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THE RELAXATION OF LICENSING HOURS DURING  
THE FIFA WORLD CUP 2014

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ITEM FOR INFORMATION

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Government's proposal to relax the hours during which hot food and alcohol may be sold for consumption ON the premises during the FIFA World Cup 2014.

**Background**

2. Section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003 provides that where the Secretary of State considers that a period ("the celebration period") marks an occasion of exceptional international, national or local significance he may make a licensing hours order.
3. A "Licensing Hours Order" extends the hours of premises licences and club premises certificates during a specified relaxation period unless the premises are licensed for the period of such relaxation. Such an order can be made to apply generally, that is to all licensed premises in England and Wales or limited to premises in one or more specified areas. It can also specify different hours for different days during the relaxation period and also different hours for different licensable activities.
4. A "specified relaxation period" means the hours specified for the duration of a celebration period if that period does not exceed 4 days or any part of that period not exceeding four days.
5. Before such an order can be made the Secretary of State must consult with such persons as he considers appropriate.

**Information and Analysis**

6. Between 13 March 2014 and 26 March 2014 a 2 week consultation exercise was undertaken by the Home Office, proposing that licensed premises be permitted to stay open later to sell alcohol for consumption **on** the premises; to put on regulated entertainment; and to sell hot food and drink in those venues where alcohol is sold for consumption **on** the premises. This is in respect of the any game in which England is playing in the world Cup 2014.
7. The consultation was available online and posed 4 questions in respect of a proposed relaxation in hours for all England matches seeking to establish whether

there should be a relaxation and if so the extent to which the hours should be relaxed or whether licensees should be required to apply for an extension of hours using the TENs procedure. The extension of hours options ranged from 3 hours to 3.5 hours to 4 hours after the scheduled kick off time.

8. The outcome of the consultation was that 75% of respondents (1084) supported the national relaxation of licensing hours. The vast majority of these were from those representing the licensed trade (562) and the general public (417). Only 21 police respondents and 51 licensing authority respondents were in favour of the proposals.
9. More detailed response were sought from 9 stakeholders. Of these the British Beer and Pub Company (BBPA), Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (ALMR) and the Football Supporters Federation were in favour of the proposals. The BPPA estimated a potential sales increase of £20,000,000.
10. Those against a national relaxation included The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) the LGA, the National Organisation of Residents Associations and the Alcohol Health Alliance. These expressed concerns about the increase in violence, domestic violence and anti-social behaviour associated with drinking and televised football matches. The Home Office was also advised that in the 2010 World Cup 519 of 599 recorded incidents took place in licensed premises. This group advocated the use of TENs to extend hours.
11. The Home Office advised that the cost to the Trade of TENS (£21 per application) would be in the region of £850,000 to £1,350,000 and this would be a saving to the Trade through nationally relaxed hours.
12. The Government, having listened to the views received in response to the consultation, has decided to proceed with the proposal to relax licensing hours in England for England's World Cup matches. The relaxation will apply to all England matches with a kick off time of 8 pm or later for a maximum of 4 hours to a latest time of 1 am. Any premises wishing to extend their hours beyond 1 am will need to do so through the TENs process.
13. The measure will have no permanent effect on licensing hours and will result in venues opening four hours later at most on the specified days.
14. Should all relevant licensees in Darlington elect to make use of the extension to hours this Order will affect 22 Club Premises and 146 Premises all of which have licences which currently finish before 01.00 am.

## **Recommendations**

15. Members are invited to note the contents of this report.

**Richard Alty**  
**Director of Economic Growth**

## **Background Papers**

- (i) The Licensing Act 2003
- (ii) The Home Office Consultation on relaxation of licensing hours during the FIFA World Cup 2014
- (iii) The Government Response to the consultation

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