



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITIES

Please use this form to submit written submissions in relation to the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill. Return to committee.communities@niassembly.gov.uk by Wednesday 19 October 2016.

Name: Rodger Doherty

Organisation: (if applicable) Lacada Brewery Co-op Ltd

Date: 17th October 2016

1. Lacada Brewery Co-op Ltd

We are a micro-brewery, with 283 co-owners, located in Portrush and began trading in craft beer in October 2015. We have three main priorities, firstly, to promote craft beer, secondly, to run a sustainable business and create employment and, lastly, to improve and support our local economy. Our products are branded to target both domestic and tourist markets at home and abroad.

2. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit written evidence towards this bill and would also state our willingness to give oral evidence to the committee if requested.

3. After one year in business we have learned that the current bill for the Licensing and Registration of Clubs is outdated as it does not take into consideration the requirements of micro-breweries and distilleries within Northern Ireland, the number of which has grown significantly over the last few years. We have two main amendments that we would like included

within the bill which, so far, has not been addressed; these are (a) Selling at source, (b) Occasional Licences.

4. **Selling at Source:** Current legislation hinders micro-breweries from gaining a licence, not only to sell products as off-sales, but also for consumption on site. As it stands it is very costly to obtain a licence to permit off-sales, money that most micro-breweries do not have unless they were to sell other produce. As no class of license currently exists, we would request that micro-breweries are added to the list of premises from which their products can be sold for consumption on both an on-sales and off-sales basis.
5. Introducing this amendment would allow micro-breweries to sell online and permit sales as part of brewery tours. The latter would add to Northern Ireland's economy and aid the tourism sector as ours is only one of the, estimated, 25 breweries here which have already been inundated by requests for tours.
6. Micro-breweries here feel they should be treated on an equal basis to other craft food and drink producers and allowed to sell produce at artisan markets without the need to apply for multiple occasional licences as many markets can, and do, occur simultaneously throughout Northern Ireland. We believe a new class of license should be introduced to allow small alcohol producers to freely sell their produce on an off-sales basis at markets and other artisan festivals within Northern Ireland.

Occasional Licences: On addressing this issue, we believe an amendment should be made to allow individuals and organisations to apply for an occasional licence. Current legislation hinders individuals and organisations from organising festivals, markets or exhibitions that sell alcohol as the applicant must either have their own licence or act through a current licensee. We believe anyone who meets the requirements of holding a licence should be able to apply for an occasional licence to host such events.

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