

Laura Hillis
Principal Building Control Surveyor
Belfast City Council
Place and Economy Department
Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast BT2 8BP

Date: 16th June 2025

Dear Ms. Hillis,

Disagreement with the Proposed Refusal of My Street Trading Licence Application

I am writing to formally express my disagreement with the Council's recent indication that my application for a Street Trading Licence has been minded to be refused.

Firstly, I would like to highlight that during the recent committee meeting, the first male participant clearly agreed that my business, the toastie co, should be granted the street trading pitch based on the positive contribution we would bring to the local community. This was a recognition of the value and uniqueness of my offerings, which include signature roasted house blend coffee, local baked goods, and high-quality toasties.

However, the second lady on the committee refused my proposal, citing the presence of the other party, who she claimed was selling toasties. It's important to clarify that this other vendor does not sell toasties. Instead, he sells loaded fries, tacos, burgers, wraps, salads, and pancakes. He is a private individual who is located on the other side of Balmoral Estate.

Furthermore, Mr. A Arputharaj applied for the pitch six days before I did. His operation involves Indian cuisine and has only been in the UK for three years. He plans to bring family members and spices from abroad, which does not support local sourcing. He is trading Indian food seven days a week from the hours of 7am to 9pm on Boucher Crescent with dishes priced at only £1.00. I believe such a setup should not have been passed by the committee, especially considering its scale and nature.

I have invested thousands of pounds into my business, working with local suppliers for sourdough bread, Bailies Coffee Roasters for our house blend coffee, and sourcing vegetables and cheese locally. My business is committed to supporting local jobs and the local economy, aligning with the community spirit and policies of the Council.

Given the initial agreement during the committee meeting and the points outlined above, I believe the decision to refuse my application is unfair and possibly influenced by factors beyond the merit of my proposal. I respectfully request that my case be reconsidered, taking into account the substantial local investment I have made and the positive contribution I would bring.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Aaron Smallwood

[Redacted Signature Block]