# West End sweet shop raided over £899 psychedelic candy sales and secret escape tunnel



In the bustling heart of London's West End, a sweet shop's recent dealings have sparked outrage and concern after reports emerged of tourists being charged exorbitant prices for sugary treats infused with hallucinogenic substances. Once known as Gummylicious, the establishment, now operating under the name Londenero, became the focus of a Metropolitan Police raid following a complaint from a customer who was charged £899 for two bags of sweets. This incident has raised questions about the safety and legality of the products being sold in the area.

During the police operation, investigators from Westminster Council uncovered a range of products not only included magic mushroom cookies branded as "Magic Dragon" and "Game Over," but also unlicensed CBD products from a neighbouring shop themed around the Harry Potter franchise. The scale of the raid was unprecedented, yielding over 3,000 seized items, making it the largest impounding of suspected counterfeit and unsafe goods on Oxford Street to date.

This troubling incident reflects a broader concern regarding the proliferation of psychoactive substances in commercial settings, echoing similar cases from around the world. For instance, in Berlin, a 2008 case saw authorities shutter a sweet shop for selling chocolates laced with magic mushrooms and marijuana, highlighting that such practices are not isolated incidents. The rise in popularity of magic mushrooms, particularly in North America, has further complicated the landscape, with a Rand Corporation study noting that over 3% of Americans reportedly consumed psilocybin last year.

Critically, ongoing investigations revealed alarming practices within Londenero. The shop was found to be selling food items without necessary English translations on their labels, posing significant health risks, particularly for consumers with allergies. Matthew Nelson, a Senior Environmental Health Officer at Westminster City Council, stated in court that labels lacking required information can endanger customers attempting to read crucial nutritional information. The council has consistently prioritised consumer safety, having already recovered over £1 million in counterfeit goods from various establishments over the past two years.

The situation at Londenero escalated further when police discovered a hidden section of the shop, complete with an underground tunnel. This clandestine escape route allowed two staff members to evade capture during the raid. Martin Johnson, a local resident, expressed his disbelief at the operations unfolding in the sweet shop, stating, “It’s astonishing that such activities could happen right in the heart of London, where tourists expect to find value and safety.”

The court proceedings prompted a response from Councillor Adam Hug of Westminster City Council, who described the incident as indicative of a troubling trend among US-style candy shops in the area. As the number of mixed candy and souvenir stores on Oxford Street has decreased from 40 to 18 since the pandemic, Hug emphasised the need for continued vigilance against these exploitative practices.

Mr Jan, the shop's director, distanced himself from the illegal activities during the hearing, claiming he had not been in the shop recently due to personal issues and was unaware of the presence of the psychedelic cookies. Despite his claims, he was ordered to pay substantial costs to the council, further signalling the seriousness with which regulators are handling the situation.

As this case unfolds, it serves as a reminder of the ongoing battle against unregulated sales of potentially dangerous products. With the illicit sale of psilocybin and other substances on the rise, it becomes increasingly urgent for authorities worldwide to implement stricter regulations and ensure public safety, while also retaining the vibrant charm that attracts millions to the West End.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 5, 6, 8
2. Paragraphs 3, 4, 7
3. Paragraph 6
4. Paragraph 3
5. Paragraph 6
6. Paragraph 6
7. Paragraph 3

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14728455/West-End-sweet-shop-magic-mushrooms-tourist.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14728455/West-End-sweet-shop-magic-mushrooms-tourist.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - A sweet shop in London's West End, formerly known as Gummylicious and now called 'Londenero', was raided by the Metropolitan Police after a tourist was charged £899 for two bags of sweets. Investigations revealed the shop was selling magic mushroom cookies labeled 'Magic Dragon' and 'Game Over'. Additionally, unlicensed 'Hashish' and 'White Widow' CBD products were seized from the neighboring 'Harry Potter' shop. The raid uncovered a hidden section leading to an underground tunnel, with two staff members fleeing from police. The operation resulted in the largest impounded haul of suspected fake and unsafe goods on Oxford Street, with over 3,000 products seized from both shops.
3. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/life/2008-09/14/content_7072881.htm> - In 2008, a Berlin sweet shop was shut down after authorities discovered the owner was selling chocolates and lollipops laced with hallucinogenic mushrooms and marijuana. Police confiscated 120 pieces of magic mushroom chocolate, numerous cannabis lollipops, and other drugs from the shop in the Prenzlauer Berg district, known for its vibrant nightlife. The 23-year-old owner was arrested on suspicion of drug dealing, and a customer was also detained after attempting to purchase magic mushrooms from an undercover officer.
4. <https://www.arcamax.com/currentnews/newsheadlines/s-3370262> - A 2023 study by the Rand Corporation estimated that over 3% of Americans consumed psilocybin, the active compound in magic mushrooms, in the past year, making it more widely used than any other hallucinogen. Amid this surge, some smoke shops and unlicensed dispensaries began openly selling psychedelic mushrooms and mushroom-infused candies. Despite psilocybin being classified as a Schedule I drug in the U.S., these products appeared in various forms, including gummies and chocolate bars, often with vague labeling and questionable QR codes.
5. <https://patch.com/new-york/new-york-city/illegal-psychedelic-mushrooms-candy-seized-nyc-shops-prosecutor> - In December 2022, authorities in New York City seized illegal psilocybin mushrooms and mushroom-infused candies from two East Village shops, 'Come Back Daily' and 'City Clouds'. Undercover operations uncovered a secret backroom in 'Come Back Daily' where customers could purchase various forms of psilocybin products. The raids led to the arrest of four individuals on drug-related charges, highlighting the ongoing issue of illegal psychedelic substances being sold in commercial establishments.
6. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/florida-police-warn-chocolate-bars-reportedly-laced-magic-mushrooms> - In September 2024, authorities in Florida warned parents about chocolate bars reportedly laced with hallucinogenic mushrooms. The Winter Haven Police Department discovered these chocolate bars during a search warrant at a methamphetamine den. The bars, containing psilocybin, were seized and sent for testing. While no reports of children ingesting these chocolates were received in the Winter Haven community, police emphasized the potential dangers and urged parents to educate their children about the risks of consuming unknown substances.
7. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-08-09/magic-mushroom-chocolates-are-having-a-moment-but-do-they-even-contain-mushrooms> - In August 2024, the Los Angeles Times reported on the rising popularity of magic mushroom chocolates in California, noting that celebrities like Prince Harry and Gwyneth Paltrow have highlighted the benefits of psilocybin. However, concerns have emerged about the authenticity and safety of these products, as some may contain synthetic substances instead of natural psilocybin. The article emphasizes the importance of consumers being aware of the origins and contents of these products to ensure safety.