



**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: _____ Patricia Baxter _____

Organisation: (if applicable) _____ N/A _____

Date: 10.1.2016

(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)

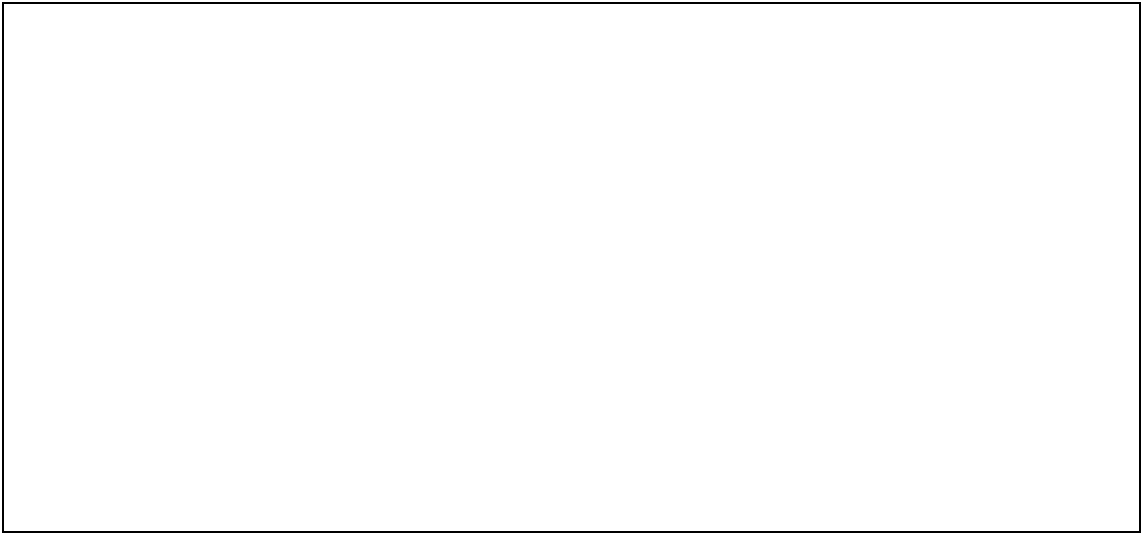
1. This submission is late because I was unaware until this weekend that the Licensing Bill had been progressed, and was being discussed this month by the Committee. I appear to have been one of the few residents to have received notification in the form of a letter drop form Judith Cochrane in October 2015 – and having emailed her directly with my views opposing the detail of her Bill, I would have expected to have had further notification of the hearings in January. Unfortunately I heard nothing from her – and was not encouraged to make a formal submission.
2. I am a resident of Ravenhill Park, having moved here with my young family six years ago. We live four doors away from Kingspan Stadium, so we experience all of the highs and lows associated with having an outdoor

sports stadium literally on our doorstep. Unfortunately over the last six years, the lows have increased – particularly since the recent development of the stadium and we feel that implementation of the proposed Bill, as it stands, will cause further lows. With regards to clause 3.4, I strongly disagree with the proposed general permitted hours that alcohol would be permitted to be sold. We regularly witness anti-social behaviour and unacceptable noise levels after rugby matches, when fans are leaving the ground and walking up Ravenhill Park. My young children are regularly awoken by late-night noise, and despite the fact that the law clearly states that alcohol must be consumed on the premises, we frequently find pint glasses in our driveway, on our wall and - on several occasions - on the roof of our car. The later fans are served alcohol, the later they will leave the stadium, and the later residents will be subjected to these types of behaviour. Ravenhill Park is a quiet, residential area, inhabited by many young families and elderly people, and I feel this is not being appreciated by Judith Cochrane. I would strongly recommend that alcohol is served no later than 10pm, with the premises vacated 30 minutes later. I am sure that Judith Cochrane will appreciate that residents should not be subjected to any more inconvenience from living close to Kingspan than we already are and that due consideration in this proposed Bill will demonstrate an acceptance of this.

3. I also believe that any Bill would allow for the setting of up a body based on the Monitoring Committee at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin, which would include a local resident along with other representatives. The purpose of such a committee would allow ongoing monitoring of any change in licensing laws, and its ensuing impact, something which I am sure Ulster Rugby and Kingspan Stadium would welcome, in the interests of public order.
4. In her presentation, Judith Cochrane stated that the three stadia should adhere to the same business model as the SSE Arena – which is ridiculous, as the SSE is a purpose built indoor multi-entertainment centre which was not built in the middle of an established residential area. Besides, we have

seen in recent years, an increase in anti-social behaviour at the SSE Arena, mostly as a result of alcohol consumed, so it's hardly something to be held up as a shining example for local residents.

5. While I appreciate the extensive financial investment in Kingspan, the planning and development to date has not resulted in the required infrastructure to make it a "place of public entertainment" with all that that entails. I believe that the consequences of the proposed Bill as it stands would be detrimental to both the Kingspan 'neighbours' and ultimately to Kingspan itself.



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