



## 2021 CHAPTER 7

### PART 1

#### LICENSING

##### *Permitted hours*

#### **Removal of additional restrictions at Easter**

1.—(1) In Article 30 of the Licensing Order (occasional licences), in paragraph (7), omit “, Easter Day or Good Friday”.

(2) In Article 42 of that Order (general permitted hours), in paragraph (1)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (a), omit “Good Friday or”, and

(b) omit sub-paragraph (b) and the following “and”.

(3) In paragraph (2)(b) of that Article, omit “or Easter Day”.

(4) In paragraph (3) of that Article, omit “and (b)”.

(5) In Article 44 of the Licensing Order (additional permitted hours), in paragraph (6)(a), omit “Easter Day or Good Friday”.

(6) In Article 45 of that Order (authorisations for additional permitted hours), in paragraph (3)(a), omit “, Easter Day or Good Friday”.

(7) In Article 47 of that Order (extension licences), in paragraph (6)(a), omit “Easter Day or Good Friday”.

(8) In Article 50 of that Order (restrictions as to sales for consumption off premises), in paragraph (1), omit “or Easter Day”.

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**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2021, Cross Heading: Permitted hours. (See end of Document for details)

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**Commencement Information**

- I1** S. 1 not in operation at Royal Assent, see [s. 47\(2\)](#)  
**I2** S. 1 in operation at 1.10.2021 by [S.R. 2021/247](#), art. 2, [Sch.](#)

**Removal of restrictions on late opening for on-sales on Sunday**

**2.—(1)** In Article 30 of the Licensing Order (occasional licences), in paragraph (1)(c), for paragraphs (ii) and (iii) substitute—

“(ii) on Sundays, between half past 12 in the afternoon and 1 in the morning of the day next following.”.

**(2)** In Article 42 of the Licensing Order (general permitted hours)—

**(a)** in paragraph (1), after sub-paragraph (a) and the following “and” insert—

“(aa) on Sundays, other than Christmas Day, from half past 12 in the afternoon to 11 in the evening; and”.

**(b)** in paragraph (1)(c), for the words from “except” to “Christmas Day” substitute “on Christmas Day,”, and

**(c)** in paragraph (3), for “paragraph (1)(c)” substitute “paragraph (1)(aa) and (c)”.

**(3)** In Article 42 of the Licensing Order, after paragraph (1) insert—

“(1A) Neither paragraph (1)(aa) nor, in a year when Christmas Day is on a Sunday, paragraph (1)(c) applies in the case of premises of a kind mentioned in Article 5(1)(a) with respect to which a direction under Article 7(10) or 15(5)(a) is in force.”.

**(4)** In Article 44 of the Licensing Order (orders for additional permitted hours), in paragraph (2), for the words from “the hours—” to “shall” substitute “the hours on any day from 11 in the evening to 1 in the morning of the day next following shall”.

**(5)** In Article 45 of that Order (authorisations for additional permitted hours), in paragraph (1), for the words from “the hours—” to “in addition to” substitute “the hours on any day from 11 in the evening to 1 in the morning of the day next following in addition to”.

**(6)** In Article 47 of that Order (extension licences), in paragraph (1)(b), for paragraphs (ii) and (iii) substitute—

“(ii) on Sundays, between half past 12 in the afternoon and 1 in the morning of the day next following.”.

**Commencement Information**

- I3** S. 2 not in operation at Royal Assent, see [s. 47\(2\)](#)

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**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the *Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2021*, Cross Heading: *Permitted hours*. (See end of Document for details)

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14 S. 2 in operation at 1.10.2021 by S.R. 2021/247, art. 2, Sch.

### **Public houses and hotels: further additional hours**

3.—(1) After Article 44 of the Licensing Order insert—

#### **“Public houses or hotels: order for further additional permitted hours**

**44A.**—(1) In the case of premises of the kind referred to in Article 5(1)(a) or an hotel, a county court or court of summary jurisdiction may, when making an order under Article 44(1), also make an order under paragraph (3) or (4) of this Article.

