

Appendix Eight - Consultation Report of the Review of the Cumulative Impact Policies (Brick Lane and Bethnal Green)

Report: Review of the Cumulative Impact Policies (Licensing) in Brick Lane and Bethnal Green

Executive Summary

The Council as the Licensing Authority must consider whether it remains of the opinion as stated in the Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIAs) for Brick Lane and Bethnal Green that these areas are 'saturated with licensed premises.' Licensed premises are those authorised to sell alcohol or the provision of late-night refreshment (sale of hot food after 11pm).

The current cumulative impact policies provide for a rebuttable presumption that the Council will not issue any new licences under the Licensing Act 2003 within the designated areas due to a 'saturation' of licences, due to elevated levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Council currently has two Cumulative Impact Policies or Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIA). The Brick Lane CIA has been in place for nearly nine years and the Bethnal Green CIA has been in place for nearly five years.

A statutory consultation is required to decide on the future of these two CIA, the options are:

- i. Retain both Cumulative Impact Assessments,
- ii. Remove both CIA's,
- iii. Remove Cumulative Impact Assessment for Bethnal Green and retain the one for Brick Lane,
- iv. Remove Cumulative Impact Assessment for Brick Lane and retain the one for Bethnal Green,
- v. Reduce one or both Cumulative Impact Assessment,
- vi. Expand one or both Cumulative Impact Assessment.

Evidence supports the retention of the CIA Brick Lane, with limited evidence to support the Bethnal Green CIA, it is recommended to remove the Bethnal Green CIA. Furthermore, the evidence from the Metropolitan Police's Crime Report and Calls Analysis reports provides evidence for an expansion of the Brick Lane CIA (at the southern end).

The Council is required, before making a decision to carry out a consultation of businesses and other interested parties to seek views if licensed premises could cause exceptional problems of nuisance, disturbance and/or disorder outside or away from those licensed premises as a result of their combined effect.

Currently there are approximately 59 licensed premises in Bethnal Green CIA, and 244 licensed premises in the Brick Lane CIA.

Background and Current Position

The Council agreed for the current CIA's to run for the statutory term of three years from 18th November 2021.

Brick Lane CIA

Since its introduction in 2014 incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour linked to licensed trade within Brick Lane Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) have seen a reduction despite fluctuating figures.

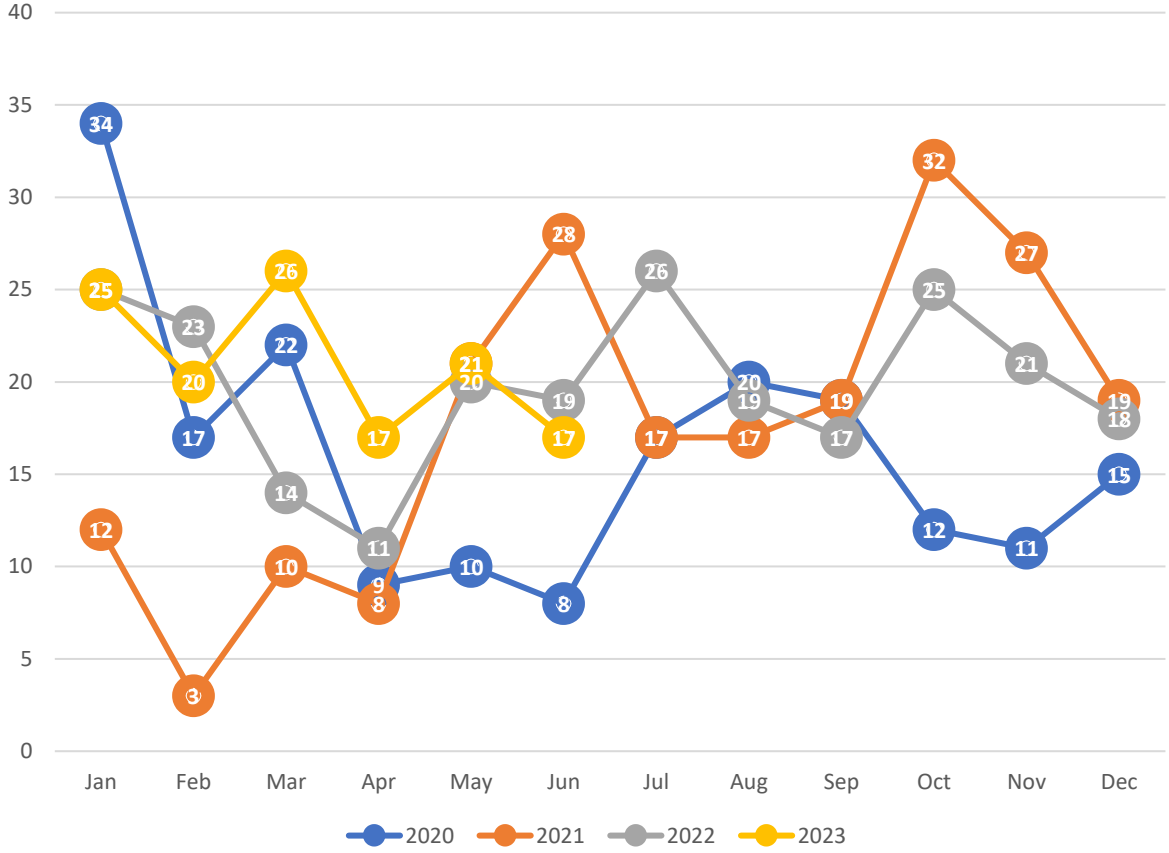
Reports produced by the Metropolitan Police into the Reported Crimes and Police Calls show that incidents of crime and police calls (reporting issues such as antisocial behaviour to the police) linked to the licence trade between 2020 and 2023 (end June) have increased slightly from levels seen in 2017 and 2018.

Total Crimes and Calls to police in 2017 were 357 and in 2018 this was 362.

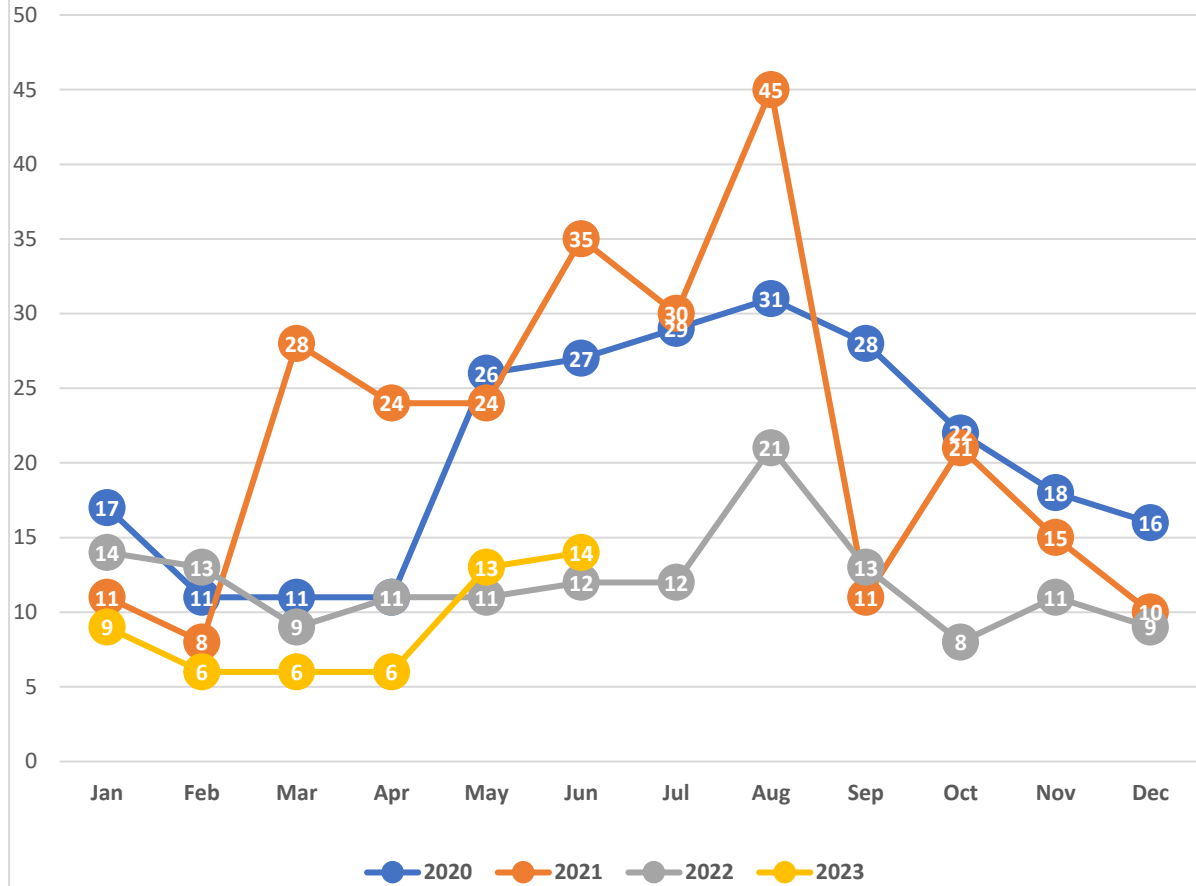
Total crimes and police calls in 2020 to 2023 have reduced except for an increase in 2022 where these peaked at 474.

The charts below demonstrate crimes reported within the CIA have increased slightly, with the calls received by the police showing a decrease.

Crime Trends CIZ Brick Lane Comparison 2020-2023



Calls Trends Brick Lane CIZ Comparison 2020 to 2023



Figures 1 to 8 in Appendix 1 contains hotspot maps for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (end June), which show crimes reported and calls to police linked to the licensed trade for the whole borough. These maps have been taken from the Police Crime Report Analysis and Police Calls Analysis Report. These maps show that the area around the Brick Lane CIA to consistently have greatest crimes and police calls hotspot density with the largest saturation of licensed premises.

Data from Environmental Health and Trading Standards Service between 2020 and 2023 (June) shows complaints received by the Licensing Team have increases since 2020, when the last review of the CIAs was completed. In contrast though Complaints to the Noise Team have decreased over the same period, with a significant decrease is significant in 2023 with only 6 complaints between January and June 2023 linked to the license trade.

