

## Response ID ANON-GXRH-UWFZ-5

Submitted to **CALL FOR EVIDENCE AND VIEWS ON THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) BILL**

Submitted on **2021-01-04 19:24:00**

### Introduction

**What is your name?**

**Name:**

**What is your email address?**

**Email:**

**What is your organisation?**

**Organisation:**

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

**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:**

Dear Ministers

Regarding the proposed amendments to this Bill:

[REDACTED]

I would be grateful if you would consider voicing some concerns I have regarding the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill. Paula Bradley MLA and chairperson of the assembly Committee for Communities recently suggested, in a recent article [Platform, pg. 14, 04/01/21] in The Irish News that, under the new law, young people would be able to remain on licensed premises beyond 9pm providing "certain conditions are met, one being, a parent or guardian is with them". In another proposal, part of a licenced premises may be deemed suitable to hold an underage function such as a school formal.

My opinion or even my invitation and CALL FOR EVIDENCE AND VIEWS ON THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) BILL probably wont make one bit of difference to the decision MLAs make regarding kids running around Hotels and Restaurants unsupervised while drunk parents expect staff on minimum wage to babysit their children. This practice has already evolved in our Education Sector were the finest and most influential mentors in our children's lives [Teachers] carry out dual roles as babysitters and teachers.

Regarding the Idea of another proposal, that part of a licenced premises may be deemed suitable to hold an underage function such as a school formal. Can I remind MLAs about the three teenagers that died after a crush at a St Patrick's Day party at a hotel in Cookstown, County Tyrone. Their names were Lauren Bullock, 17, Morgan Barnard, 17, and 16-year-old Connor Currie and they died after the incident outside the Greenvale Hotel.

Can I add that I have the utmost respect for all our MLAs that are implementing legislation that improves the every day lives of all the citizens in Northern Ireland. I understand the difficult decisions our Politicians are faced with in the corvid crises.

I am in no way an expert in politics or running a country and have no desire to pontificate to the NI Executive, however, I am an expert in how alcohol effects people with 38 years experience (GOOD & BAD). I sincerely hope you at least take a little guidance from my advice on kids allowed a environment were adults are drunk and not fit to parent under the Influence of alcohol. Please do not legislate for children to be allowed in licenced premises after 9.30pm, believe me this is a disaster waiting to happen!

Forgive me I am somewhat direct with my comments, as I am passionate about this subject.

Kind regards

### 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:**

Please forgive me as I have not read the full Bill, however, I believe the removal of additional restrictions at Easter is "well over due", In a city of diversity and so many different cultures the Easter restrictions seemed outdated and draconian.

Hopefully, post corvid when tourism returns lifting this restriction will send out a message that even though we have our mixed traditions in culture and religion,

the City can also embrace the diversity and engagement of all cultures, sectors, race, and religious beliefs.

I believe all the amendments below are great news for all the stakeholders:

- . Alignment of closing time for liquor and entertainment
- . Police authorisations for additional hours
- . Extension of "drinking-up time"
- . Major events
- . Licensed race tracks: Sunday sales

## 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:**

Long overdue and great Idea, however, still showing respect to all different religious sectors as not to offend.

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

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

I agree and think it is a good idea.

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

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

Absolutely, great idea. The smaller pups are a massive part of the unique selling point of the Family Friendly Pubs in Northern Ireland, a term old bartenders had was, regarding customers.

Would we feel comfortable Inviting this person In to our home? If the answer was yes! then this show of hospitality would be WORLD CLASS.

## "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:**

My only concern here would be with Employers trying to force unreasonable amended working conditions on people with caring responsibilities, kids, disabled family members, or people who just want to go home at a reasonable hour, considerations could be suggested by supplementing staff taxis or extra pay.

NI working time regulations would have to be a priority and Employers may be open to associative disability discrimination if they try to force employees to work uncontracted hours.

### 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:**

Depending on their disposable Income, Customers on low incomes already have a plan when it comes to their night out experience. Among the younger customers, drinking starts at home with affordable "get the party started drinks". Usually 4-6 drinks is all young people can afford in City Centre Bars as it is now easy £5.00 for a pint an can be between £6-£8 for a glass of wine or G&T for a lady.

Younger people will already have night clubs picked out and I believe 30 -60 minutes extra drinking up will not make a big difference to the current guest experience. However, taxi firms will need to raise the bar and the practice of charging kids £10 each to get them home (£40 for one fair) to lets say Glengormley is a very bad practice and Image for the City.

### 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:**

Police in the UK and afar have inherited this job from Irrespons ble Hospitality Organisations, issues such as anti-social behaviour and crowd dispersal. should never have been a police issue.

Pouring people out on to the street comatose is an indication that:

(a) the licence holder is already in breach of legislation for providing a drunk person with alcohol and (b) the responsibility should be on the licence holder and be punished accordingly with fines. This should not be a job for police to mitigate were Hospitality Owners are clearly at fault.

However, If the issue is not passed on to Employers for serving drunk customers I cant see 30-60 minutes making any real difference that would increase anti-social behaviour or crowd dispersal.

### 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:**

I think 3am is not good. 2am Tops

#### **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:**

Absolutely, as I stated earlier in my comments.

**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:**

Absolutely, great Idea, Luxembourg has a system I like this and it is amazing, for example MTV awards, Police & Fire Games and so on, great idea. They award special legislation (similar to Health Ministers updates) and late bars.

**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:**

Absolutely agree with it and this will all make a positive effect on all stakeholders in the economy IF IT IS RISK ASSESSED, NOT CRONYISED AND THE COMMUNITY OWEN IT OR HAVE A SAY IN IT WITHOUT CORRUPTION.

#### **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:**

Already commented on this.

**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:**

Already commented on this.

**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:**

Already commented on this.

**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:**

Already commented on this.

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

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

Needs to be managed, very bad idea in my opinion.

**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:**

Already commented on this.

**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:**

Already commented on this.

**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:**

I think the police could be given the powers to "do a little more" to enforce penalty's for the disgraceful behaviour at lets say The Holy Lands. However, licence holders, Queens, Landlords, parents and all of us need to do do more to protect kids from alcohol abuse, its a collective responsibility and culture issue.

## **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:**

As i said, this needs to be managed and these ideas are great if they are consistently adhered too.

**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:**

Already commented on this.

## **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:**

I believe any regulations or changes in regulations should stay within Government Only. There must be no conflict of interests or transfer of legislative powers to any other body other than Government MLAs or it will be open to abuse.

**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:**

Great Idea! more safe guards, fantastic!

**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:**

Absolutely! transparency and openness.

**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:**

I'm afraid I have not had the time to read this, therefore, cant comment on it.

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

**(a) The PSNI:**

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

To be honest, I don't think it will make a big difference.

**b) Health and social services:**

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

Obviously there is no Question that this Department is and always will be Under resourced due to the disgraceful cuts and privatization under the current UK Government.

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

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

Already commented on this.

## **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:**

Already commented on this.

## 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:**

Already commented on this.

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

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

This is a great step in MLAs coming together on common ground given the sensitive content and emotional contract it has with all involved. I could write a book on how I would like to see Hospitality Look post covid.

I believe we have a long way to go in service when we look at examples around the world when it comes to Tech, Innovation, and leadership in the Hospitality Industry in Northern Ireland. We still have discrimination in Equality, religion, religious beliefs, race and more.

However, we are a friendly bunch and our genuine open friendliness in Hospitality is "The Golden Egg" that very few countries have. I fully support this Bill, however, we need to protect kids and staff must not be subjected to breaches in their statutory rights as a result of this Bill.