(2) In the case of premises of the kind referred to in Article 5(1)(a), or an hotel, to which an order under Article 44 applies, a court of summary jurisdiction may, at any time, upon the application of the holder of the licence for those premises made in compliance with the procedure set out in Schedule 9, make an order under paragraph (3) or (4).

(3) An order under this paragraph may direct that, on each day specified in the order (being a day specified in the order under Article 44), an additional hour beginning immediately after the end of the period authorised by the order under Article 44 is to be included in the permitted hours for the premises to which that order applies for the purposes referred to in paragraph (2) of that Article.

(4) An order under this paragraph may direct that, on each day specified in the order (being a day other than one specified in the order under Article 44), the hours that would be included in the permitted hours if the day were one specified in the order under Article 44 and an additional hour beginning immediately after the end of those hours are to be included in the permitted hours for the premises to which that order applies.

(5) An order under paragraph (4) is subject to a condition that, during the hours authorised by the order, the premises may be used for the sale of intoxicating liquor only if they are also being used for the provision of—

- (a) musical or other entertainment; or
- (b) substantial refreshment; or
- (c) both such entertainment and refreshment.

(6) In paragraph (5), “entertainment” has the same meaning as in Article 44 (see paragraph (8) of that Article).

(7) A court must not make an order under paragraph (3) or (4) unless the court is satisfied that—

- (a) the business will be conducted during the hours mentioned in that paragraph and any period immediately following their termination

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in such a manner as not to cause undue inconvenience to persons residing in the vicinity of the premises; and

(b) the hours mentioned in that paragraph will not cause undue inconvenience to persons residing in the vicinity of the premises.

(8) The court may, accordingly, make the order subject to such terms and conditions as the court thinks fit for the purpose of avoiding such inconvenience as is mentioned in paragraph (7).

(9) Subject to paragraph (10), where notice of an application under paragraph (2) has been served on the clerk of petty sessions, the clerk may make the order sought as if the application had been made to the clerk and may do so in the absence of the applicant.

(10) Where—

(a) a notice of objection to the application has been served upon the clerk and has not been withdrawn, or

(b) the clerk is of the opinion, for any other reason, that the application should be made to the court,

the clerk must require the application to be made to the court and must notify the applicant and the objector, if any, of the requirement and of the time and place of the hearing.

(11) Paragraphs (6) and (7) of Article 44 apply in relation to an order under paragraph (3) or (4) of this Article as they apply in relation to an order under paragraph (1) of that Article; and for that purpose—

(a) the reference to that Article in the opening words of paragraph (6) of that Article is to be read as including a reference to this Article, and

(b) the references to paragraph (2) of that Article are to be read as references to paragraph (3) or (as the case may be) paragraphs (4) and (5) of this Article.

(12) Not more than 104 days in any year may be specified in an order or orders made under this Article.

(13) Regulations may modify paragraph (12) so as to substitute a different number of days for the number for the time being specified there.

(14) Regulations may not be made under paragraph (13) unless a draft of the regulations has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Assembly.

#### **Orders under Article 44A: revocation, modification etc.**

**44B.—**(1) An order under Article 44A may be revoked or modified by a court of summary jurisdiction on the application of the holder of the licence.

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(2) Where a court of summary jurisdiction is, in the case of premises in relation to which an order under Article 44A has been made, satisfied for the purposes of paragraph (3), the court may act under paragraph (4) in relation to the order.

(3) A court is satisfied for the purposes of this paragraph in the case of premises if, on a complaint made under Part 8 of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, it is satisfied that, on a previous day specified in an order under Article 44A in relation to the premises—

- (a) the business carried on in the premises was conducted during the hours mentioned in paragraph (3) or (4) of Article 44A (as the case may be) or any period immediately following their termination in such a manner as to cause undue inconvenience to persons residing in the vicinity of the premises; or
- (b) such hours caused undue inconvenience to persons residing in the vicinity of the premises; or
- (c) in the case of a complaint made by the district commander for the police district in which the premises are situated, the specified part or parts of the premises were not used for the purposes mentioned in paragraph (3) or (5) of Article 44A (as the case may be).