Row Labels	2020 (calendar year)	2021 (calendar year)	2022 (calendar year)	2023 (to 28 th June)
Brick Lane CIA Noise Complaints	14	30	18	6
Brick Lane CIA Licensing Complaints	73	172	107	50

On a borough wide basis, the Spitalfields & Banglatown and Weavers wards, where the Brick Lane CIA falls within, remain consistently one of the highest wards for licensing complaints. This can be seen in Figures 9 to 12 in appendix 1. This illustrates that these wards have consistently attracted more complaints than other wards in the borough, particularly in regard to Spitalfields and Banglatown, which has the highest complaint consistently over 2020 to 2023.

Noise Complaints: though Spitalfields and Banglatown and Weaver Wards are still having more complaints compared the other wards such as Bow East and Bethnal Green West have received consistently more complaints over the years. This is shown in figures 13 to 16 in appendix 1.

Data from London Ambulance Service (LAS) Call Out Data linked to the Licensed Trade, found in figures 17 to 20 in appendix 1, also shows Spitalfields and Banglatown consistently being one of the Wards to receive higher numbers of call outs. Furthermore, Weavers Ward, though not receiving as many as Spitalfields and Banglatown ward, consistently receives higher call outs than other wards. This is the same for 2020 to 2022, with 2023 appearing to no calls received within Weavers Ward.

The tables below show the number of applications received between 2020 and June 2023 spit by calendar year. This shows that most of the application (38 out of the 63 received) received between 2020 and 2023 (end June) received objections and were decided by the Licensing Sub-Committee.

Count of date	Year			
	2020	2021	2022	Grand Total
Application Granted/Refused etc				
Granted by Officer (no objections or Objections withdrawn)	11	6	8	25
Granted at hearing of Licencing Sub-Committee	8	14	9	31
Total Granted	19	19	17	56
Total Refused (Refused at hearing of Licencing Sub-Committee)	5	1	1	7

It is important to note when considering the above table that the levels of application (new and variations) received in the borough have gone up since 2019.

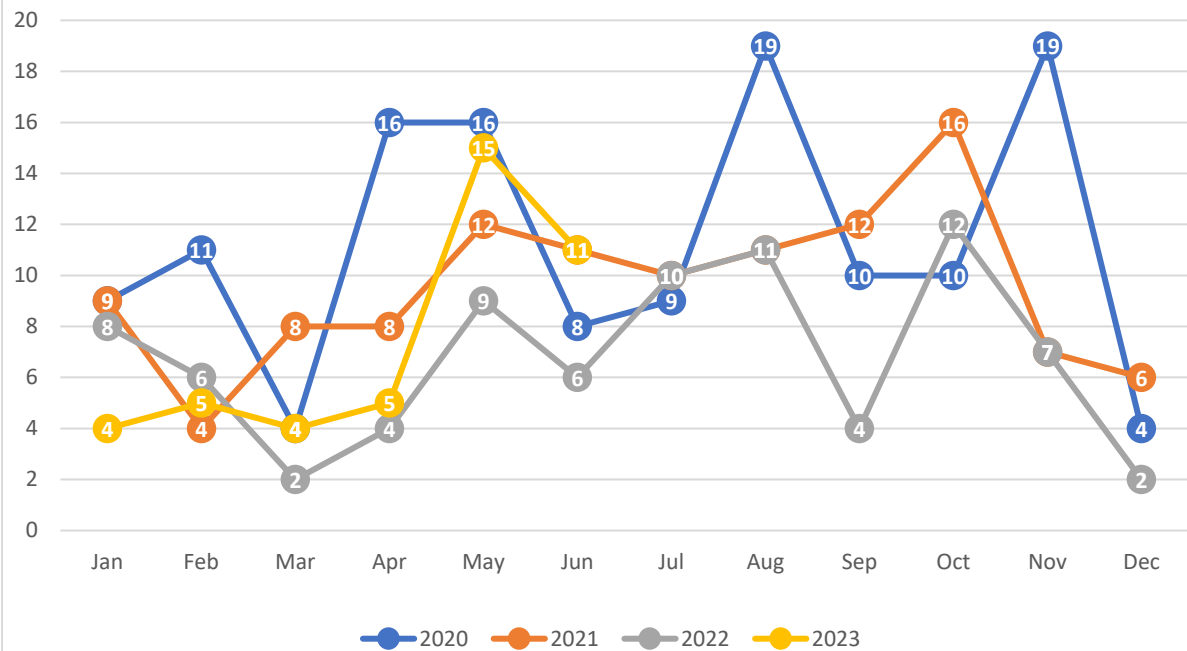
Year	Number Applications received within Tower Hamlets (New and Variations)
2017	141
2018	145
2019	152
2020	160
2021	215
2022	183
2023 (end June)	82

Bethnal Green CIA

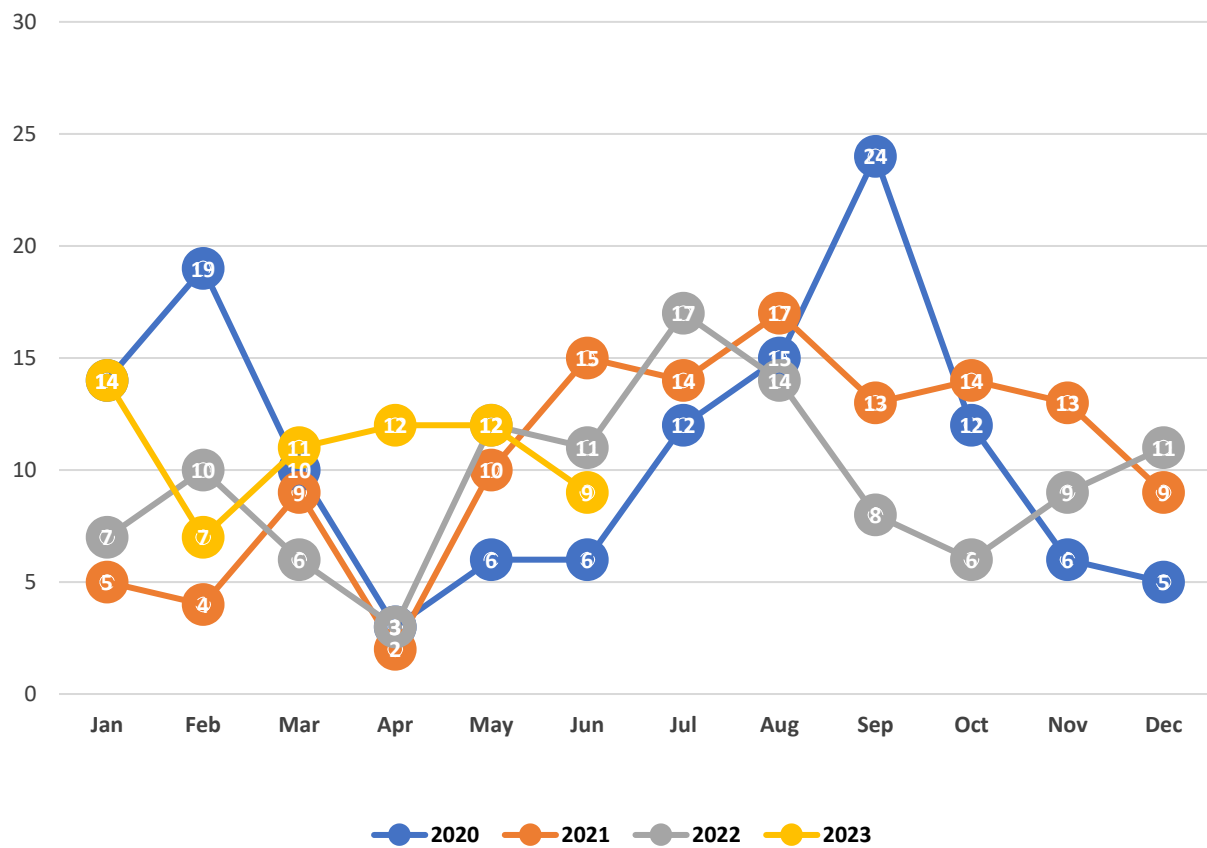
This CIA was introduced in November 2018. Since this time incidents of crimes and antisocial behaviour linked to the licensed trade has gone up significantly from figures seen in 2017, 2018 and 2019, which saw figures of 186, 158 and 180 respectively. Looking at figures from the charts below this significant increase is only in regard to 2020 and 2021 where the total crimes and calls to police equal 267 and 239 respectively.

In 2022 the figure drops to 195, which is more in line with those figures seen between 2017 and 2019. There is a slight drop in crimes and calls to police linked to the licensed trade within this CIA.

Calls Trends Bethanl Green CIZ Comparison 2020 to 2023



Crime Trends CIZ Bethnal Green Comparison 2020-2023



It is also worth considering the above figures with those found in Brick Lane CIA, which are significantly higher than those found in Bethnal Green CIA. The difference is even more apparent when looking at the hotspot maps in Figures 1 to 8 in Appendix 1.

These show the hotspot maps of the whole borough for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (end June) crimes reported and calls to police linked to the licensed trade, which have been taken from Police Crime Report Analysis and Police Calls Analysis Report.

The area around Brick Lane is significantly greater in terms of saturation of licensed premises and the hotspots of crimes and calls to police linked to the licence trade.

Bethnal Green in comparison does not appear greater than other areas, because the maps seem to indicate that there are other pockets of the borough with similar hotspot densities and numbers of licensed premises.

The below table shows complaints received by the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Service. These appear to have been in the most part consistent, although both appear to be reducing looking at 2023's figures.

	2020 (Calendar Year)	2021 (Calendar Year)	2022 (Calendar Year)	2023 (end June)
Bethnal Green CIA Noise Complaints	20	33	18	3
Bethnal Green CIA Licensing Complaints	18	21	24	9

On a borough wide basis, the main wards that the Bethnal Green CIZ falls within (Weavers and Bethnal Green West), do receive higher numbers of complaints than other wards. Moreover, in 2023 (figure 16) Bethnal Green West does have the highest number of noise complaints. This can be seen in Figures 9 to 16 in Appendix 1.

