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Communities
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Dr Janice Thompson
Communities Committee Clerk
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29 April 2021

GM-0584-2021

Dear Janice

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

Further to my letter dated 14 April in which I provided a commitment that the Department would provide an update regarding engagement with Justice Minister.

Minister Hargey wrote to Minister Long as the Minister with responsibility for the NI Courts and Tribunal Service, who grant and renew liquor licences, requesting that she consider investigating the accessibility of liquor licensing data held by the courts.

The Department has now received a response from the Justice Minister which I have provided for information at Annex A.

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

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Oifigeas Girt

Ministère O the Loo

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Our ref: CORR-0307-2021

Minister Deirdre Hargey
Minister for Communities
Level 9
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2 April 2021

Dear Deirdre,

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 2021 regarding the accessibility of liquor licensing data held by the courts.

The requirement for the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) to hold liquor licensing data and make it available is outlined in Articles 34, 35 and 36 of 'The Licensing (NI) Order 1996'.

I can confirm that each Clerk of Petty Sessions maintains a Licensing Register, the Registers are made available for inspection and information from them is supplied to the Department for Communities when requested, as required in the legislation.

I understand that in January 2021 researchers from the Assembly contacted the NICTS to obtain information from the Registers. The information that is readily available in

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



electronic format was supplied in early February and if helpful can be resent.

My officials can, when the time and conditions are right, provide access to the physical records for DfC colleagues to examine if that might assist.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Naomi Long', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

NAOMI LONG MLA
Minister of Justice

Please ensure that you quote our reference number in any future related correspondence.