(4) The court may—

- (a) revoke the order under Article 44A that is referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article; or
- (b) modify the order or, in relation to the order, the hours mentioned in paragraph (3) or (4) of Article 44A (as the case may be); or
- (c) make the continuance of the order subject to such terms and conditions as the court thinks fit.”.

(2) In Schedule 9 to the Licensing Order (procedure for certain applications), after paragraph 2 insert—

“**2A.** A person who intends to make an application under Article 44 or 44A must (in addition to complying with the duty under paragraph 2)—

- (a) not more than 6 weeks nor less than 2 weeks before the time of the court sitting at which the application is to be made, cause notice of the application to be published at least once in 2 newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the premises to which the application relates;
- (b) during the 3 weeks before that time, cause notice of the application to be displayed on or near the premises to which the application relates.”.

(3) In that Schedule—

- (a) in the title, after “44” insert “, 44A”,
- (b) in paragraph 1, after “44” insert “, 44A”, and

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(c) in paragraph 4, after sub-paragraph (b) insert—

“(ba) in the case of an application under Article 44A, on any ground mentioned in Article 44A(5) or (7);”.

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**Commencement Information**

**I5** S. 3 not in operation at Royal Assent, see [s. 47\(2\)](#)

**I6** S. 3 in operation at 1.10.2021 by [S.R. 2021/247](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)

**Alignment of closing time for liquor and entertainment**

4. After Article 44B of the Licensing Order (inserted by section 3(1)) insert—

**“Alignment of closing time for liquor and entertainment**

**44C.—(1)** This Article applies in relation to any occasion on which an entertainments licence in force in respect of premises to which an order under Article 44 applies would (but for this Article) permit entertainment that was being provided in the premises to continue to be provided in the premises after the end of the hours mentioned in Article 44(2).

(2) The hours mentioned in Article 44(2) do not apply in relation to the premises on that occasion and the hours specified in Article 42 apply instead in relation to the premises on that occasion.

(3) But the entertainments licence continues in force on that occasion and accordingly permits entertainment to be provided in the premises after the end of the hours specified in Article 42.

(4) If an order under Article 44A(3) or (4) applies in relation to the premises, the references in this Article to the hours mentioned in Article 44(2) are to be read as including a reference to the additional hour authorised by that order.

(5) The references in this Article to the hours specified in Article 42 are references to those hours as extended by Article 46.

(6) In this Article—

“entertainment” has the same meaning as in Article 44, and

“entertainments licence” means a licence under paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.”.

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**Commencement Information**

**I7** S. 4 not in operation at Royal Assent, see [s. 47\(2\)](#)

**I8** S. 4 in operation at 1.10.2021 by [S.R. 2021/247](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)

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**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the *Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2021*, Cross Heading: *Permitted hours*. (See end of Document for details)

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### **Police authorisations for additional hours**

**5.—(1)** In Article 45 of the Licensing Order (authorisations for additional permitted hours), in paragraph (1)—

- (a) omit “other than premises to which an order under Article 44 applies”,
- (b) before “occasion to which the application relates” insert “first”, and
- (c) in the full-out words at the end, for “on any 1 occasion specified in the authorisation” substitute “on such occasions specified in the authorisation as the commander thinks fit”.

**(2)** After that paragraph insert—

“(1A) In the case of premises to which an order under Article 44 applies, an authorisation under this Article is subject to a condition that, during the additional hours authorised, the premises may be used for the sale of intoxicating liquor only if they are also being used for the provision of—

- (a) musical or other entertainment; or
- (b) substantial refreshment; or
- (c) both such entertainment and refreshment.