Data from London Ambulance Service (LAS) Call Out Data linked to the Licensed Trade generally echoes the data seen in the Licensing and Noise complaints. See figures 17 to 20 in Appendix 1. Again, St Peter's (known as Bethnal Green West on Councils databases) and Weavers Wards receive higher numbers of call outs than other wards, except in 2023 where Weavers ward is absence from charts.

In terms of licence and variation of licence applications granted within the Bethnal Green CIZ area this have been decreasing significantly since 2020, with the majority receiving representations. This can be seen in the tables below.

The tables below show the number of applications received between 2020 and June 2023 spit by calendar year. This shows the total number of licences granted have decreased year on year since 2020. It also shows that of the most (9 out of 13 received) applications received between 2020 and 2023 (end June) received objections and were decided by the Licensing Sub-Committee.

Count of date	Year			
	2020	2021	2022	Grand Total
Application Granted/Refused etc				
Granted at hearing of Licencing Sub-Committee	5	1		6
Granted by Officer (no objections or Objections withdrawn)	1	2	1	4
Total Granted	6	3	1	10
Total Refused (Refused at hearing of Licencing Sub-Committee)	1	1	1	3

It is important to note when considering the above table that the levels of application (new and variations) received in the borough have gone up since 2019.

Year	Number Applications received within Tower Hamlets (New and Variations)
2017	141
2018	145
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Options

The Cumulative Impact Assessments have had a positive impact on the areas. This is supported by the number of licences receiving objections thus being determined by Licensing Sub-Committee, which gives a greater degree of community scrutiny.

However, one thing that cannot be shown within the statistics is the greater controls place upon those licences that are granted, either via Licensing Sub-Committee or via Licensing Officers under delegated authority.

These licences have more stringent conditions added which means that the areas have not seen any large-scale late-night bars, pubs or clubs being granted.

Many of the licences granted since the last review in 2021 often prohibit vertical drinking and/or require the sale of alcohol to be axillary to food.

There is sufficient evidence to support retaining the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) around Brick Lane, and to extend the area to the southern edge of the zone.

There is insufficient evidence to retain the Bethnal green CIA.

The consultation proposal is to remove Bethnal Green CIA and extent Brick Lane CIA as per the below:

Figure 1: Current Brick Lane CIA

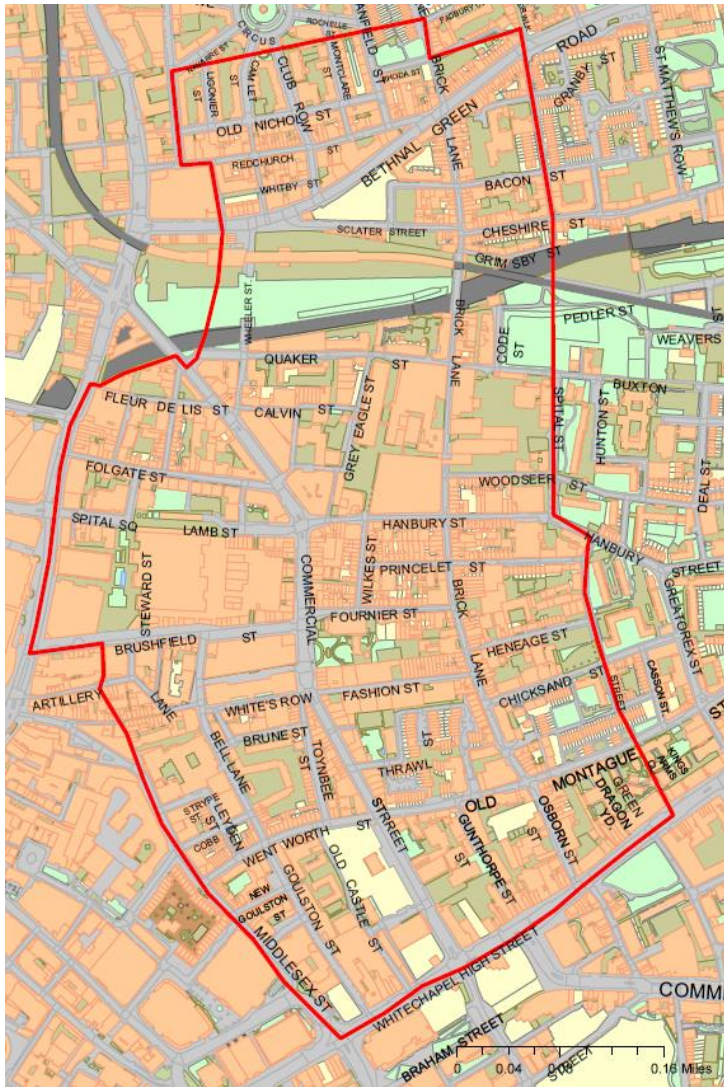
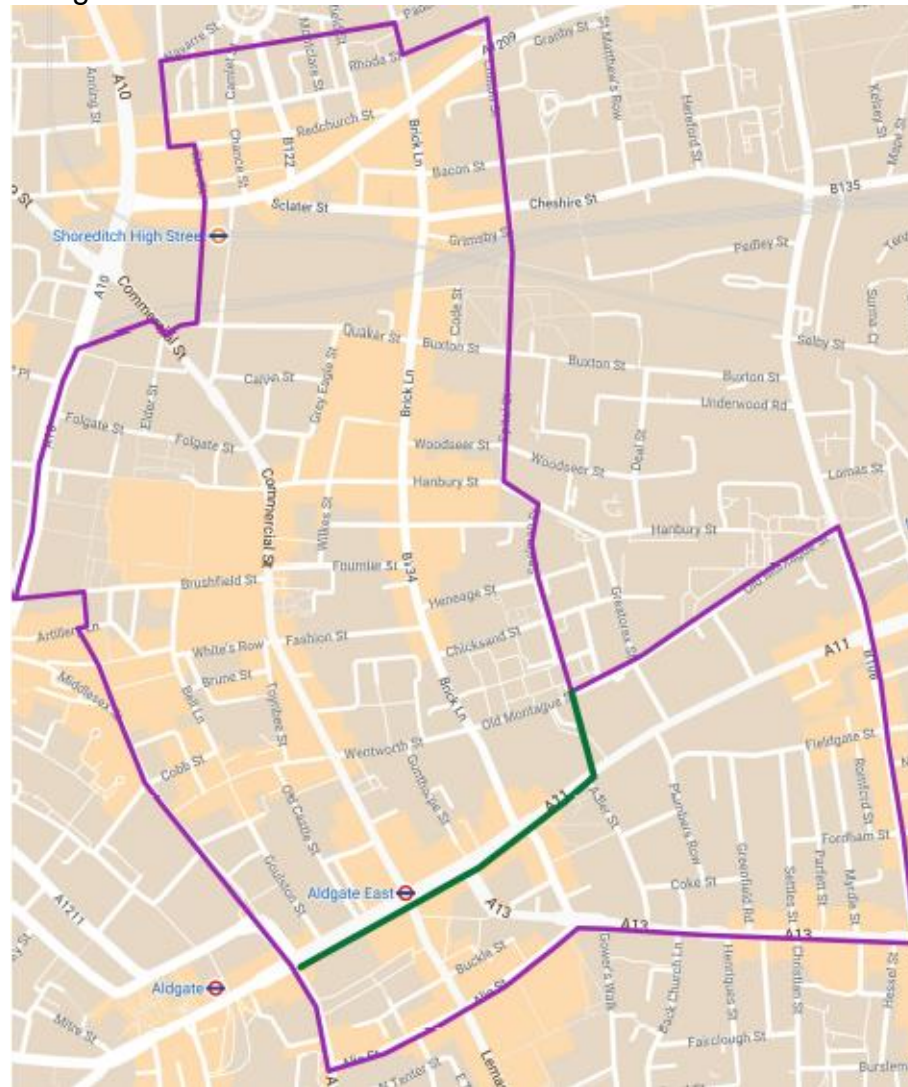


Figure 2: Proposed extension of Brick Lane CIA (the green line represents the edge of the current CIA)



Appendices

Appendix 1 (Hotspot Maps, and Charts)

Appendix 1

Reported Crimes Hotspot Maps from Crime Report Analysis produced by the Metropolitan Police

