



Home Office

Consultation:

RELAXATION OF LICENSING HOURS FOR THE ROYAL WEDDING

This consultation begins on 7 January 2018

This consultation ends on 4 February 2018

About this consultation

- To:** We are keen to hear from everyone who may be affected by a national relaxation of licensing hours, including: members of the public, those who live near to licensed premises, those who own or work in on-trade premises, the police, licensing authorities and trade associations. The consultation covers England and Wales where these proposals apply.
- Duration:** From 07/01/2018 to 04/02/2018.
- Enquiries (including requests for the paper in an alternative format) to:** Email: alcoholteam2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
- How to respond:** Please send your response by 4 February 2018.
- Responses can be submitted online through the GOV.UK website at:
<https://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/MQ6J7/>
or by post by sending responses to:
- Licensing Hours Consultation
Alcohol team
5th Floor, Fry Building
Home Office
2 Marsham Street, SW1P 4DF
Email: alcoholteam2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
- After the consultation:** Responses will be analysed and a 'Response to Consultation' document will be published. This will explain the Government's final policy intentions. All responses will be treated as public, unless stated otherwise.

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Introduction

This paper sets out for consultation proposals to relax the licensing hours for the Royal Wedding on the nights of 18 and 19 May 2018. The consultation is aimed at members of the public, local licensing authorities, licensed premises, and other interested parties in England and Wales where these proposals apply.

Copies of the consultation are being sent to:

Local Government Association
National Association of Licensing Enforcement Officers
Institute of Licensing
National Organisation of Residents Associations
National Police Chiefs Council
Association of Police and Crime Commissioners
British Beer and Pub Association
Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers
Wine and Spirits Trade Association
Alcohol Health Alliance
Alcohol Research and Concern
Institute of Alcohol Studies

However, this list is not meant to be exhaustive or exclusive and responses are welcomed from anyone with an interest in or views on the subject covered by this paper.

The proposals

1. The Government is consulting on whether to relax licensing hours across England and Wales to mark the wedding of Prince Henry and Meghan Markle on 19 May 2018. The Government proposes to make a licensing hours order under Section 172 of the Licensing Act which would extend opening hours to 1.00 am on Saturday 19 May and Sunday 20 May 2018 for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises in licensed premises in England and Wales.
2. The Government has decided that, were it to relax licensing hours nationally following this consultation, this would relate to the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises only and the provision of late-night refreshment in on-trade licensed premises. The Government believes that the on-trade provision of late-night refreshment in licensed premises would be appropriate to accompany a relaxation of alcohol licensing hours to mark the Royal Wedding, not least to support people to drink responsibly.
3. The Government considers that any national relaxation of licensing hours should not apply to the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises (i.e. in supermarkets and off-licences) as anyone wishing to mark the occasion at home will be able to buy alcohol during normal shopping hours. Late-night refreshment venues, by definition, are already licensed to open late at night and would not benefit from a relaxation in licensing hours. Unlicensed premises would also not benefit from a relaxation in licensing hours and would still need to use a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) to undertake licensable activities.
4. The purpose of any national relaxation of licensing hours to mark the Royal Wedding would be to enable pubs and other on-trade premises to sell alcohol and late-night refreshment to those wishing to extend their celebrations of the Royal Wedding beyond their normal licensing hours.
5. The Royal Wedding coincides with the FA Cup Final taking place on Saturday 19 May. There have been no reports of increased football-related disorder as a result of the previous extensions to licensing hours for the weekend of Her Majesty's 90th birthday, which coincided with two Euro 2016 matches involving England and Wales, and the extension of licensing hours during the World Cup 2014.

