

## Response ID ANON-GXRH-UWGD-G

Submitted to **CALL FOR EVIDENCE AND VIEWS ON THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) BILL**  
Submitted on **2020-12-13 02:01:15**

### Introduction

#### What is your name?

**Name:**

Rodger Doherty

#### What is your email address?

**Email:**

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#### What is your organisation?

**Organisation:**

Lacada Brewery Ltd

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

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:

Lacada Brewery Ltd is a Co-operative owned Micro Brewery situated in Portrush. We are directly affected by proposals around the Producers Licence, events and consumption on site.

### 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:

Whilst the bill updates current legislation we believe that it falls short to address the growing demand for micro-breweries to sell for consumption on site and does not address the inability to apply and purchase a new licence for consumption on site. We also believe the bill falls short by not taking into account the need for event organisers to be able to apply for an occasional licence without the need to go through a licensee.

### 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:

We have no objections of the removal of restrictions

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

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

We have no objection for additional permitted hours.

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

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

We have no views on the issue.

### “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:

We have no opinion on the extension of drinking up time

#### 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:

This may decrease end of night binge drinking

**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:**

The is may help dispersal of crowds in areas with many bars as closing times can be staggered

**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:**

we have no opinion

#### **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:**

We believe while the provisions are positive, they do not go far enough for event organisers or small producers. Anything that can improve current legislation has to be welcomed and allow us to offer what other countries offer and more. Northern Ireland's food and drink tourism offering is still in its infancy stage and can only grow.

At present the bill allows for the department to grant special licences for major events, however no provision has been made for the organisers of other events to apply for occasional licences for both the sale of alcohol for consumption for either on or off site. An occasional licence is not expensive, however currently an applicant must already be a licensee to apply. This practice allows a licensee to seek additional fees for the application which results in increased costs and can force organisers to either abandon or curtail the event.

We believe there should be a mechanism to allow event organisers to apply for occasional licences independent from using another licensee.

**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:**

We welcome the proposals.

**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 welcome the support for local producers, however we believe the provisions still fall short of what is required to allow small producers to grow.

Firstly clarification is needed regarding the ability for small local producers to sell online.

Secondly no provision has been included to allow for consumption on site, the ability for local producers to be able to sell for consumption on site can only increase the tourism offering. All over the world local breweries have the ability to sell for consumption on site an offering more commonly known as Tap Rooms. These tap rooms increase tourism and increase employment, they do not compete with other bars. In Northern Ireland very few premises offer local produce on tap due to the anti competitive nature of major breweries or cartels entering agreements ensuring only their produce can be sold on tap.

We now have the chance to open the market to allow small producers to grow their sales by volume by legislating for one or more of the following options .

Option 1: Allowing the application of new licences by abolishing the surrender principle thus allowing producers to obtain an Alcohol Licence under current legislation.

Option 2: Creating a provision within the Producers Licence to allow for sale of alcohol for consumption on site.

Option 3: Introducing an amendment forcing licensed premises to sell beers from multiple breweries on tap. This government should no longer sit back and allow this anti competitive behaviour to continue.

#### **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:**

We agree with the removal of this requirement.

**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:**

We have no objections

**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:**

We have no objections

**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:**

We have no objections

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

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

We have no objections

**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:**

We have no objection

**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:**

We have no objection

**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:**

We feel the measures are adequate.

## **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:**

We believe this will have limited impact as long as large companies continue to sell cheap alcohol

**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:**

We have no other comments

## **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:**

We believe any code of practice should be industry led.

**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:**

We have no objection to 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:**

We have no objections to this.

**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:**

We have no objections

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

### **(a) The PSNI:**

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

We believe the PSNI would need extra resources to police the extension of opening hours.

### **b) Health and social services:**

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

We believe the bill will not make any changes to current resources.

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

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

N/A

## **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:**

We have no comment

## **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:**

We have no other measures that we have not already stated.

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

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

We have no further comment