Figure 1: 2020

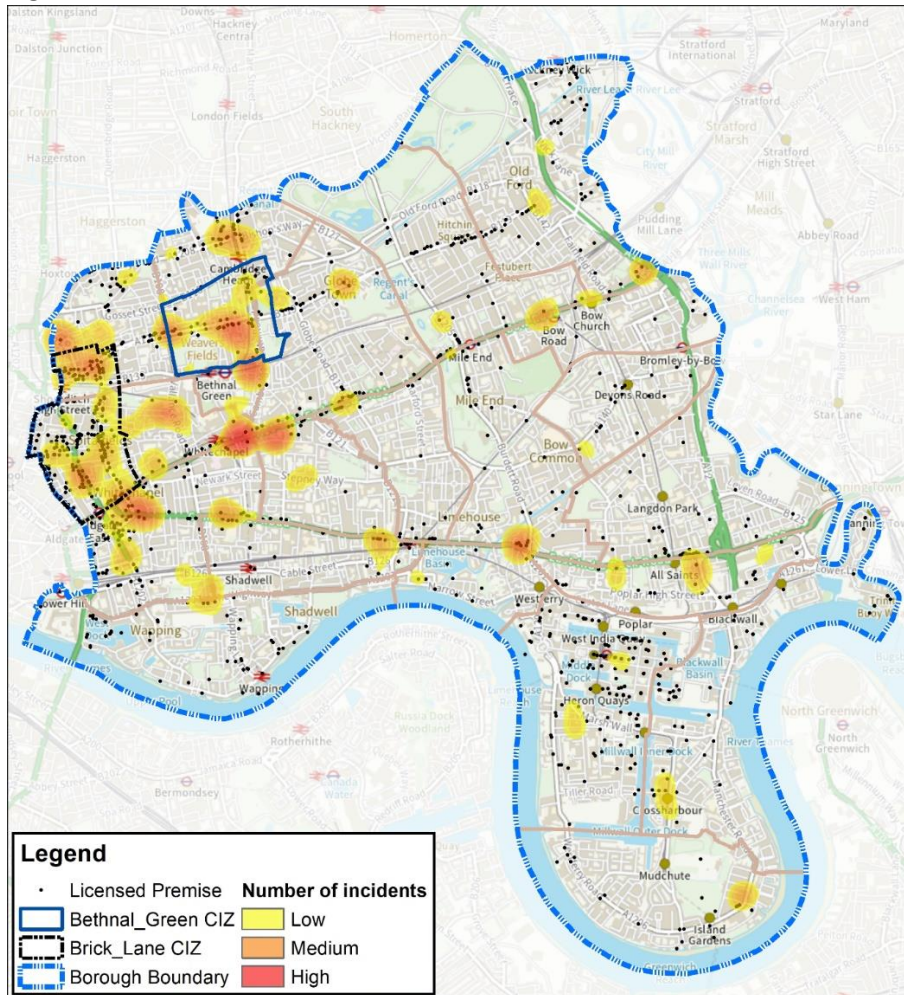


Figure 2: 2021

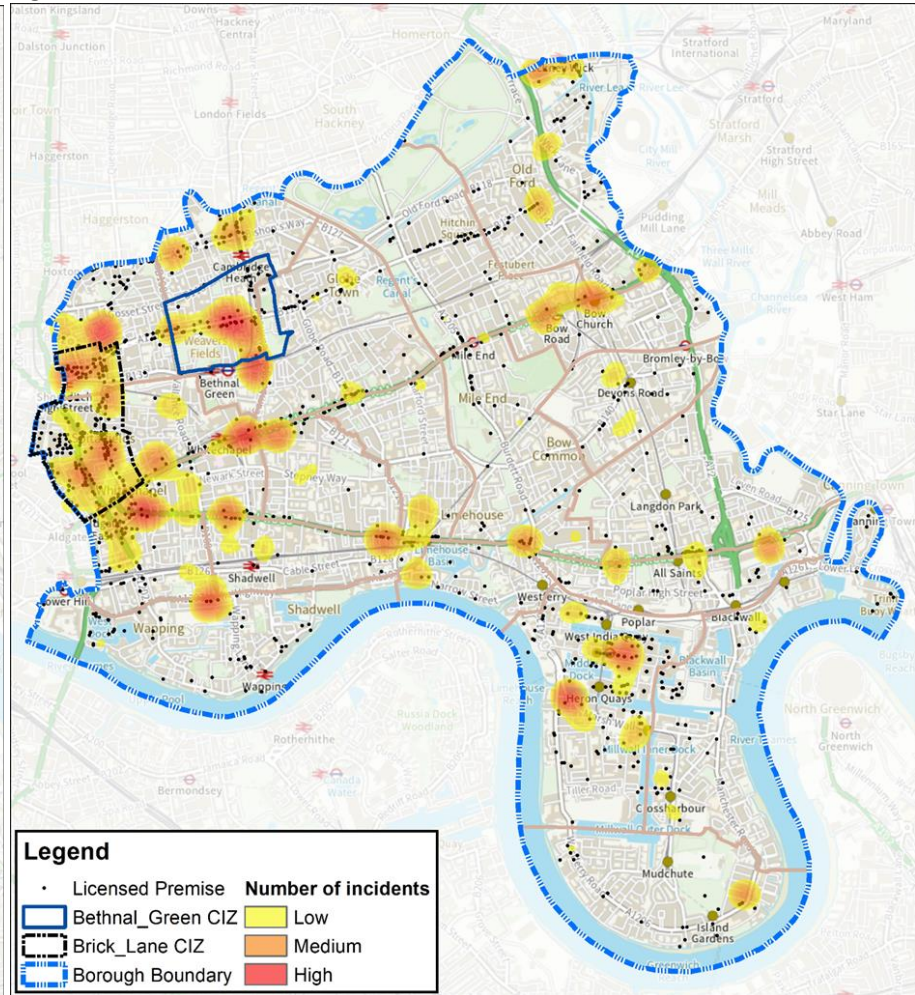


Figure 3: 2022

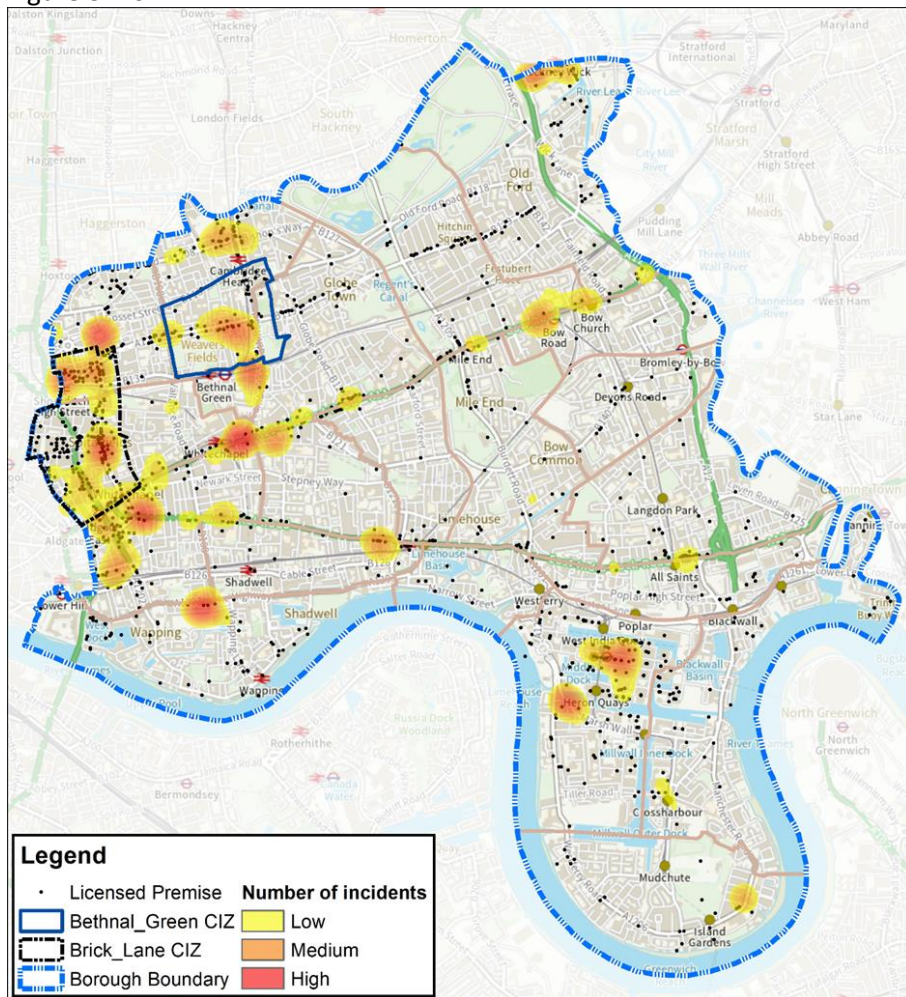
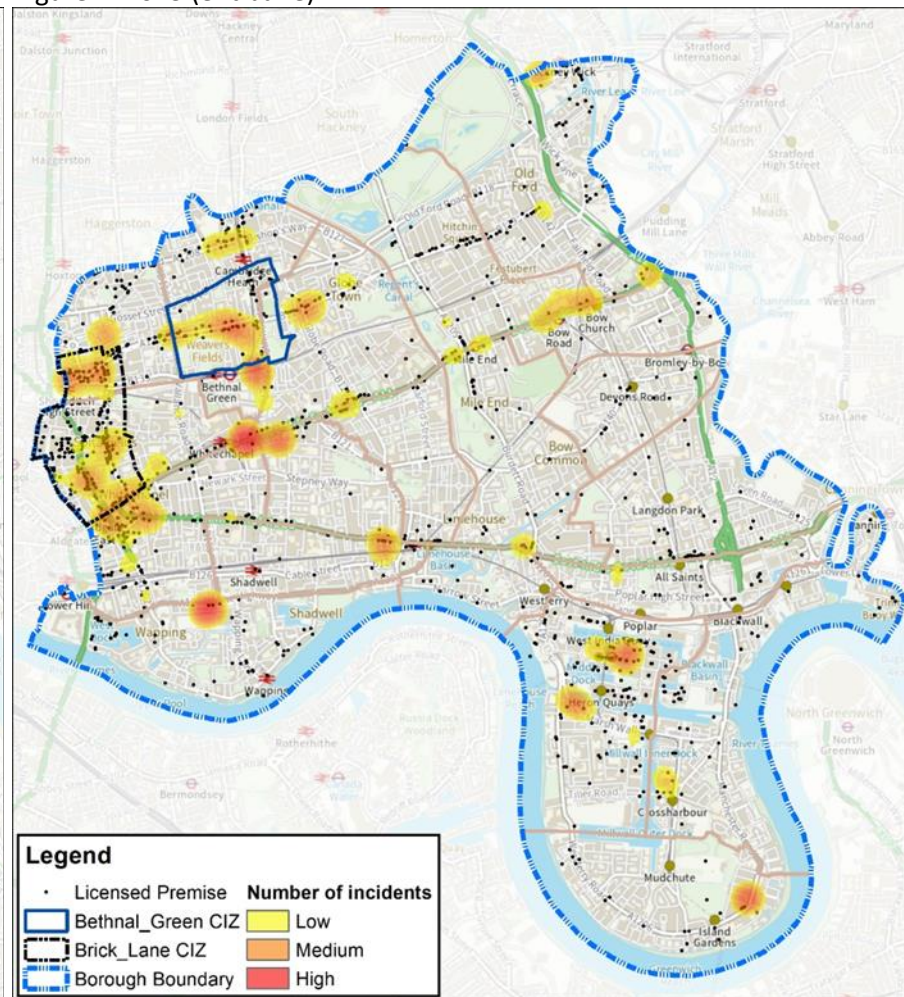


Figure 4: 2023 (end June)



Police Calls Hotspot Maps from Police Calls Analysis Report produced by the Metropolitan Police

