

Response ID ANON-GXRH-UWM3-5

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

Submitted on **2020-12-02 09:34:30**

Introduction

What is your name?

Name:

Joe McCarthy

What is your email address?

Email:

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What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Saltwater Brig

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:

Saltwater Brig is a bar / restaurant with alcohol licence.

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 feel it goes some way to helping a struggling industry survive. Minimum unit pricing should also be included to prevent both bars and off licences selling cheap 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:

Will finally not have to look stupid when explaining to tourists why they can't have a drink before 5 on Good Friday or that they must leave before 12 midnight etc etc.

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

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

This will improve things by allowing more time for people to finish and filter out without being forced out the door all at once. Especially relevant in inclement weather and if the area is lacking in public transport / taxis. It will also clear up red tape with local council if allowing automatic 104 "late nights" as most premises only really need extended weekend nights.

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

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Should realistically be 104 nights for all licenced premises unless a nightclub etc in which case an additional licence should be applied for.

"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:

Definitely better than what we currently have. I refer to my previous answers re inclement weather, taxi availability etc.

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:

no different to the current situation. Possibly make it easier as people wouldnt be taking their remaining alcohol in a short space of time.

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:

Would ease this issue as people could drift off upon finishing their drinks as opposed to being forced out quickly.

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:

not at this time.

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:

If local hospitality is not negatively affected then i have no issue with it as long as there are limited numbers of events in areas. ie a person holding a sporting event to often (with a licence permitted by this clause) would negatively effect the hospitality businesses in that area.

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:

no issue if numbers of events are limited per year.

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:

No issue as long as it is ONLY their produce for sale at their premises.

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:

about time.

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:

About time.

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:

About time.

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:

Alcohol should only be delivered to over 18s regardless of circumstance.

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

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

agree.

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:

Agree.

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:

Agree.

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:

Yes. It is up to the licenced premises to comply with AND enforce the regulations with random checks by Police / Licensing authorities.

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:

Minimum pricing would solve a lot of issues as Off licences take no responsibility for the alcohol they sell! This would prevent "pre loading" and would encourage customers to come to pubs etc earlier and stay within a controlled environment as opposed to drinking at home with no one to monitor their intake and control behaviour.

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:

Minimum pricing would solve a lot of issues as Off licences take no responsibility for the alcohol they sell!

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 feel that with appropriate oversight the industry led codes of practice are good as licensees are the experts in this industry.

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:

no issues as long as the terms and conditions are fair and equitable and standard across the industry / country.

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:

no issues

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:

no issues

8. Resource Implications for Certain Organisations/Bodies

(a) The PSNI:

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

no more than currently. If anything it should ease the burden on PSNI. Also if less off licence drinking in the home or uncontrolled environment then less domestic abuse.

b) Health and social services:

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

It may ease the pressure on health service for the same reasons as above (PSNI)

c) Other organisations (please specify):

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

Ease the pressure on local council as far as "entertainment licence" legislation etc etc.

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:

Clubs, in my experience, are not following the current rules regarding signing non members in and out etc etc. this needs to be addressed as it has a negative impact on local hospitality businesses. Minimum pricing is definitely required in clubs.

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:

Off Licence hours should be reduced to opening at 11am and closing at 8 pm.

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

Please provide your comments in the text box below:

not at this time