

To whom it may concern

My name is John Fitzpatrick and as a local resident I'd like to voice my concern about the private members bill to change the licensing arrangements at Kingspan stadium (Bill Number: Bill 69/11-16).

While I agree in principle that Ulster Rugby should be able to look after their own licensing instead of relying on third parties to go to the courts to get a temporary license for each event, I believe that along with that must come some social responsibility and I do not see this is adequately addressed in the bill.

In the past I have witnessed supporters urinating on the street after games. Most recently I saw one man urinating into a hedge at the top of Ravenhill Park Gardens after the Edinburgh game on Friday December 4th. Also on the Saturday morning after that same game there were plastic pint glasses strewn over the pavement outside the Kingspan stadium. These are just two specific recent incidents which illustrate the wider issue of antisocial behaviour. While most supporters are well behaved, it seems there is a blind eye currently turned to this type of antisocial behaviour and Ulster Rugby should give some commitment to policing this.

Also, the proposal will allow for the bar to remain open to 1pm. I think this is wholly inappropriate in a residential area and believe a 10pm limit would be more appropriate.

I would like to see these areas addressed in this bill.

One other concern I have is that Judith Cochrane claims (and I quote) *"I have done letter drops in some areas — for instance in the vicinity of Kingspan, which is already operating with a licence — to take their views"*. I live right next to the stadium on Ravenhill Park Gardens and have not received any such letter. In fact after talking to a number of my neighbours I have not found a single person who has received this letter. Therefore I would be interested to know where and when exactly this consultation has taken place, and how representative those being consulted are. In fact the reason that this submission is late, is that I have only just heard about the proposals myself from one neighbour who keeps abreast of ongoing business at the Northern Ireland Assembly rather than from Ulster Rugby or anyone asking on their behalf.

I would be be grateful if you would register my concerns.

Regards

John Fitzpatrick

