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Date: 20 January 2016

Dear Kevin

## **LICENSING BILL - PSNI WRITTEN SUBMISSION**

I am writing to you in response to the Committee's request of 14 January seeking the Department's views on the issues raised by the PSNI in its written submission to the Committee on the above Bill.

### **Department's response to PSNI comments**

#### **CLAUSE 4 - ATTACHMENT OF CONDITIONS TO LICENCES**

Comments noted.

#### **CLAUSE 5 - TEMPORARY CONTINUANCE OF BUSINESS**

This is a standard provision in the Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 which applies to all premises licensed to sell alcohol. When granting such an order, a court must be satisfied that the premises in which the business is proposed to be carried on are adequate for the conduct of the business and will continue to be adequate during the period of the order.

In relation to who owns the licence, the licence would be granted to the stadium itself and not a tenant.

## **CLAUSE 6 – ADDITIONAL PERMITTED HOURS AND SUITABILITY FOR FUNCTIONS**

It appears that the title of this clause was not amended when the Private member removed part of the clause relating to additional permitted hours under Article 44.

Extension licences granted under Article 47 will be restricted to parts of an outdoor stadium which have been structurally adapted and are suitable for functions.

## **CLAUSE 7 – REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR**

Selling alcohol from kiosks or other salespoints at which snacks and other food is also available for purchase is allowed in indoor arenas, where sporting events (in particular ice hockey which occurs on a regular basis at the SSE Arena) take place. The Department is not aware of any concerns from the PSNI regarding availability of alcohol in an indoor arena.

## **CLAUSE 8 - COMMENCEMENT AND SHORT TITLE**

Comments noted.

## **GENERAL**

Minister has asked me to inform the Committee that he recognises the importance of young people having somewhere safe to gather and interact with each other.

Subject to being within the scope of the Bill, Minister would support an amendment put down and moved by a Member to allow underage functions in certain licensed premises provided strict controls are in place to ensure that any young person attending such an event does not have access to alcohol.

However there must be considerable doubt whether or not the proposed amendment is within the scope of the Bill given that the Bill in its entirety is concerned with the sale of

intoxicating liquor at outdoor stadia. This is of course a matter for the Speaker to determine.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liam Quinn." The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the text "Yours sincerely".

**Liam Quinn**  
**Head of Social Policy Unit**