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GM-0542-2021

Dear Janice

## **DELIBERATIONS ON THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) BILL**

Thank you for your letter dated 16 April in which you advise of the Committee's request for information, following its deliberations on the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill, at its meeting on 15 April.

Please see attached responses to the questions raised by the Committee.

I hope you find this helpful and I would be grateful if you could share with Committee Members.

Yours sincerely

**Diane Mulligan**  
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer  
Private Office

## **DELIBERATIONS ON THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) BILL**

### **Clause 29- Young people prohibited from bars**

Amendment -The Committee requests that the Minister adds to the amendments already agreed for this clause by ensuring that the Bill contains regulation making powers in order to be able to amend the number of months referred to in 29(1) and to the number of prize-giving ceremonies referred to in 29(3), should this become necessary in the future.

#### Department's response

The Minister accepts the request and will take forward as a Departmental amendment

### **Cinemas**

The Committee noted the Department's concerns regarding an amendment in primary legislation allowing alcohol to be sold in cinemas without public consultation.

The Committee discussed the way forward through a consultation proposed by the Department, pending legal advice to determine if there is an opportunity in current legislation to include cinemas within the definition of a "place of public entertainment" via regulations.

The Committee is minded to support that proposal provided the legal advice is positive in that regard and that a short focused consultation takes place over July and August 2021, with regulations brought forward to the NI Assembly in autumn 2021.

The Committee requests that the Minister confirms, in writing, her agreement to this timetable.

#### Department's response

Legal advice has confirmed that cinemas could be included in the definition of "place of public entertainment" by regulations. The Minister has instructed officials to carry out a short focused public consultation over the summer months.

The Minister will consider the responses to the consultation and subject to no serious concerns being raised, regulations will be brought to the Assembly in the autumn.

### **Other Issues**

The Committee is continuing its deliberations on **Clause 8** and also on the potential for clauses on minimum unit pricing and a review of the impact of the Bill.

#### Department's response

The Department notes the Committee's intention to continue with their deliberations on clause 8, potential clauses on minimum unit pricing and a review on the impact of the Bill.