



**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: Clare Delargy

Organisation: (if applicable) _____

Date: Jan 3 2016

1. I write as a long-standing resident of Ravenhill Park, having lived in my current house for over 30 years. My apologies for not making my submission earlier. I only became aware of this Bill two weeks before Christmas not having been included in the original consultation. As you might imagine it has taken some time to understand the proposed legislation and its implications.
2. My chief concern is naturally over the Kingspan Stadium but I believe my suggestions would offer protection to residents living around the other stadia affected by the Licensing Bill, namely Windsor Park and Casement Park.
3. The Bill addresses a number of issues but my focus is largely restricted to the question of the hours when drink can be sold. Please excuse me if I do not employ legal terms. I hope however to make very clear the thrust of my argument.
4. As I understand it, the Licensing Bill, if passed, would allow Ulster Rugby to apply for a full licence instead of having to rely on occasional licences procured by a separate organisation. If a full licence were granted, again as I understand it, Ulster Rugby would not automatically have the right to sell alcohol after the normal end time of 11 pm but would rather be eligible to apply for the right to sell drink up until 1 am.

5. While I understand that occasional licences already allow for the sale of drink up until 1 am and that this bill would not extend those hours, I want to see new restrictions added to the Bill. That's because the current situation regarding the sale of drink, in my view, is unsatisfactory and the Bill in its present form would only perpetuate existing problems.
6. The vast majority of fans are well behaved but a number fuelled by drink engage in anti-social behaviour. Purely by accident, members of my household have witnessed two separate occasions during which a total of five supporters have urinated either on the street or in neighbours' property. We have also seen evidence which is strongly suggestive of some fans being able to carry drink in plastic glasses out of the ground. How frequent and how widespread this behaviour is, I cannot say but none of it is acceptable.
7. Allowing additional hours of drinking beyond 11 pm would permit the continuation of what I have described. In fact given the behaviour mentioned above, I believe there is a case for curbing the hours during which alcohol can be bought. In my view there should be no sale of drink beyond 10 pm. This would still allow fans to have a quick celebratory or commiseratory glass before going home and allowing the area to return to normal. If they want to drink on, well there are bars only too anxious to welcome them.
8. While it may be beyond the scope of the Bill, I recommend there should be tighter controls to prevent anyone leaving the ground carrying drink. There should also be patrols along those streets which fan out from the ground to ensure there is no anti social behaviour of the type I have described.
9. Lastly all three stadia should each set up a body on the lines of the Aviva Stadium Project Monitoring Committee at Lansdowne Road in Dublin on which sit two local councillors and one local resident.
10. Would you please contact me if you wish to hear oral evidence from a resident. I do not want to appear myself but I am liaising with others who share my concerns in order to nominate someone to represent us.

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