

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

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27<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Licensing Department  
Mercury House  
Station Road  
Richmond  
North Yorkshire  
DL10 4JX

**Representation Opposing Premises Licence Application for BR Aysgarth Limited  
Aysgarth Falls Hotel, Palmer Flatts, Aysgarth, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3SR**

Dear Sir,

We are writing to submit a formal representation objecting to the application for a 24-hour premises licence at for BR Aysgarth Limited, Aysgarth Falls Hotel, Palmer Flatts, Aysgarth, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3SR. We live near the site and believe that granting this licence will seriously undermine the four licensing objectives set out in the Licensing Act 2003. We address each of these below, as they relate to our rural community and the special context of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

**1. Prevention of Public Nuisance**

This is a quiet, rural area within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, known for its natural beauty, tranquillity, and low levels of noise and disturbance. Allowing 24-hour licensable activities, particularly the sale of alcohol, is entirely out of keeping with the nature of this area.

The noise from music, car movements, guests coming and going at all hours, and potentially outdoor drinking or events will significantly disrupt the peace for residents and wildlife alike. We also have animals in adjacent fields, and prolonged noise is highly likely to cause distress to them.

**2. Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

Offering alcohol 24 hours a day raises concerns about the type of clientele the licensee is intending to attract. Late-night drinking often brings with it a higher risk of anti-social behaviour, such as shouting, vandalism, trespassing, and even drink-driving, all of which are much harder to manage in a sparsely populated, rural setting with limited police presence.

There is no clear explanation as to how the hotel will manage or monitor drunk guests. Are they providing 24-hour security, especially overnight? How will they prevent noise and disturbance affecting neighbouring properties and private land?

### **3. Public Safety**

One major concern is the proximity of the hotel and lodges to Aysgarth Falls, a well-known beauty spot. The steep drops, fast-moving water, and slippery paths are especially hazardous at night or to those under the influence of alcohol. The hotel is also situated on a main road with little or no street lighting; there are no barriers outside the hotel preventing guests falling into the road and been run over by a car.

Allowing guests to drink through the night increases the risk of someone wandering down to Aysgarth Falls while drunk and getting hurt. Even in daylight and good weather, the area can be dangerous. At night or in poor conditions, the chances of an accident are much higher, and this could put extra pressure on local emergency services.

The application does not appear to provide any plan for how such risks will be managed, including guest supervision, alcohol limits, or restricted access to dangerous areas.

### **4. Protection of the Elderly and Vulnerable in the Community**

Many people in this area are elderly or vulnerable and rely on the peace and safety of this quiet rural community. A 24-hour licence, especially one involving alcohol, could seriously disturb their quality of life.

Late-night noise, more traffic, and possible anti-social behaviour may cause distress or even fear for those living alone or in more isolated homes. Residents should not have to feel unsafe or unsettled in their own neighbourhood.

### **5. Yorkshire Dales National Park Consideration**

The proposed premises are in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, a protected area where great care must be taken to preserve the natural landscape, wildlife, and character of the surroundings.

This area is also part of the Yorkshire Dales Dark Sky Reserve, known for its clear, dark night skies. Light pollution from a 24-hour operation — including outdoor lighting, car headlights, and signs — would harm this special environment.

The dark skies are important to residents and attract visitors, stargazers, and educational groups. Allowing the premises to operate through the night could damage this unique feature, especially without strict lighting controls. It would go against the aims of the National Park and local planning priorities.

We therefore urge the licensing authority to refuse this application, or at least place clear limits on the hours and type of activities allowed.

Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

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