



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Please use this form to submit written submissions in relation to the Licensing Bill.
Return to committee.socialdevelopment@niassembly.gov.uk by Thursday 31 December.

Name: Anna Keville

Organisation: (if applicable) None

Date: 31 December 2015

(where possible, please structure your response to the specific clauses of the Bill and, if appropriate, suggest alternative or additional wording to clauses, which may assist the Committee's consideration of the need for any amendments to the Bill)

1. I have been a resident of Ravenhill Park since 1989, the year I was born. I have not been consulted about the proposed Bill. No one resident in this street that I know has been consulted. Perhaps talking to residents is entirely unnecessary but I think residents should be informed of what has been proposed and the possible negative effects. The Bill came to my attention on 30th December 2015 and this was because of a third party, not Judith Cochrane MLA who is proposing the Bill. It seems likely Ms Cochrane would not inform residents or encourage feedback from us as there can be no positive effects for us. At best, nothing will change although that seems unlikely.
2. Rugby matches mean crowds of people in our street, it means struggles for parking spaces, damage to property from people who are intoxicated and it means litter. Of the things to be changed in Kingspan stadium, licensing is

hardly a priority. The only benefits Judith Cochrane MLA has named is that it makes it a bit more convenient for Kingspan not to rely on their caterers.

3. If the stadium can and does serve alcohol for a longer period of time, this means more intoxicated people on our streets. I have experience of being harassed by drunk men and I have had my property damaged by drunk rugby fans. These people are exceptions but the longer the stadium serves alcohol in a day, the more exceptions there will be.
4. The title of article 6 of the Licensing Bill is Additional permitted hours and suitability for functions. This seems to be directly copied from another Bill that refers to licensing beyond usual hours i.e. extensions to serving until 1am. I am not experienced in reading Bills but if the proposed Bill does allow for Additional permitted hours in serving alcohol this late seems irresponsible. If the Bill is not extended permitted hours, this title should be changed.
5. The whole proposal seems based on the idea that indoor and outdoor arenas are much the same. This is not true. The SSE Arena is not in a residential area. It is in a huge building containing bars and restaurants, it is easy for taxis to reach, it has a large car park. In short, it is accessible and purpose built. I can't speak for the residents near to Casement Park or Windsor Park Stadium, though I think it's likely they would say the same, Kingspan Stadium is not accessible or purpose built. It is surrounded by housing, much of which is occupied by older people. One access point is a narrow, one-way street. The idea that it is in anyway the same as an indoor arena is ludicrous.

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