



Title of Report:	Correspondence Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	10th August 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Establish key relationships with Government, agencies and potential strategic partners
Lead Officer	Director of Environmental Services

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present correspondence for Members consideration.

2.0 The following correspondence has been received:

2.1 Environment, Marine & Fisheries Group, Environmental Policy Division, DAERA

(dated 28th June 2021)

Summary

Correspondence dated 28th June 2021 has been received from DAERA inviting stakeholders to submit a response to a Call for Evidence on the Plan to Eliminate Plastic Pollution in Northern Ireland.

The Call is now open and responses will be accepted until 5pm on 1 October 2021.

Copy correspondence is attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 Institute of Licensing / Night Time Industries Association (NTIA)

(dated 8th July 2021)

Summary

Correspondence dated 8th July 2021 has been received from Institute of Licensing / NTIA. The Institute of Licensing and NTIA are writing to make the Chairman of the Licensing Committee aware of the issues facing hospitality businesses and ask that these are taken into account in making case by case licensing decisions.

Copy correspondence is attached as Appendix 2.

3.0 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee consider the correspondence.

Single Use Plastics, Waste Prevention and Recycling
Ground Floor
Ballykelly House
111 Ballykelly Road
Ballykelly
Limavady
BT49 9HP

Email: wastepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk

28 June 2021

Dear Stakeholder,

PUBLIC CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON A PLAN TO ELIMINATE PLASTIC POLLUTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

You are invited to respond to a Call for Evidence on a plan to eliminate plastic pollution in Northern Ireland which has launched today. The Northern Ireland Executive committed to the development of this plan in the New Decade, New Approach document. This Call for Evidence seeks information on the wide range of actions that are taking place across NI to eliminate plastic pollution. We are also looking for responses on what the key challenges and opportunities might be for NI in eliminating plastic pollution. We would also like to hear from a broad range of sources of evidence and expertise (local, national and international) that could help inform the Northern Ireland Plastic Pollution plan.

Full details of the background, purpose and scope as well as key questions we would like you to respond to are provided in the Call for Evidence document, which is available on the DAERA website at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications>

If required, alternative formats are available: Easy Read, Braille, audio formats (CD, mp3 or DAISY), large print or translations into minority languages (to meet the needs of those for whom English is not their first language). Please contact **028 7744 2087** to arrange such copies. For those with hearing difficulties, leave a message on the Department's text phone (18001 028 9052 5031).

You are encouraged to respond using the online response function, available at:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ek31MgR746>.

However, written responses to the key questions outlined in Annex A of the Call for Evidence document will be accepted at the e-mail address or postal address below:

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.



e-mail: wastepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk

postal: Single Use Plastics, Waste Prevention and Recycling
Ground Floor
Ballykelly House
111 Ballykelly Road
Ballykelly
Limavady
BT49 9HP

The closing date for responses is **1 October 2021 at 5pm.**

I look forward to receiving your responses.

Yours faithfully,



Rachael Hook
Head of Single Use Plastics, Waste Prevention and Recycling Branch

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8 July 2021

To the Chairman of the Licensing Committee

Dear Councillor

The coronavirus pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption and hardship since March 2020. The impacts have affected many businesses, and the hospitality industry in particular, with limited opportunities to react and adapt. As we emerge from this exceptionally difficult time, many of these impacts will continue.

One of the key problems that hospitality businesses now face is a lack of resources including staff. This is a particularly serious problem when it comes to complying with licence conditions that depend upon staff resources.

The night-time economy is in the middle of a particular crisis concerning security professionals. There is a grave shortage of security staff available for work, and this has been compounded by more stringent new training standards introduced by the Security Industry Authority for those wishing to enter. Even the limited numbers coming forward to qualify are too often failing to do so. Often, the numbers are simply not there to service full licence requirements, and there is nothing that the security industry, or the licensees can do about it. This problem is not going to go away.

The Government recently announced its consultation on the Duty to Protect. This aspiration to increase security provision in the public and private sector is only going to deepen the crisis.

We are writing to you at this time to make you aware of the issues, and to ask that you take them into account in making case by case licensing decisions.

On 8 April 2020, Kit Malthouse, the Minister of State for Crime and Policing wrote to the Chairs of Licensing Committees, to invite them to take “a pragmatic and more flexible approach” to licensing while the outbreak was ongoing.

He said: “Retailers may be operating under licences with conditions that may prove difficult to comply with in the current period due to absenteeism. These include, but are not limited to, conditions that mandate the minimum number of staff or door supervisors on site, training requirements or attending external meetings.... A considered and pragmatic

approach should be taken to breaches of licence conditions and procedural defects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly where these breaches or defects do not have a significant adverse impact on the licensing objectives. Licence holders must rectify any breaches as soon as reasonably practicable.”

This continues to be very important even as we emerge from the worst restrictions of the pandemic. Partnership working with businesses, to allow them to recover and make their contribution to the economy has never been more important. We hope that highlighting this crisis will assist in making informed and proportionate decisions.

Sincerely



Daniel Davies
Chairman
Institute of Licensing



Michael Kill
CEO Night Time Industries Association /
Chairperson UK Door Security Association