

**Joint Written Submission to the Communities Committee
Northern Ireland Brewery and Independent Pub Association (NIBIPA)
Society for Independent Brewers (SIBA)**

April 2021

About

Jointly, we represent the 30 breweries in Northern Ireland and 750+ independent breweries in Great Britain.

Summary

As you, the Committee members of the Communities Committee enter the final stages of your deliberations on any proposed amendments to the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill, we are writing to offer our support to the cause of local brewers with a view to creating an amendment that is fit for purpose and is watertight in legislation.

Department for Communities concerns

Having engaged and met with the Department officials this week, we understand the concerns raised are as follows:

- A 5 (1) (a) license is the only license that permits the sale of alcohol for consumption on premises without being ancillary to another activity.
- They believe a taproom would create a new category of license for which no ancillary activity is required.

How to address this

We strongly believe that, by definition, a taproom at a brewery is ancillary to the main purpose of the business, namely the manufacture of beer. If there was no brewery, there would be no taproom. It would therefore be in line with other licensing to allow taprooms to operate in NI as they do in Great Britain.

We believe that this is the opportunity to address this issue within the legislation which has been considered in depth by the Committee. While there is sufficient political support for an amendment along these lines at Stage 3 it would be better addressed at Committee stage.

We would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you either individually or as a group to discuss any potential concerns and to work together on something that will benefit consumers, tourists and the economy.

Definition of a brewery

As we have explained before, a brewery is easy to define in legislation as a Producer and Holder of Beer and can be validated through an HMRC Certificate of Registration.