Figure 5: 2020

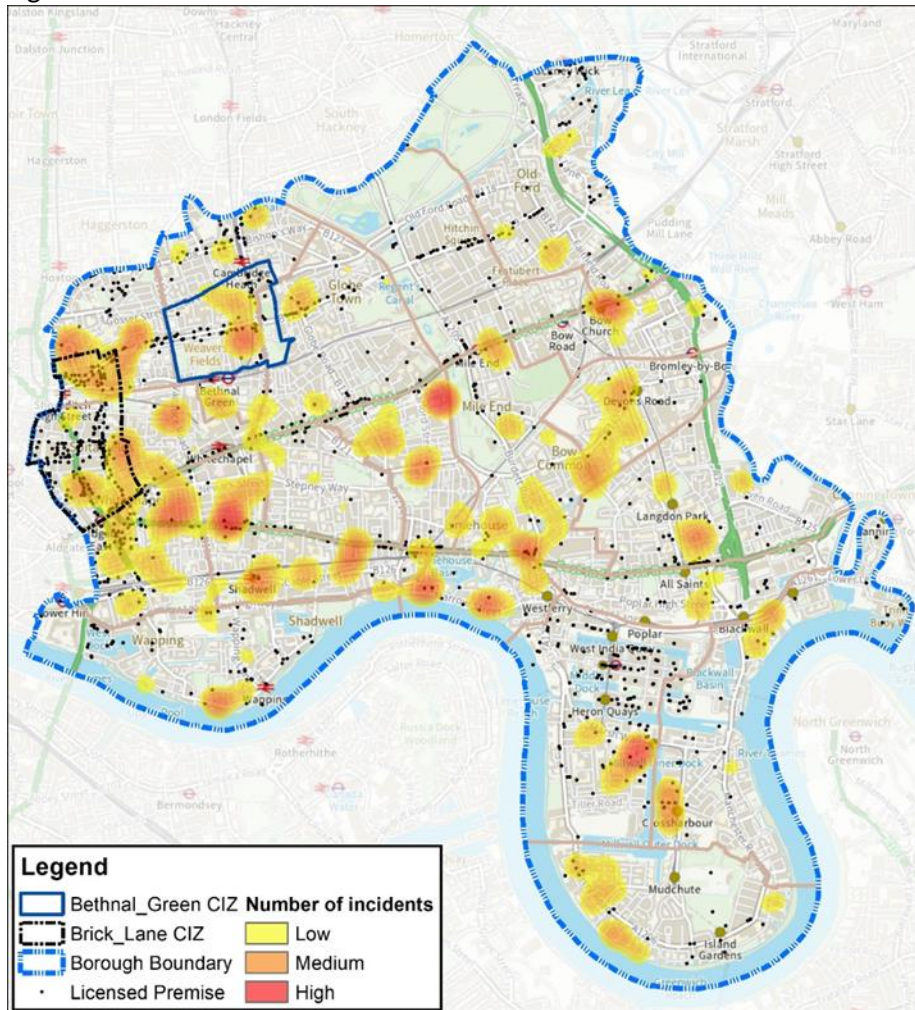


Figure 6: 2021

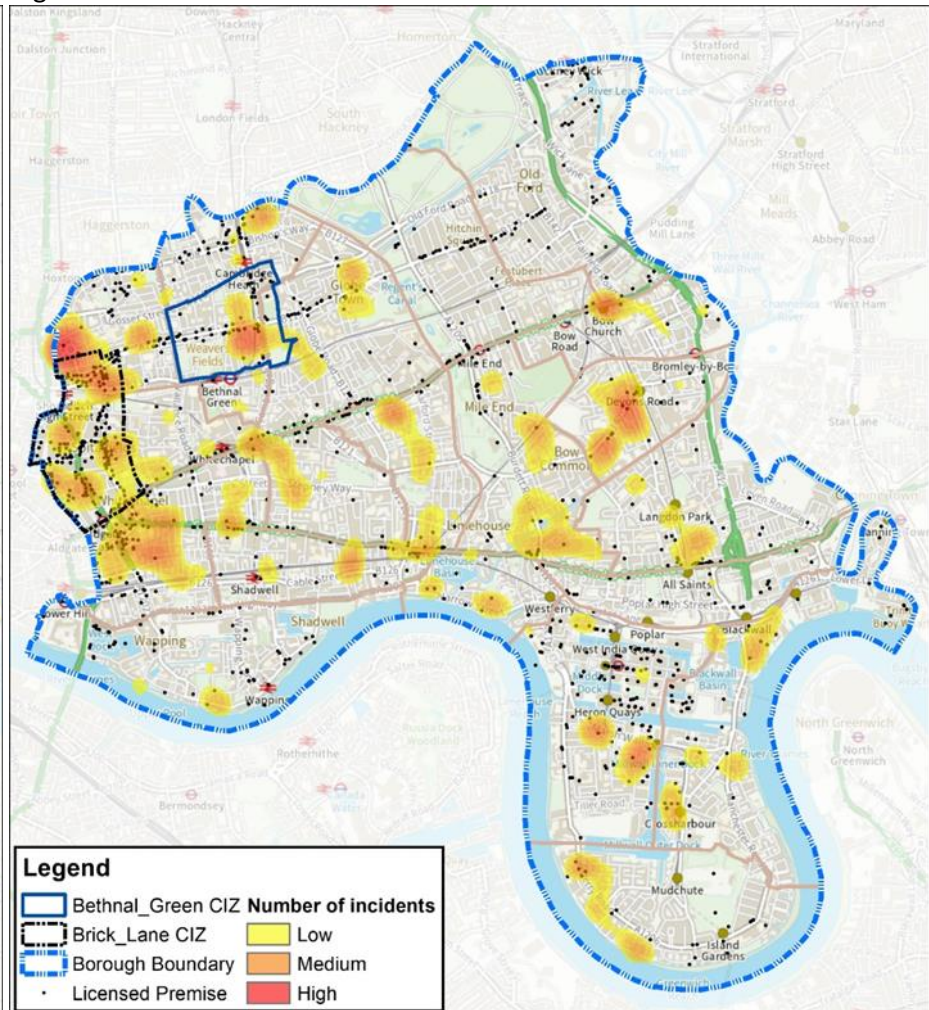


Figure 7: 2022

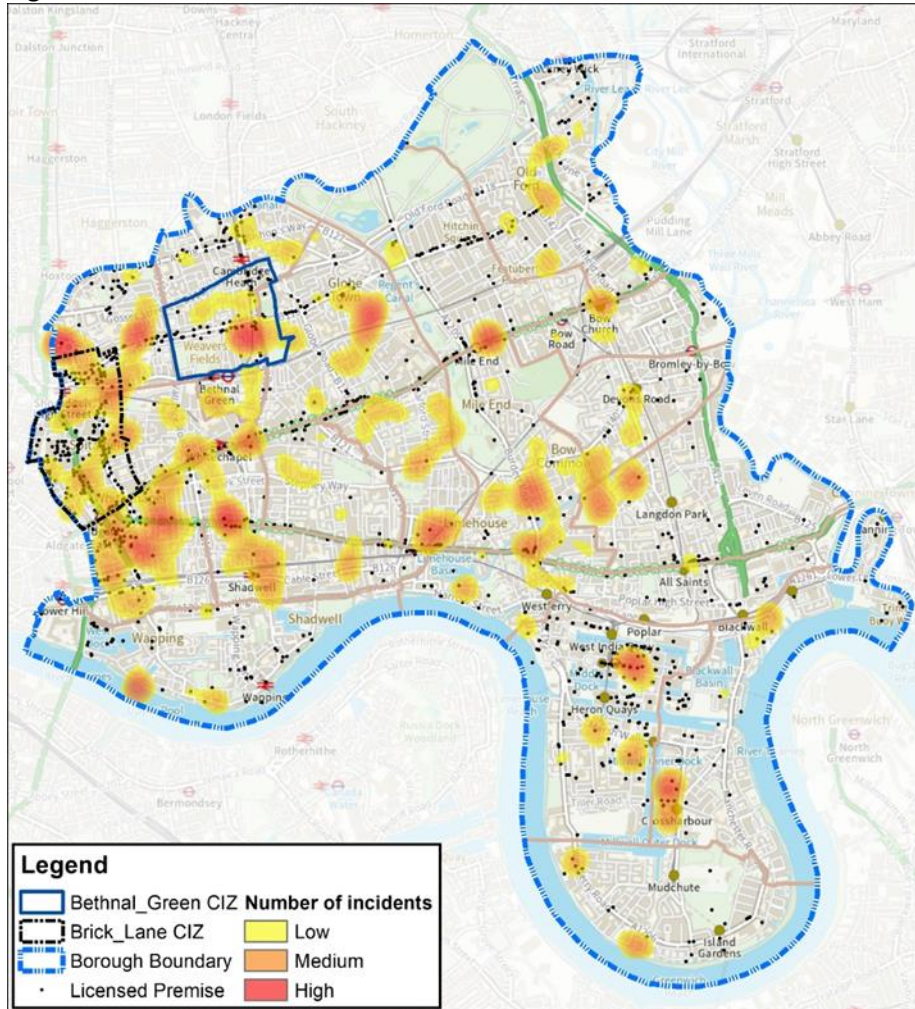
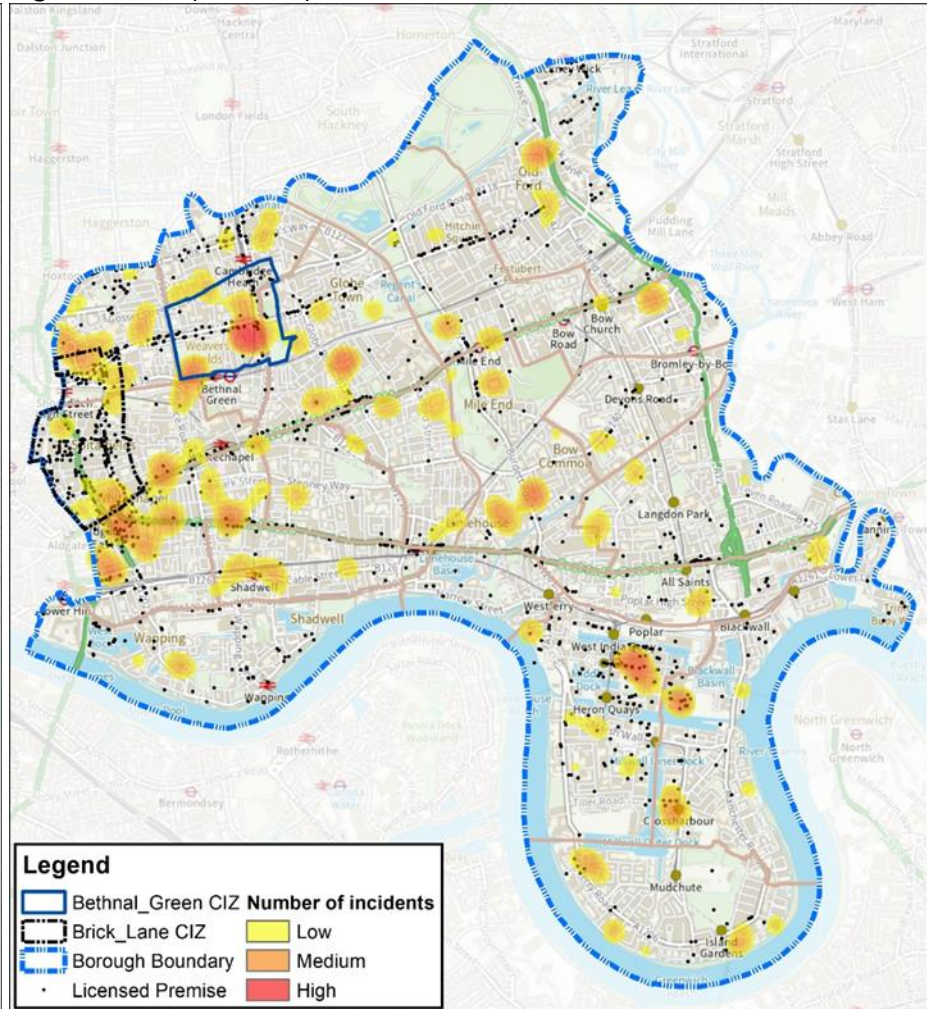


