



**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.**

Names: _____ **Professor Owen Hargie and Mrs. Patricia Hargie** _____

Organisation: (if applicable) _____

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)

We wish to express our opposition to the Private Members Bill at Stormont to enable the three main sporting bodies in NI to apply for their own full licences to sell alcohol at their stadia. We would be amazed if MLAs supported such a Bill.

As residents of Ravenhill Park we know at first hand that many young people already go to games heavily inebriated and return in an even more intoxicated state, often causing problems for local residents (for example, we have often had pint glasses left outside our house, or thrown into our garden following games).

As we already know, alcohol consumption is a growing problem in our society and in our view MLAs should be taking steps to reduce this rather than to encourage it. Indeed, we fail to understand why sporting arenas should be permitted to sell alcohol at all.

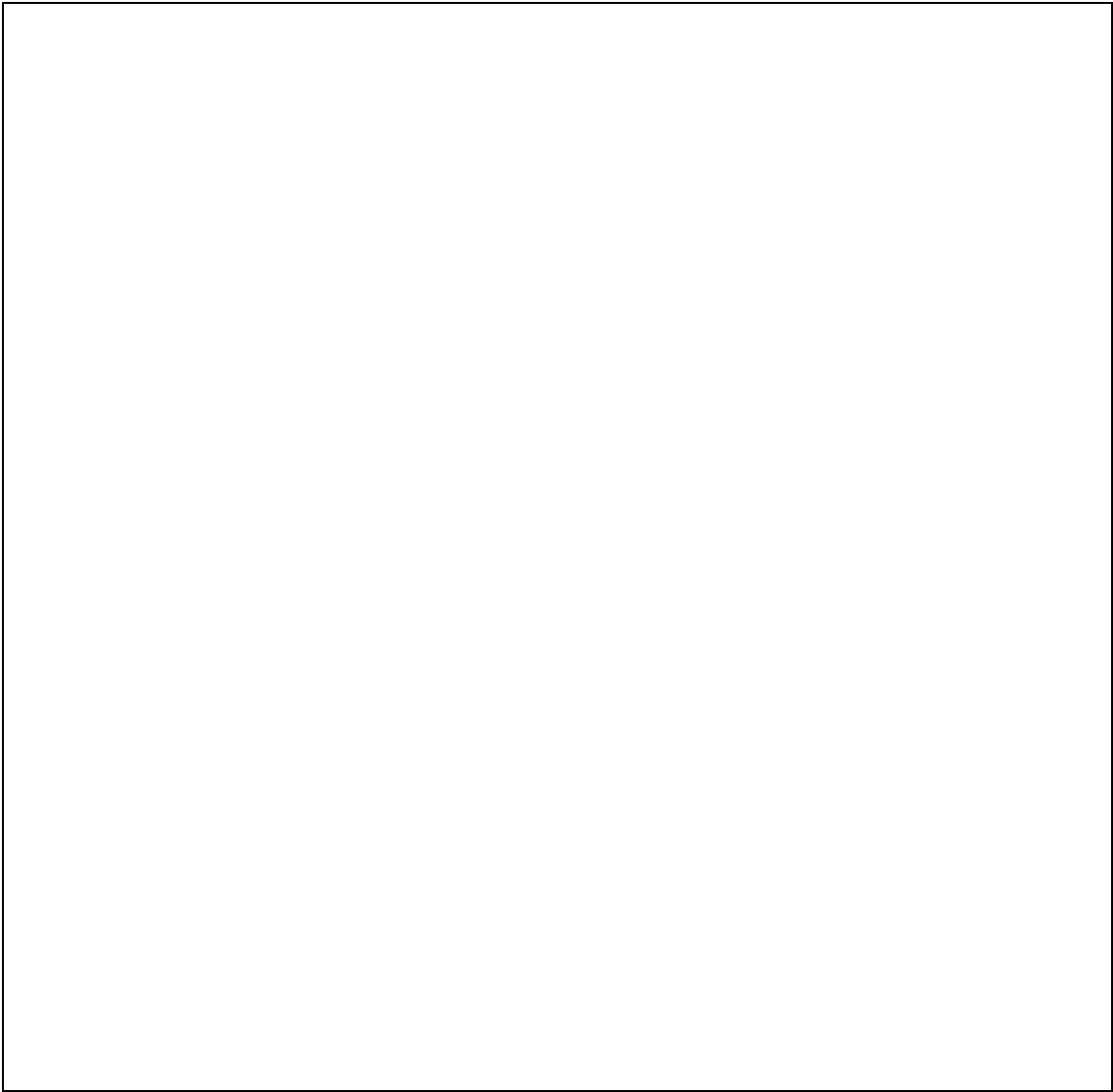
Rather than supporting, promoting and indeed sanctioning a link between sport and alcohol consumption, MLAs should be seeking to weaken such a connection. The passing of this Bill would send a very misleading message to our young people in relation to alcohol consumption and sport.

We would therefore urge MLAs not to support this Bill.

Professor Owen Hargie and Mrs Patricia Hargie

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