

From the office of the  
Minister of the Environment



Department of the  
**Environment**

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Trevor Martin  
Head of Building Control  
Belfast City Council  
5th Floor  
9 Lanyon Place  
BELFAST  
BT1 3LP

DoE Private Office  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Goodwood House  
44 - 58 May Street  
Town Parks  
BELFAST  
BT1 4NN

Telephone: 028 9025 6019

Email: [private.office.@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office.@doeni.gov.uk)

Your reference:

Our reference: SUB/435/2014

05 June 2014

Dear Mr Martin

## **WORKING GROUP – REVIEW OF ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING LEGISLATION**

Entertainment licences are issued by councils under Article 3 of, and Schedule 1 to, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and may be issued where certain categories of entertainment are provided, for example theatrical performances, music or contests such as boxing, pool or darts.

An entertainment licence may contain terms, conditions and restrictions regarding all, or any, of the following:

- regulating conduct, days and hours of use, and general arrangement of the place;
- securing adequate fire precautions;
- securing the provision of facilities for the disabled;
- securing the provision of adequate sanitary appliances and things used in connection with such appliances;
- preventing persons in the neighbourhood being unreasonably disturbed by noise; and
- securing that there is in force a policy of insurance regarding the death of, or bodily injury, to any person on or about the premises.

Councils are required to have regard to any model terms, conditions and restrictions issued by the Department, but they are not obliged to comply with them. The extant Model Terms, Conditions and Restrictions for Indoor Entertainments were published

in 1986 and include terms which are under the broad headings of general rules, control and operation, and fire precaution.

As part of my Department's business improvement programme I am committed to establishing a working group to review the existing legislation which provides for entertainment licensing. My aim is for the working group to report to me within six months.

I also believe that a common position on drinking and entertainment licences should be endorsed by the Assembly. In particular there is a need to address the existing anomaly between the liquor and entertainment licensing systems where for example a club can have an entertainment licence which runs until 3am but by law, it must stop serving alcohol at 1am.

I invite you, or a member of your staff, to be part of this working group. I believe the working group would benefit from the experience Belfast City Council can bring from dealing with applications from such a wide range of venues/establishments and its involvement in court action. Draft terms of reference are attached for your information.

I am copying this letter to Peter McNaney, Chief Executive, Belfast City Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Mark Durkan', written in a cursive style.

**MARK H DURKAN MLA**  
**Minister of the Environment**

**Working Group on Entertainment Licensing  
Draft Terms of Reference**

**To review the legislation and associated model terms and conditions for entertainment licences and make recommendations to the Minister on any changes required to the current system. This would include the structure and level of fees for entertainment licences.**

**The Working Group is to report to the Minister within 6 months.**