Figure 8: 2023 (end June)



Licensing and Noise Complaint received by Environmental Health and Trading Standards Service

Figure 9

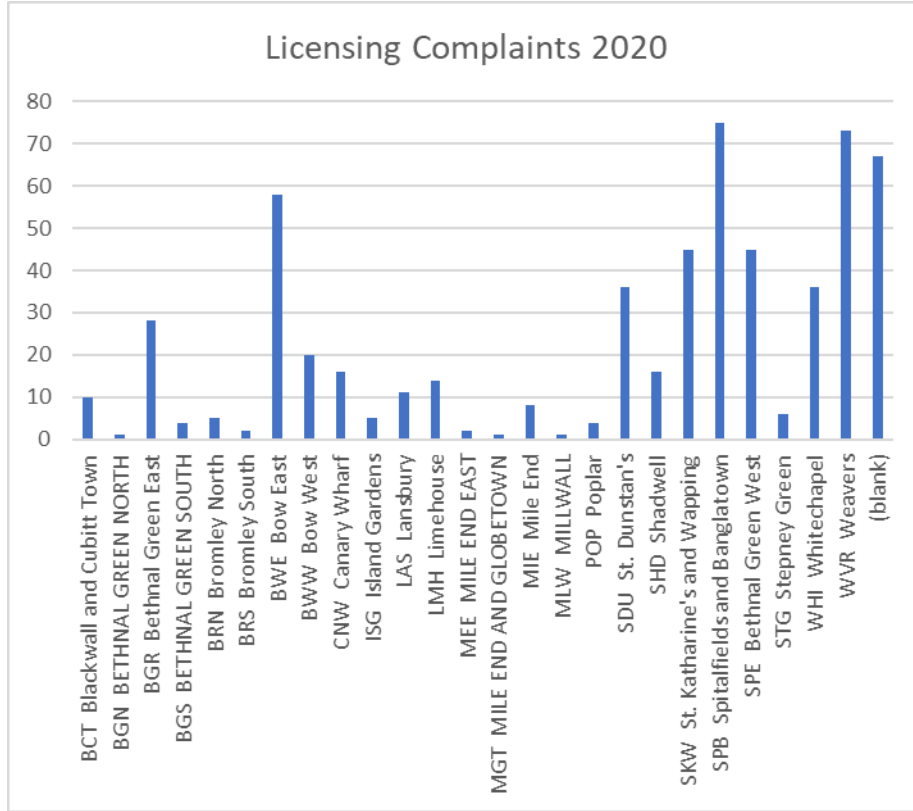


Figure 10

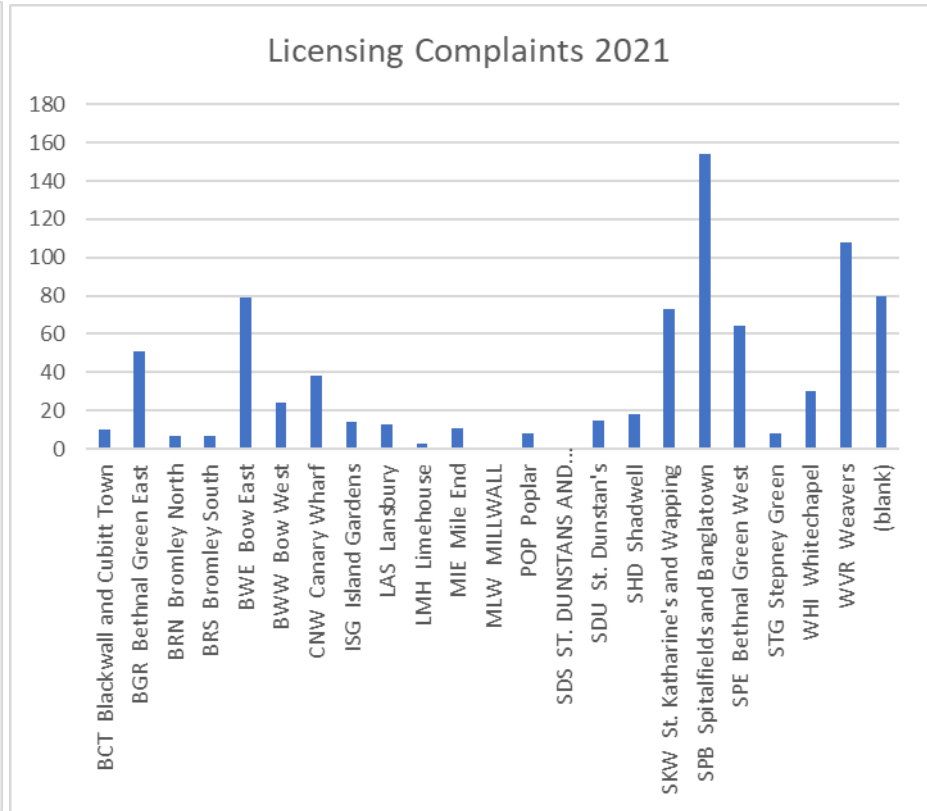


Figure 11

