

Licensing Committee Notice of Motions (x4)

ID	Date	Notice of Motion	Proposed By	Referral Route	Lead Officer	Latest Status Update
265	23/08/2022	Drink Spike Testing Kits in Licensed Premises	Cllr Murray	Notice of Motion - referred to Licensing Committee	Kate Bentley	<u>Recommend to Close</u> In September 2025, Queens University Belfast, in partnership with the PSNI launched 'Drink Check', an initiative designed to provide reassurance, raise awareness in 33 popular bars and clubs across Belfast. While reported cases of drink spiking in Belfast remain low, the initiative was spearheaded by Queen's Neighbourhood Engagement team to promote student safety and responded to concerns raised by students. Participating venues displayed posters making it clear that drink testing is available on-site, a visible deterrent to anyone considering spiking a drink. Venues were also supplied with drink testing strips, so in the event that a customer believed their drink may have been tampered with, they could bring it to the bar where staff would check it using the test kits. If the test indicates spiking, the PSNI are notified and will investigate. CCTV from the venue will be checked to help identify the individual responsible. As part of the council's work to End Violence Against Women and Girls, the Building Control Licensing team engage with hospitality premises that apply for or have an entertainments licence, signposting them to safer socialising initiatives. Under entertainments licensing the team assess event management plans including the health and welfare and medical provisions proposed to keep people attending outdoor concert events safe, when often there is a high risk of harm and vulnerability due to drugs and alcohol, often particularly for young women and girls. Officers from the council's community safety and alcohol enforcement teamwork in conjunction with licensing and event promoters and provide support to vulnerable people on the ground before, during and after outdoor concerts. For indoor nightclubs and dance music venues the licensing team references conditions within the safer dancing appendix of the council's Rules of Management for Indoor Places of Entertainment which have the aim of helping keep people attending indoor dance events safe from drink/drug related harm.
426	22/01/2025	"Know your rights" information campaign for HMOs	Cllr Conor McKay	Issue Raised in Advance (Licensing)	Eunan McConville	<u>Recommend to Close</u> A 'Know your rights' guide for HMO tenants was launched in September 2025, with a supporting promotional campaign. An update with communications report was taken into November Licensing Committee, agenda item 4c: https://minutes.belfastcity.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=85712 Members at this committee requested that officers provide statistics on the public level of

						engagement with the website on a quarterly basis. Stats have been provided for the period of September – December 2025 for the January 2026 Licensing Committee and this is to continue for each quarter to the HMO team. A further campaign ran from end of Jan to start of Feb 2026, highlighting how students can check.
442	25/03/2025	Harm Reduction Campaign	Cllr Brian Smyth	Notice of Motion - referred to Licensing Committee	Kate Bentley	A future report will consider this in the context of organisational structures, roles and responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the council's entertainment licensing obligations. In light of the operational demands related to the delivery of the Fleadh Cheoil festival, it was proposed that this motion be deferred for consideration until after the event (from September 2026).
477	23/10/2025	Unite's Work Safe - Home Safe Campaign	Cllr Aine Grogan	Notice of Motion - referred to Licensing Committee	Kate Bentley	A future report will consider the council's responsibilities under the relevant legislation and our ability to address the proposed motion. In light of the operational demands related to the delivery of the Fleadh Cheoil festival, it was proposed that this motion be deferred for consideration until after the event (from September 2026).