

Stephen Reynolds  
T/A Front Page Bar  
9 Ballymoney Street  
Ballymena  
BT43 6AL

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear

As a Co. Antrim representative on the Board of Hospitality Ulster, and a publican for over 30 years in Ballymena, I am extremely concerned at the prospect of proposed new liquor licensing legislation incorporating a new type of license for “tap houses.”

As much as I support the idea of allowing craft breweries to sell their own products, unfortunately the review is considering a relaxation of the rules for tap houses. I’m deeply concerned that the proposed new legislation will, in effect, provide a loophole and a way for tap houses to open and operate as pubs.

Such a move in normal times would serve to jeopardise the pub industry in N. Ireland. Given the current trading conditions as a result of the current Covid 19 pandemic such a move would threaten the very existence of our industry and the livelihoods of existing pub owners and their staff.

Please convey my concerns, and the concerns of the pub industry within Co. Antrim, to your party colleagues, and particularly those on the Communities Committee, as a matter of urgency.

If you require me to provide any additional information then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN REYNOLDS