

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The Licensing (Designation of Outdoor Stadia) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

**SR No. 296**

#### **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 Northern Ireland National Stadium at Windsor Park, Belfast, as an outdoor stadium of importance to the whole of Northern Ireland. In doing so, it allows the Irish Football Association 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.
- 3.2. The Licensing Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (the Act) amends the Order by making provision for the granting of a licence to authorise the sale of intoxicating liquor at an outdoor stadium.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. The Department considered that it is appropriate to designate the National Stadium at Windsor 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 National Stadium at Windsor 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 Irish Football Association to fully utilise the facilities, primarily when outdoor sporting events and activities are held at the premises at Windsor Park, 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, 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.