Background

6. Under section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act), the Secretary of State may make an order relaxing licensing hours for licensed premises in relation to a 'celebration period' to mark an occasion of 'exceptional international, national or local significance'. A 'licensing hours order' can be used to relax licensing hours in licensed premises during a period not exceeding four days. An order may be applied to all licensed premises in England and Wales or only to premises in one or more specific areas. Other variables in the order are the dates, times and licensable activities to which it applies. Since the introduction of the Act, this national power has been used to mark the Royal Wedding in 2011, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, and the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations in 2016. The power was also used during the World Cup in 2014.
7. The Royal Wedding is a national celebration and the Government wishes for everyone to be able to celebrate fully. It is likely that many pubs and other licensed premises will wish to open later over the Royal Wedding weekend to take advantage of the celebrations. Figures from the consultation on the relaxation of licensing hours for the 2011 Royal Wedding suggest that around 67% of licensed premises selling alcohol for consumption on the premises close before midnight, and around 88% close by 1 am¹.
8. Licence holders currently have the option of using a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) to extend their opening hours for a limited period. A TEN costs £21.00 and must be submitted at least 10 working days before the event begins. However, they are subject to certain annual limits and may be refused if the police object on the grounds of crime and disorder. The TENs regime also allows people or organisations without existing licences to give notice that they intend to sell alcohol at times when this would not otherwise be authorised on a 'one-off' limited basis. This system is designed to balance giving people and organisations flexibility in selling alcohol and carrying on other licensed activities, with protecting local people from the problems this can cause, including crime and disorder and public nuisance.
9. There are however potential risks to relaxing licensing hours such as the impact on enforcement agencies. Alcohol-related crime and disorder accounts for more than half the societal costs of alcohol and, while the number of alcohol-related violent incidents have been falling consistently, they have tended to account for between 40% and 50% of all violent incidents. The FA Cup Final match due to take place on the same day as the Royal Wedding may increase the potential risk of disorder.
10. The Government believes that any risk of additional disorder in relation to the licensing hours extension is low. There have been no reports of increased disorder as a result of

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/157985/royal-wedding-consultation.pdf

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the previous extensions to licensing hours. This consultation will allow the police time to prepare in advance and allow other partners to respond accordingly.

11. On coming to its final decision on whether or not to relax the licensing hours nationally, the Government will balance reducing burdens on businesses wishing to celebrate the Royal Wedding with protecting the public from potential crime and disorder and public nuisance late at night.

Questionnaire

We would welcome responses to the following questions set out in this consultation paper.

Q1: Do you agree that the order should apply to the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q2: Do you agree that the order should apply to England and Wales?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q3: Do you agree that the order should extend licensing hours on Friday 18 May until 0100 the following morning?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q4: Do you agree that the order should extend licensing hours on Saturday 19 May until 0100 the following morning?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q5. If you disagree with this proposal, please give reasons.

Thank you for participating in this consultation.

About you

Please use this section to tell us about yourself

Full name	
Job title or capacity in which you are responding to this consultation exercise (for example, member of the public)	
Date	
Company name/organisation (if applicable)	
Address	
Postcode	
If you would like us to acknowledge receipt of your response, please tick this box	<input type="checkbox"/> (please tick box)
Address to which the acknowledgement should be sent, if different from above	

If you are a representative of a group, please tell us the name of the group and give a summary of the people or organisations that you represent.

Contact details and how to respond

Please complete the Consultation online at:

<https://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/MQ6J7/>

or send your response by 4 February 2018 to:

Licensing Hours Consultation

Alcohol Team, 5th Floor Fry Building

Home Office

2 Marsham Street

London, SW1P 4DF

Email: alcoholteam2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Complaints or comments

If you have any complaints or comments about the consultation process you should contact the Home Office at the above address.

Extra copies

Further paper copies of this consultation can be obtained from this address and it is also available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/relaxation-of-licensing-hours-for-the-royal-wedding>

Alternative format versions of this publication can be requested from alcoholteam2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Publication of response

A paper summarising the responses to this consultation will be published. The response paper will be available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/relaxation-of-licensing-hours-for-the-royal-wedding>

Representative groups

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent when they respond.

Confidentiality

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

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If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Home Office.

The Home Office will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Consultation principles

The principles that government departments and other public bodies should adopt for engaging stakeholders when developing policy and legislation are set out in the consultation principles.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>



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