

Response ID ANON-GXRH-UWFA-C

Submitted to **CALL FOR EVIDENCE AND VIEWS ON THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) BILL**
Submitted on 2021-01-13 15:56:12

Introduction

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

[REDACTED]

Please indicate if you are providing a submission:

as an individual

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 worked in the NHS for 40 years and have first hand knowledge of the physical and social harm resulting from alcohol misuse.

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:

Extending opening hours cannot be to the social benefit of our community.

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:

Research has clearly shown that the incidence of alcohol related harm is directly related to the ease of availability of alcohol.

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

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Research has clearly shown that the incidence of alcohol related harm is directly related to the ease of availability of alcohol.

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

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Research has clearly shown that the incidence of alcohol related harm is directly related to the ease of availability of alcohol.

“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:

The longer people are allowed to stay on licensed premises will result in more alcohol being consumed. If there is a longer drinking up period customers will simply buy more alcohol at "last orders".

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:

It would increase alcohol consumption.

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:

No impact on the magnitude. It will simply move it further into the night.

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:

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:

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:

This will make it easier for under age groups to be exposed to alcohol inappropriately.

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:

I agree this is essential to reduce chances of under age people accessing alcohol

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:

Will have a small but significant impact.

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:

100 years ago it was recognised that our society had a problem with alcohol related physical and social harm. At that time rigid licensing laws were introduced limiting the number of premises permitted to sell alcohol and restricting the opening hours of licensed premises.

Over the last 40 years the lessons of the past have been forgotten, the restriction on opening hours have been gradually relaxed and the number of alcohol outlets increased. This has led to increased alcohol consumption and an increase in the incidence of alcohol related health and social problems clearly shown by statistics from the NHS and the Registrar General.

This steady relaxation of the licensing laws has been due to the undue influence of the alcohol industry over our public representatives both locally and nationally. This is a mirror image of the situation with regard to tobacco consumption where for many decades commercial interest of the tobacco industry and its influence on elected representatives prevented effective measures to try to reduce harm.

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 alcohol industry is not capable of self regulation.

The law needs to be applied by the PSNI.

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:

I agree with this.

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:

Currently PSNI are currently inadequately resourced to deal with the social fall out from alcohol misuse. This is obvious if a citizen risks walking through any of our towns or cities late at night or early in the morning or even worse if a citizen has the misfortune to live in a town centre.

b) Health and social services:

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Currently about 1/4 to 1/3 of A+E and medical and surgical admissions to our hospitals are related directly or indirectly to alcohol consumption.

Alcohol consumption is directly related to the ease of availability of alcohol.

Any relaxation of licensing laws will lead to more alcohol related harm and an inevitable increase in alcohol related health service contacts with a need for increased resources.

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: