or worse. But for the first time in years last Saturday, hot dog man didn't appear – the PCSO deterrent was enough to keep him and his cart off the street.

I see the PCSO's presence as doing far more than the important VAWG messaging. They were doing the following three jobs at the same time – great value for the public, businesses and the police.

1. Promoting VAWG initiatives
2. Visibility, a presence, deterrent, disruptors in the late night economy. PCSO's can be more effective than police officers because they carry on with the street patrolling, and don't get

removed from the street when / if there's an arrest.

3. Any late night presence of the police in Camden Town improves the public's perception of the police. The number 29 bus route is 3rd busiest in London, carrying thousands of night workers including cleaners, hotel / hospitality workers, hospital staff, as well as the usual people having a night out in Camden and across London. All these late night commuters and members of the public have the opportunity to see the police uniform on the street, late at night.

I know that the police haven't got enough hours in the day to get the job done and policing Camden's late night economy hasn't seemed like a priority. On top of that, the extractions of MET police officers who get deployed to police central London demonstrations, leave Camden short of officers. Commissioner Mark Rowley noted in his recent letter to SNP members, that 18,000 police shifts were lost on extractions in September 2025, similar to previous months. In last week's police meeting, Deputy Assistant Police Commissioner, [Ade Adelekan's stand out comment \(for me\) was that he was looking for](#) 'innovation' in order to better the police service. For the licensed premises, members of the public and the local residents in Camden Town, the late night PCSO presence is cost effective, high profile 'innovation'. It's impossible to put a police officer in three places at once, but with some clever deployment of the workforce, you can put a PCSO into Camden Town late at night, to do three jobs at once – that's one innovation that Ade may be looking for.

Please don't stop scheduling the PCSO's into Camden Town during the crucial late night economy hours after midnight. We really appreciate them being on the street.

Regards,

Jeremy Ledlin

M: [REDACTED]



My favourite Camde...



Officers, C/O, police inspector and a sergeant. All agreed that police presence / visibility needs to happen after 12 midnight.

10:14 ✓



➔ Forwarded



PCSOs doing a round of sorts. Not seen them in Camden at night.

10:14 ✓

PCSO's last night on Camden High Street. A good crime deterrent and disruptiin

10:15 ✓



Message





Camden High St E...

2 online



road toward maccies

09:08

Today



No sign of the usual troublemakers or hotdog seller tonight with the PCSOs walking up and down the high street. I know they're a temporary measure but the effects of a presence was made evident tonight.

02:29



Background Papers

The following papers were used to prepare this deputation:

- [Licensing Committee Agenda - 24 November 2025](#)
- [Late Night Levy Committee Report](#)
- [Camden Late Night Levy Review - SixTillSix report](#)