

Sent: 03 November 2016 14:07

To: Pelan, Dr Kevin <Kevin.Pelan@niassembly.gov.uk>

Subject: NIDIG - oral evidence to the CfC, 17 November 2016

Dear Kevin

Thank you for your letter dated 28 October. I have already confirmed by phone our attendance at the Committee on 17 November.

Unfortunately, I am not yet in a position to provide you with a final notification of who will be attending. I certainly will but, due to illnesses, cannot confirm which commercial member will attend with me. I apologise for that, but will let you know as soon as possible. Our evidence to the Committee remains as in our submission, with one further additional point which came to light only recently. I would be grateful if this point could be added to our submission before being passed to the Committee.

It relates to Clause 12 - "restrictions on off-sales drinks promotions in supermarkets etc."

The Clause relates only to off-sales operating under an Article 5(1)(b) licence, and not to those under a 5(1)(a) (ie it relates only to stand-alone or mixed trading off-sales, but not to pubs which have an off-sales attached to their premises). To give a specific example - this means that the off-sales attached to Lavery's Bar in Bradbury Place (operating under a 5(1)(a)) - for all intents and purposes separate from the bar, with its own street entrance and looking like a stand-alone shop as far as the general public would be concerned) will not be caught by the provision, but the Winemark (with a 5(1)(b) licence) across the road will be covered by the new restrictions. Two different rules applying to two virtually identical off-sales businesses. There are plenty of examples of this up and down the country.

The title of the clause references supermarkets, but this clause obviously affects many more local businesses than may immediately have been apparent. It may be more equitable for this restriction to apply to all off-sales premises.

I will get back to you regarding names as soon as possible.

Many thanks

Nicola Carruthers
Northern Ireland Drinks Industry Group