

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
The Licensing (Designation of Outdoor Stadia) Regulations (Northern Ireland)
2016

SR No. 294

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Communities (the Department) to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under The Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (the Order) and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. Under this Statutory Rule the Department has designated the main stadium of the Irish Rugby Football Union in Ulster at 85 Ravenhill Park, Belfast as an outdoor stadium of importance to the whole of Northern Ireland. In doing so, it allows the Ulster Branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union to apply to the courts for a liquor licence for the above venue.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Order regulates the retail sale of intoxicating liquor to the public in certain categories of premises which may be granted a liquor licence.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. The Department considered it appropriate to designate the main stadium of the Irish Rugby Football Union in Ulster at 85 Ravenhill Park, Belfast as an outdoor stadium without consultation.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. In accordance with its duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the Department has conducted a screening exercise before designating the main stadium of the Irish Rugby Football Union in Ulster at 85 Ravenhill Park, Belfast, as an outdoor stadium. The Department has concluded that the designation would not have significant implications for equality of opportunity and therefore considered an Equality Impact Assessment was not necessary.

6. Regulatory Impact

- 6.1. These Regulations do not require a Regulatory Impact Assessment as they do not impose costs on businesses, charities or voluntary groups.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The granting of a liquor licence is intended to assist the Ulster Branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union to fully utilise the facilities, primarily when outdoor sporting events and activities are held at the premises at 85 Ravenhill Road, Belfast.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

- 8.1. The Department has considered section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and is satisfied that the Statutory Rule is not incompatible with the convention rights, it is not incompatible with community law, does not discriminate against a person or class of person on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion and does not modify an enactment in breach of section 7 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

- 9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

- 10.1. These Regulations do not replicate any corresponding legislation in Great Britain where local authorities are responsible for issuing liquor licences.

11. Additional Information

- 11.1. Not applicable.