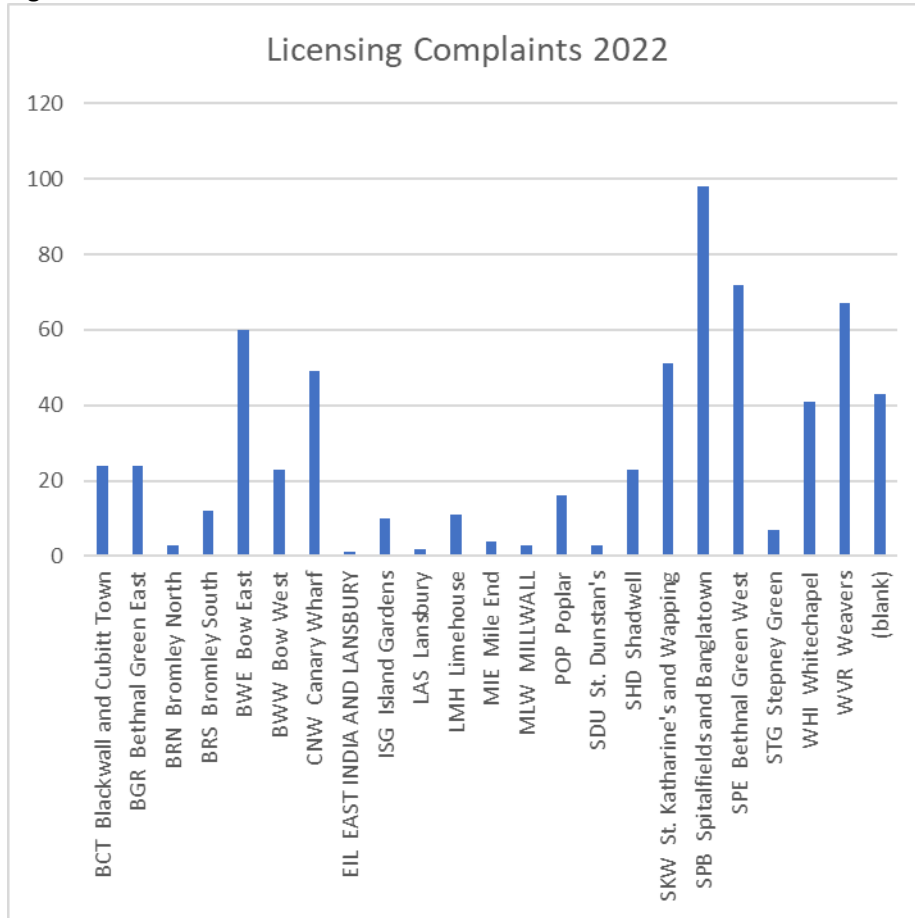


Figure 12

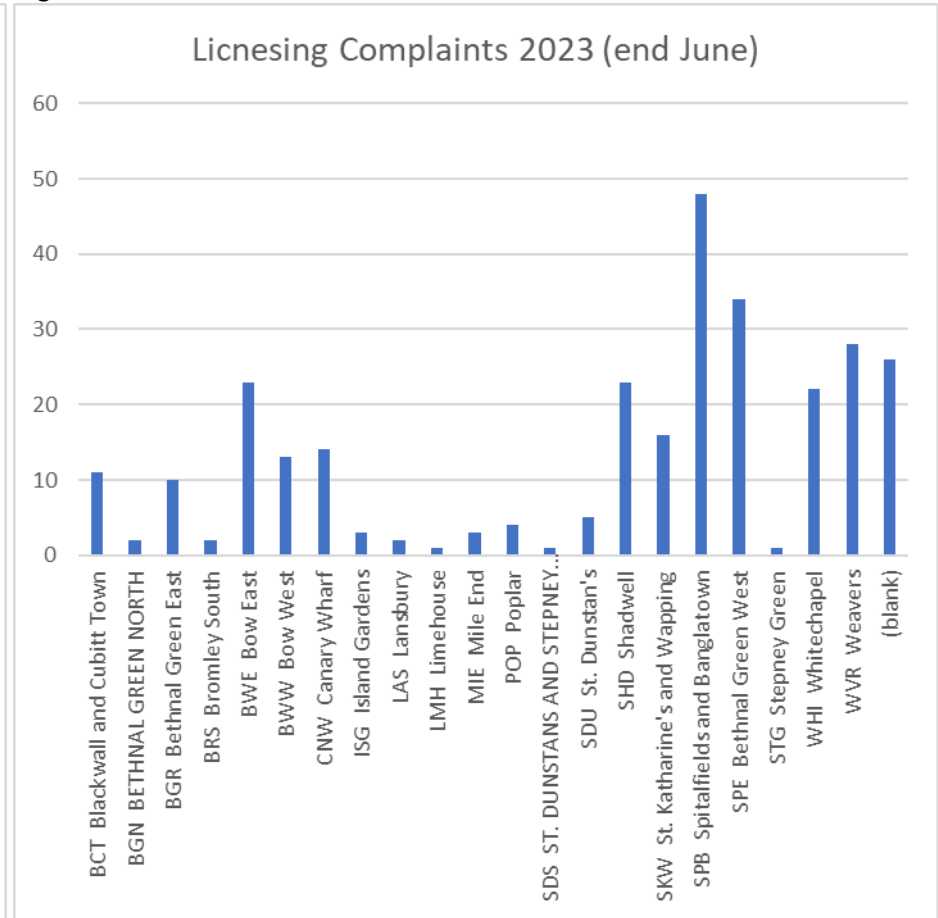


Figure 13

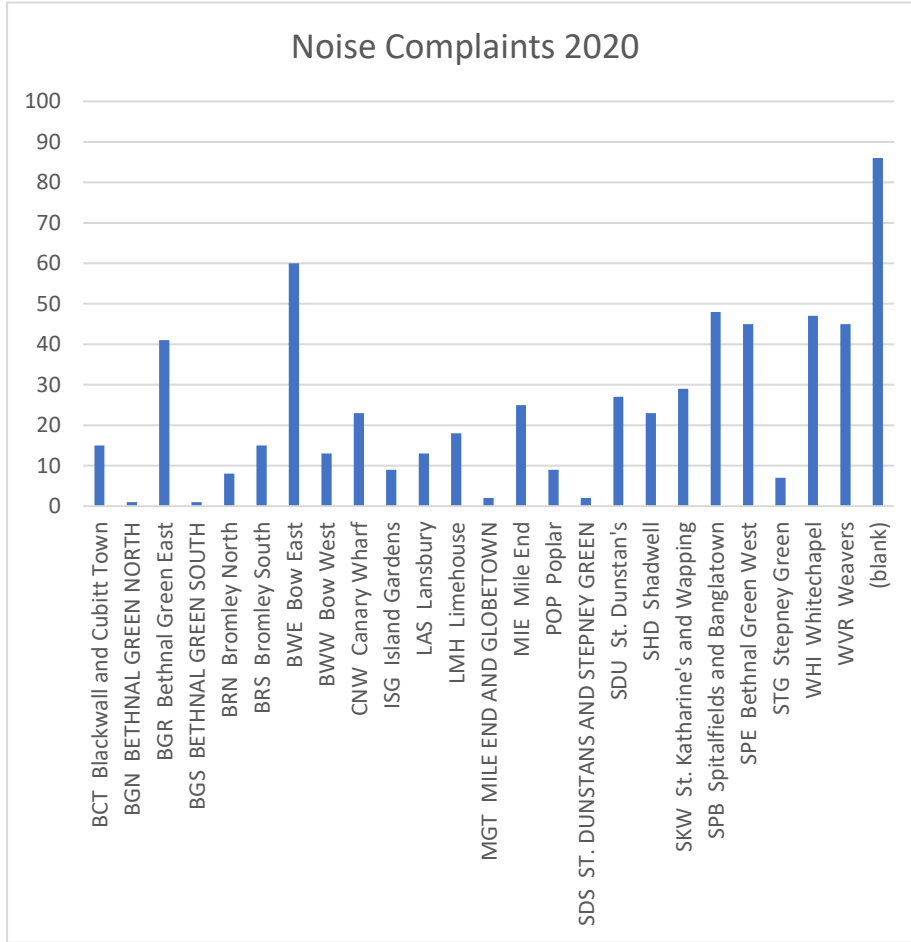


Figure 14

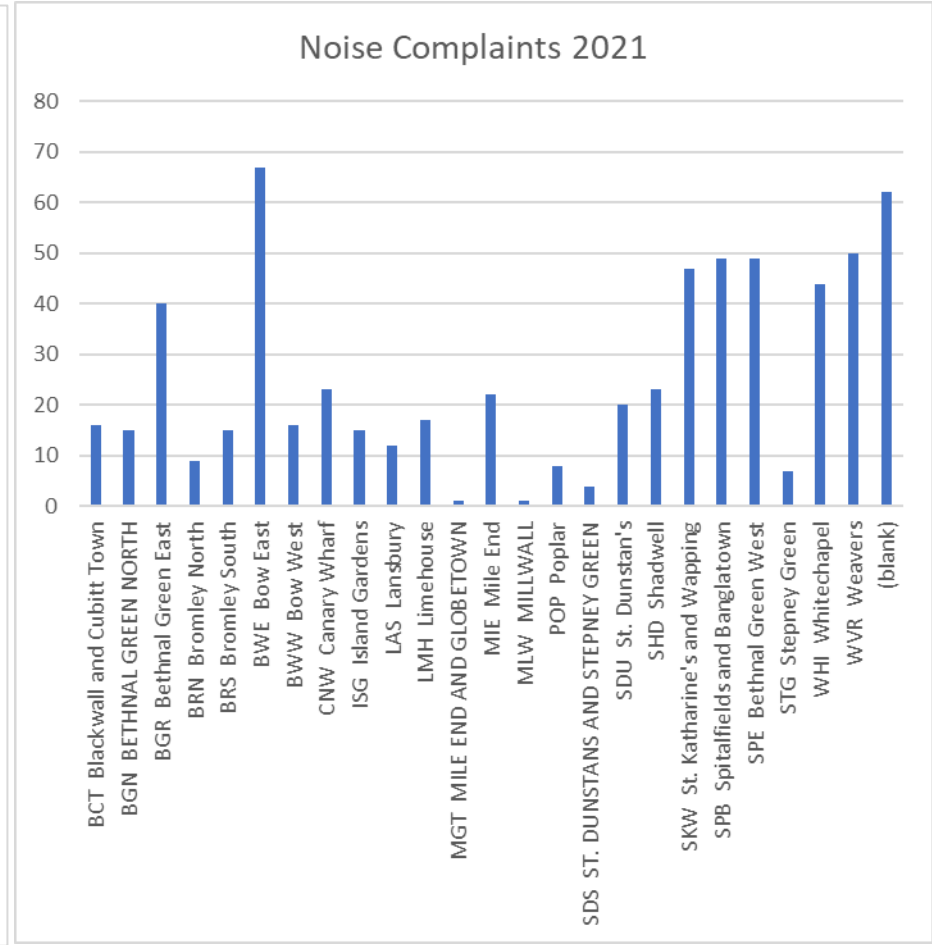


Figure 15

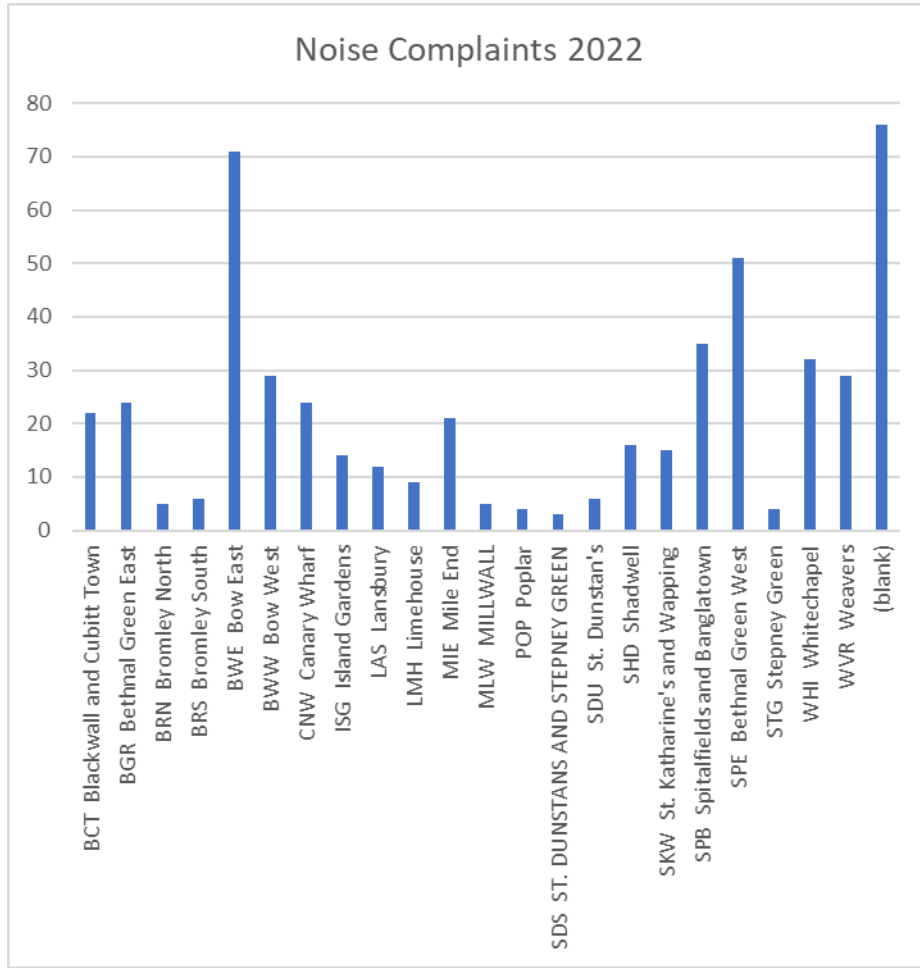
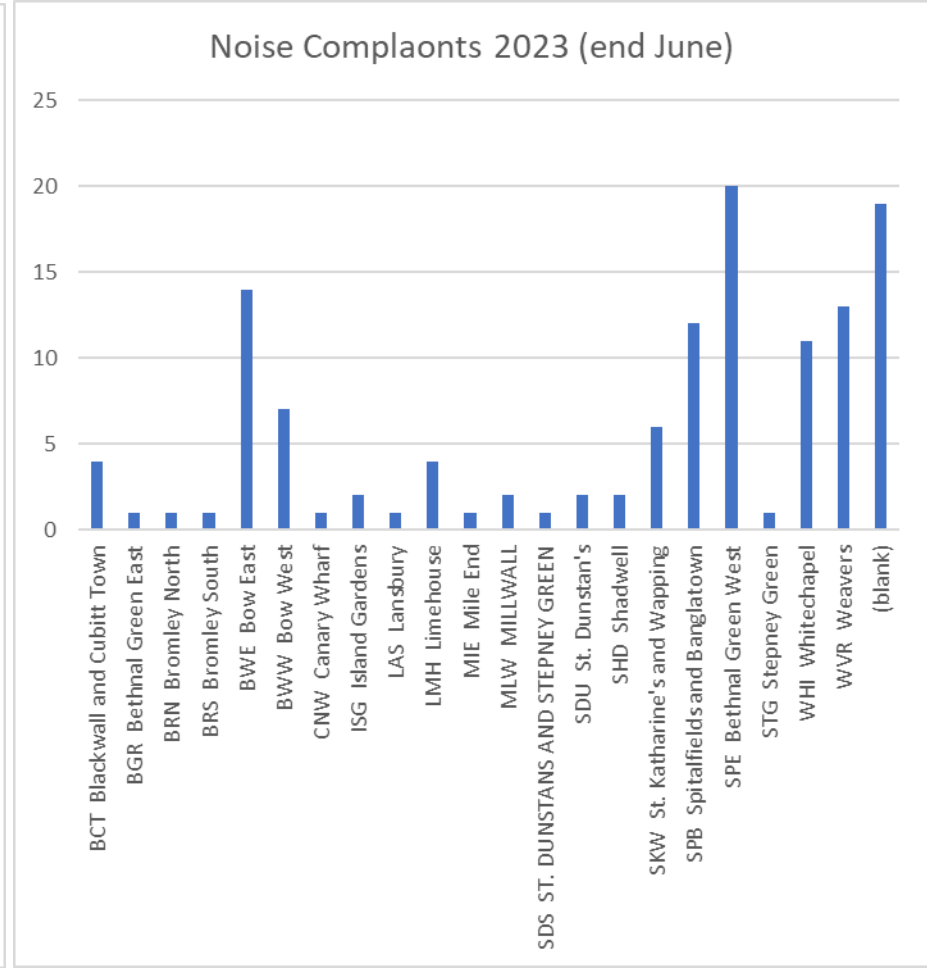


