

## Response ID ANON-GXRH-UWF4-Y

Submitted to **CALL FOR EVIDENCE AND VIEWS ON THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) BILL**  
Submitted on **2021-01-18 16:12:00**

### Introduction

#### What is your name?

**Name:**

Wanda Donnan

#### What is your email address?

**Email:**

wanda.donnan@moviehouse.co.uk

#### What is your organisation?

**Organisation:**

The Jet Centre

#### 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:

I am the centre manager for The Jet Centre.

The Jet Centre is a large activity centre located in Coleraine offering local customers and tourists visiting the North coast a selection of activities including ten pin bowling, mini golf, an arcade/pool tables, cinema and children's soft play.

We are a locally owned and operated company and employ 70 people from the area and have in excess of 600,000 visitors per year.

We are submitting this response on behalf of our ten-pin bowling alley, Superstrikes. We have invested heavily in this 14-lane modern bowling alley with a full renovation done several years ago, new luxury seating added to the lanes, a dining area created and new software and flooring put in all lanes during lockdown. We have spent £500,000 over the past four years, including more than £20,000 of additional catering equipment to serve hot food to our bowling customers.

While we are allowed to serve food and non-alcoholic beverages to customers seated at the bowling lanes, we are prohibited from serving alcohol in this area as our restaurant licence states that alcohol must be served in the restaurant area. We have been asked repeatedly by customers to be able to enjoy a beer or a glass of wine at their bowling lane while they enjoy their activity.

### 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:

The call from the Committee for Communities for the public's views on the Bill is welcomed. We ask that the committee review the rules surrounding bowling alleys and the service of alcoholic beverages at the tables situated at the lanes rather than making a differentiation of the restaurant area and the bowling area. This would give us parity with other neighbouring jurisdictions. Further details in relation to this are in point 10.

### 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:

**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:

**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:

We are grateful to the committee for allowing us to put our views forward on this Bill and we request that restaurant licences extend to include all seated parts of the bowling alley or that we have the option to licence our bowling lane areas separately.

Currently we are only allowed to serve alcoholic beverages in the distinct restaurant area of the premises some distance from our bowling lanes. Our customers, many of them visitors who have travelled to the North Coast for a holiday, have asked repeatedly if they can dine and drink at their lane.

Many of our holiday visitors come from other parts of Ireland and the UK and even as far as the US – all areas where an alcoholic beverage can be consumed at the lane.

In Ireland, bowling alleys can apply for a pub licence and sell alcohol under the same rules as a pub. A great example of this is the Arena 7 entertainment centre in Letterkenny. This means patrons are not required to buy a meal but can simply purchase a drink at their lane if they wish. Most bowling centres in the Britain also serve alcohol at their lanes with bowling centres allowed to apply for a 'full on licence' that allows the sale of alcohol on site but with no off sales.

Our customers have constantly been disappointed that they cannot enjoy a beer while playing a game of ten pin bowling and they want to enjoy both a beer and a burger at their lane during a game, which our current legislation does not allow

We currently serve a range of food including burgers and pizzas. With our current restaurant licence, customers can also enjoy a beer or glass of wine with their meal. And while they can eat and have a soft drink at their lanes, if they want an alcoholic beverage they must leave their lane and go to the restaurant.

All of our bowling lanes have private seating areas with tables, much like you'd have at any casual restaurant.

The amount of alcohol consumed would be quite low as the average bowling game is approximately 45 minutes. However, customers say they would prefer to eat their food and consume their drinks with it at their lanes. The experience is very different from that of a pub – they come to bowl and have a nice evening and a drink would be a welcome addition to the overall experience of their night out.

Many pubs feature non-seated activities such as darts, ping pong/table tennis and pool where customers can drink and enjoy a game.

Currently our bowling business declines rapidly from 9pm as customers leave to go to the pub. By being able to serve alcohol at our bowling lanes, we believe that it would extend our trading hours by an additional two hours.

We feel that being able to serve alcoholic drinks with food at our bowling lanes would be an asset to our business and would help with the recovery of the huge financial losses we have incurred this year during the pandemic.

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

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