(1B) In paragraph (1A), “entertainment” has the same meaning as in Article 44 (see paragraph (8) of that Article).”.

**(3)** For paragraph (2) of that Article substitute—

“(2) In the case of premises to which an order under Article 44 applies, not more than 20 authorisations shall be granted under this Article to the holder of the licence of the premises in any year.

(2A) In the case of premises of any other description, not more than 104 authorisations shall be granted under this Article to the holder of the licence of the premises in any year.

(2B) Regulations may modify paragraph (2) or (2A) so as to substitute a different number of authorisations for the number for the time being specified there.

(2C) Regulations may not be made under paragraph (2B) unless a draft of the regulations has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Assembly.”.

**(4)** After paragraph (3) of that Article insert—

“(4) A person who intends to make an application under this Article shall—

- (a) during the 3 weeks before the first occasion to which the application relates, cause notice of the application to be displayed on or near the premises for which the authorisation is to be sought;

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(b) not less than 3 weeks before that time, serve a copy of the notice of the application on the district council for the district in which the premises are situated.

(5) The notice under paragraph (4) must specify the kind of premises to which the application relates and must contain such information as may be prescribed by magistrates' courts rules.

(6) The following provisions of this Article apply where a complaint is made to a court of summary jurisdiction under Part 8 of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 on the grounds—

(a) that the business carried on in premises to which an authorisation under this Article applies is being conducted during the hours mentioned in paragraph (1) or any period immediately following their termination in such a manner as to cause undue inconvenience to persons residing in the vicinity of the premises; or

(b) that such hours are causing undue inconvenience to persons residing in the vicinity of the premises.

(7) Where the court is satisfied that the grounds of the complaint are made out, it may—

(a) revoke the authorisation; or

(b) modify the authorisation or, in relation to the authorisation, the hours mentioned in paragraph (1); or

(c) make the continuance of the authorisation subject to such terms and conditions as the court thinks fit.

(8) The terms and conditions which may be imposed under paragraph (7) include those requested by the district commander of the police district in which the premises are situated.”.

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#### Commencement Information

**I9** S. 5 not in operation at Royal Assent, see [s. 47\(2\)](#)

**I10** S. 5 in operation at 1.10.2021 by [S.R. 2021/247](#), art. 2, [Sch.](#)

#### Extension of “drinking-up time”

**6.—**(1) In Article 46 of the Licensing Order (exceptions from prohibition of sale etc. of intoxicating liquor outside permitted hours), in paragraph (1), in each of sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), for “30 minutes” substitute “60 minutes”.

(2) After paragraph (3) of that Article insert—

“(4) Regulations may modify paragraph (1)(a) or (b) so as to substitute “30 minutes” for “60 minutes”.



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(5) Regulations may not be made under paragraph (4) unless a draft of the regulations has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Assembly.”.

#### Commencement Information

- I11** S. 6 not in operation at Royal Assent, see [s. 47\(2\)](#)  
**I12** S. 6 in operation at 1.10.2021 by [S.R. 2021/247](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)

### Major events

7.—(1) After Article 48 of the Licensing Order (but before the following cross-heading) insert—

*“Major event orders*

#### **Extension of permitted hours for major events**

**48A.**—(1) Where the Department considers that an event which is to take place in Northern Ireland will attract significant public interest (whether throughout Northern Ireland or in certain areas only), it may make an order (a “major event order”) which—

- (a) designates the event as a major event, and
  - (b) provides that, during the period specified in the order, the permitted hours for any place or premises to which the order applies are the hours specified in the order.
- (2) A major event order may apply to—
- (a) all licensed premises either in Northern Ireland as a whole or in the area or areas specified;
  - (b) all licensed premises of a specified kind either in Northern Ireland as a whole or in the area or areas specified;
  - (c) any place or premises for which an occasional licence has been granted and which is or are situated on the site where the event is to take place.
- (3) In specifying an area for the purposes of paragraph (2)(a) or (b), a major event order may in particular do so by reference to the place or premises at which the event is to take place or the area in the vicinity of the place or premises.
- (4) The Department may vary or revoke a major event order; and the circumstances in which it may revoke an order include, in a case where the period specified under paragraph (1)(b) includes two or more days, circumstances in which it considers it necessary to do so because of disorder,

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or expected disorder, at or in the vicinity of the place or premises at which the event is taking place.

