



**BOBBY SINGLETON
HEAD OF COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT**

Our Ref: 16482-20

Please quote our reference number on all correspondence

Dr Janice Thompson,
Committee Clerk
Committee for Communities
Room 430, Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

19 March 2021

Dear Dr Thompson

RE: PSNI EVIDENCE TO COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITIES – 25 FEBRUARY 2021

I write on behalf of my colleague Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Mark McEwan whom I have replaced this week as the head of Community Safety Department.

During ACC McEwan's oral Evidence Session to the Committee for Communities on 25 February 2021, he agreed to provide further details on the concept of a 'late night levy', at the request of Mr Mark Durkan, MLA.

Sections 125 – 139 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 enables a licensing authority to introduce a levy payable by the holders of a premises licence or club premises certificate in relation to each premises in its area which is authorised to supply alcohol during a period beginning at or after midnight and ending at or before 6am.

As outlined at the Briefing, these Sections presently only apply to England & Wales and the background to this is as follows: -

The holders of licences and certificates which permit the late night supply of alcohol benefit from the existence of a late night economy. But alcohol-related crime and disorder in that night-time economy give rise to costs for the police; local authorities and other bodies. The Government's intention in introducing the provisions were to enable licensing authorities to require those who benefit from the night-time economy by being permitted to supply alcohol between midnight and 6am to contribute to police costs in order to address the effect of alcohol-related crime and disorder in the night-time economy.

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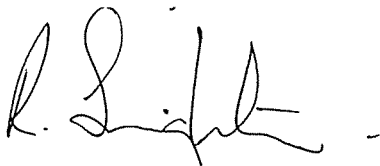
For any levy year, the amount of the levy is the amount prescribed by regulations or the amount calculated in accordance with regulations. The amount is prescribed nationally and is based on the current licence fee system under the Licensing Act 2003 (applicable to England & Wales only) with holders being placed in bands based on their premises rateable value. This will ensure that larger pubs and clubs make a higher contribution towards the levy.

The funds generated by the levy will, subject to a deduction for the expenses of introducing, collecting, administering and enforcing the scheme, be payable to the police and crime commissioner or be used in accordance with regulations. At least 70% of these funds must be paid to the police and crime commissioner. The Government intends that the regulations will permit licensing authorities to pay the remaining funds to other organisations of local government which operate or administer measures to address the effect of alcohol-related crime and disorder in the night-time economy.

The Committee will recall that ACC McEwan mentioned two areas that would put significant pressure on police resources (later opening to 2.00am for pubs and hotels and if they were able to use these on a Monday to Thursday and premises with an Article 44 being able to apply for an Article 45 up to 85 times per year) and for those reasons, we would strongly support the idea of a levy.

I hope this is helpful. If you require any further information, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Singleton', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

BOBBY SINGLETON
T/Assistant Chief Constable
Community Safety Department