

## Response ID ANON-GXRH-UWG6-2

Submitted to **CALL FOR EVIDENCE AND VIEWS ON THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) BILL**  
Submitted on **2020-12-08 00:24:33**

### Introduction

#### What is your name?

**Name:**

Helen Troughton

#### What is your email address?

**Email:**

helen@armaghcider.com

#### What is your organisation?

**Organisation:**

Armagh Cider Company Ltd

#### Please indicate if you are providing a submission:

as an individual, on behalf of an organisation or business

#### If you are responding on behalf of an organisation or business please tell us briefly how it relates to the subject matter of the Bill:

##### Please provide your comments in the text box below:

I am a director of Armagh Cider Company which is a family business making cider 'from blossom to bottle' on our home farm at Ballinteggart House in Co Armagh.

As a cider producer based in Northern Ireland, we are unable to sell our products direct to the public from our cidery. This is contrary to the position if we were based in any other part of the UK.

We are now actively involved in tourism and the current legislation also prevents us selling to our international visitors.

We grow all the apples used, add value to our crop but after all that, we are not allowed to sell it direct to the public. We are forced to work with distributors who take the major share of any profit.

The current legislation is stifling investment and growth of our sector.

### 1. The Policy Objectives of the Bill

#### What are your views on the overall policy objectives? Do you think that the Bill will meet those objectives? If not, why not?

##### Please provide your comments in the text box below:

I think this Bill will improve the current legislation in respect of the retail sale of alcohol

### 2. Easter Opening Hours and Additional Permitted Opening Hours

#### The removal of restrictions at Easter [Clauses 1 & 23]?

##### Please provide your comments in the text box below:

#### Additional permitted hours for certain licensed premises [Clause 2]?

##### Please provide your comments in the text box below:

#### PSNI authorisation for additional permitted hours for smaller pubs [Clause 4]?

##### Please provide your comments in the text box below:

### “Drinking-up Time” and the Alignment of Alcohol and Entertainment Licences

#### What are your views on the extension of “drinking-up” time?

##### Please provide your comments in the text box below:

#### What impact do you think it would have on alcohol consumption towards closing time and during ‘drinking up’ time?

##### Please provide your comments in the text box below:

**What impact do you think it would have on issues such as anti-social behaviour and crowd dispersal?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**Do you have any comments on the proposals to align closing time for liquor and entertainment licences [Clause 3]?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

#### **4. Supporting Tourism, Special Events and Small Producers**

**Do you think that the provisions contained within the Bill will have a positive impact on hospitality and/or tourism and in Northern Ireland? If so, how?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

Yes the provisions will have a positive impact on all, hospitality, tourism and Northern Ireland.

We are involved with tourism and most visitors would like to buy a memento of where they have been - they see the orchards, experience the whole process but at the end when they would purchase a bottle to take home we have to say 'Sorry- we cant sell it to you'

We are missing a wonderful opportunity to sell a little piece of Northern Ireland to them and thereby encouraging our story to be relayed to others

**What are your views on the proposals relating to permitted hours for special events [Clauses 6 & 25]?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**What are your views on the provisions of the Bill that are aimed at supporting small local producers of beer, cider and spirits [Clause 8]?**

**What impact do you envisage this could have on tourism? Do you feel that the regulatory framework, as outlined in the Bill, is sufficiently robust?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

We have been making cider in Co Armagh since 2006 and at last as a local producer, we will be treated the same as we would be in any other part of UK.

Local producers are licensed by HMRC to produce the alcohol, meet their strict conditions and pay the Excise Duty required but are prevented from selling direct to the public. This has stifled innovation and growth within the sector.

Our ciders are artisan products using entirely local ingredients, employing local people, contributing to the exchequer despite the restrictions placed on us.

Tourism - Food and Drink are two major influences on encouraging tourists to visit. Our ciders are made predominantly from the Armagh Bramley Apple which has PGI status making them as unique as Champagne or Parma Ham - both of which are huge tourism draws for their regions.

By allowing us to sell our products directly to the public will increase the viability of inviting tourists onto our premises.

We neither want or require the ability to sell for consumption on site. We are producers not pub owners.

I think the regulatory framework as outlined in the Bill is sufficiently robust



## **5. Children and Young People (under the age of 18)**

**The removal of the requirement of a licensed premises or registered club to hold a children's certificate [Clauses 10 & 26]?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**Permitting certain premises to hold underage functions; the conditions that must be met; the permitted opening hours; and, proposed enforcement action [Clauses 11 & 27]?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**Permitting the attendance of young people to remain on licensed premises to attend a private function (e.g. a wedding reception) and the proposed conditions that must be met [Clauses 12 & 28]?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**The strengthening of the current law around the delivery of alcohol [Clause 9] and the delivery of alcohol to young people [ Clause 13]?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**The prohibition on self-service and sale of alcohol by vending machines [Clauses 15 & 30]?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**Permitting children and young people to be present in a sporting club to 11:00pm during the summer months (1 June to 31 August) [Clause 29]?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**Permitting children and young people to attend an awards ceremony in a sporting club one night per calendar year (until 11pm) [Clause 29]?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**Overall, do you feel the measures are adequate to protect children and young people from alcohol related harm? If not, why not?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

## **6. Alcohol Consumption and Alcohol-Related Harm**

**What impact do you think these measures will have on reducing alcohol consumption and preventing alcohol-related harm?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**Do you have any other comments in relation to any other aspect of the Bill in relation to alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harm?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

## **7. Regulation, Enforcement, Offences and Penalties**

**The Bill proposes to allow statutory approval for voluntary industry-led codes of practice in relation to the sale and supply of alcohol in licensed premises and registered clubs [Clauses 19 & 32]. Do you feel these are an effective means of helping to regulate the industry? If not, what alternatives would you suggest?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**The Bill contains provisions to permit a court, when determining an application for an occasional licence, to impose terms and conditions on the licence with consequences for non-compliance [Clause 18]. What are your views on this?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**What are your views on the measures in the Bill that would require a body corporate (licensee) to notify the courts and police of any change of directorship (within 28 days) [Clause 20]?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

Throughout the Bill there are a number of new offences and/or penalties under The Licensing (NI) Order 1996, The Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1996 and The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (NI) Order 1985. The Committee would welcome any comments you have in relation to any of these.

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

## **8. Resource Implications for Certain Organisations/Bodies**

**(a) The PSNI:**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**b) Health and social services:**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**c) Other organisations (please specify):**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

## **9. Registered Clubs**

**Do you have any additional comments on the provisions in the Bill which specifically relate to registered clubs [i.e. Clauses 22 to 32]?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

## **10. Additional Information**

**Are there any other measures not included in the Bill that you think should be included and why?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**

**Do you have any other comments you would like to make?**

**Please provide your comments in the text box below:**