(5) The period specified in a major event order may not include Christmas Day.

(6) The hours specified in a major event order are in addition to the hours permitted by any occasional licence, any order under Article 44 or 44A, any authorisation under Article 45 or any extension licence, which applies to a place or premises to which the major event order applies.

(7) If, in the case of premises to which an order under Article 44, 44A or 48 applies, the event designated by a major event order is to take place on a day which is not specified in an order under Article 44 or 44A or an extension licence, the major event order has effect as if that day were so specified.

(8) A major event order may make consequential, incidental or supplementary provision (including provision which modifies provisions of this Order for the purpose of giving effect to the major event order).

(9) Before making a major event order, the Department must consult such persons as it considers appropriate.

#### **Major event order: conditions**

**48B.—**(1) A major event order may impose conditions; and it may (without prejudice to the generality of section 17(5)(b)(ii) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954) impose conditions which, in particular, vary according to whether they relate to the sale of intoxicating liquor for consumption on, or for consumption off, a place or premises.

(2) A major event order may not authorise at any place or premises, other than the place or premises at which the event is to take place, the sale of intoxicating liquor for consumption off that place or premises.

(3) Accordingly, a major event order may, in so far as it applies to a place or premises for which an occasional licence has been granted, authorise during the period specified under Article 48A(1)(b) the sale of intoxicating liquor for consumption off the place or premises specified in the licence, despite the prohibition in Article 30(5)(b).

(4) Paragraphs (2) and (3) do not apply in the case of a place or premises for which an occasional licence has been granted to the holder of a licence for a restaurant.

(5) A major event order which authorises the sale of intoxicating liquor for consumption in a place or premises also authorises, during the first 60 minutes after the conclusion of the hours specified in the order, the consumption of intoxicating liquor in the place or premises.

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(6) A major event order which authorises the sale of intoxicating liquor for consumption off any place or premises also authorises, during the first 60 minutes after the conclusion of the hours specified in the order, the taking of intoxicating liquor in a sealed container from the place or premises.

(7) Regulations under Article 46(4) may also modify paragraph (5) or (6) of this Article so as to substitute “30 minutes” for “60 minutes”.

(8) A major event order, in so far as it applies to premises of any of the kinds mentioned in Article 5(1), does not affect the requirement to comply with the conditions relating to the sale of intoxicating liquor which apply to premises of that kind.

(9) Any person acting in contravention of a condition imposed by a major event order is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.”

(2) In Part 1 of Schedule 10A to the Licensing Order (penalty points for offences punishable with level 3 fine), at the appropriate place insert—

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“48B(9)	Contravening condition of major event order	3-4”
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**Commencement Information**

**I13** S. 7 not in operation at Royal Assent, see [s. 47\(2\)](#)

**I14** S. 7 in operation at 6.4.2022 by [S.R. 2022/63](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)

**Licensed race tracks: Sunday sales**

**8.—(1)** In Article 42 of the Licensing Order (permitted hours), in paragraph (3), after “a theatre” insert “or (subject to paragraph (4)) premises on a licensed track”.

(2) After that paragraph insert—

“(4) The permitted hours for premises on a licensed track do not include any time on Christmas Day.

(5) In this Article, “licensed track” has the meaning given in the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.”

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**Commencement Information**

**I15** S. 8 not in operation at Royal Assent, see [s. 47\(2\)](#)

**I16** S. 8 in operation at 1.10.2021 by [S.R. 2021/247](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2021, Cross Heading: Permitted hours.