Figure 16



London Ambulance Call Outs linked to Licensed Trade

Figure 17

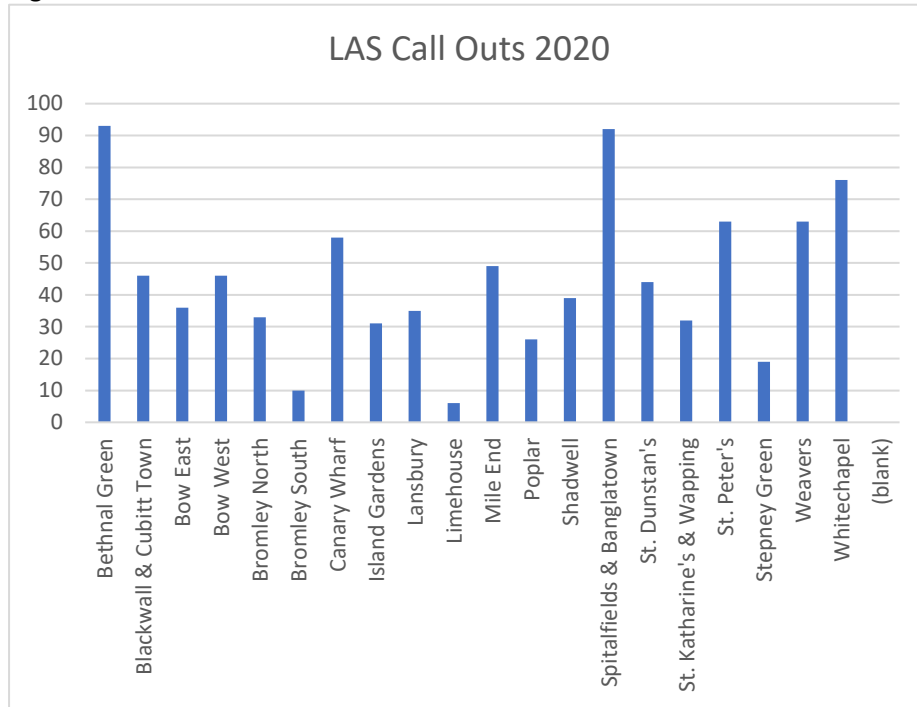


Figure 18

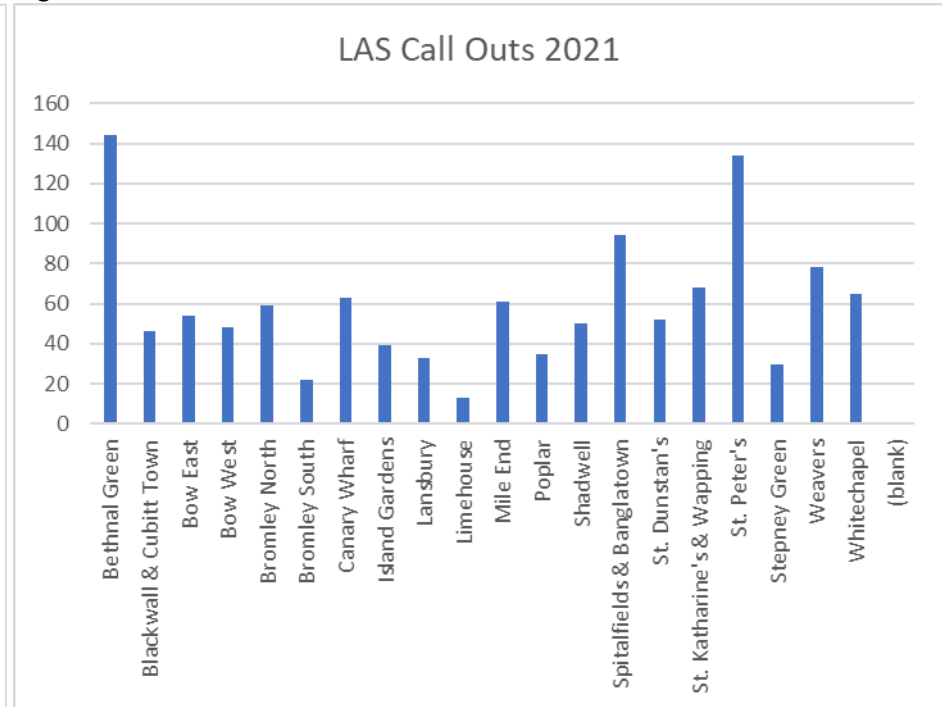


Figure 19

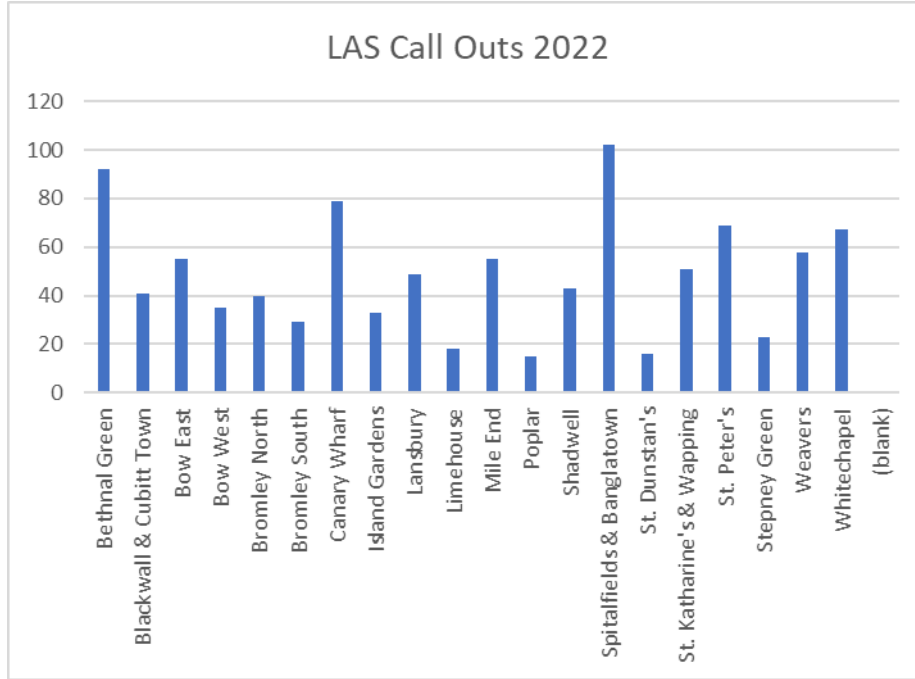


Figure 20

