

POLICY NOTE

THE HEALTH PROTECTION (CORONAVIRUS) (RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS) (LOCAL LEVELS) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT (NO. 29) REGULATIONS 2021

SSI 2021/252

The above instrument was made in exercise of the power conferred by paragraph 1(1) of schedule 19 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. The instrument is subject to made affirmative procedure by virtue of paragraph 6(3) of schedule 19 of the Act.

These Regulations amend the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 to adjust the physical distancing requirements so that family members may be involved in funerals by carrying of the coffin or lowering the coffin into a lair. The regulations also provide extended opening hours for hospitality in the event that a match during the knockout stages of the UEFA EURO 2020 Championship which is being shown in hospitality premises runs over the currently permitted opening hours. The Regulations also adjust the physical distancing rules for the purpose of the 1888 Cup rugby event at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh on 26 June 2021. The regulations also adjust the rules on face coverings at weddings and civil partnerships.

Legislative background

1. The UK Coronavirus Act 2020 received Royal Assent on 25 March 2020. Under that Act, the Scottish Government made regulations (in force from 26 March 2020) to implement physical distancing and impose restrictions on gatherings, events and operation of business activity. From 14 September 2020 they were replaced by the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2020. From 9 October 2020 those Regulations were suspended and replaced by the Health Protection (Coronavirus) Restrictions and Requirements) (Additional Temporary Measures) (Scotland) Regulations 2020. A new levels-based approach was introduced on 2 November 2020, when the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 (“the principal regulations”) came into force and revoked the previous regulations.

Policy Objectives

Funerals

2. These regulations adjust the physical distancing requirements so that persons who are carrying a coffin or assisting to lower a coffin into the lair are not required to follow the physical distancing requirement while doing so.

Extended hospitality opening hours during the latter stages of the Euros

3. These regulations make adjustments to hospitality closing times in Levels 1 and 2 during the latter stages of the UEFA EURO 2020 Championship. They temporarily extend opening during the knockout stage to 23:30 (or as soon as reasonably practicable following conclusion of the match, whichever is earlier) from 26 June to conclusion of the Championships on 11 July. The extension to opening hours only applies to premises which are showing a match live and the match runs over the current permitted opening hours which are 22:30 in Level 2 areas and 23:00 in Level 1 areas.

British Lions v Japan match, Murrayfield, 26 June 2021

4. These Regulations amend schedules 1, 2 and 3 of the principal regulations to adjust the distance required to be maintained between persons in Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh for the purposes of the 1888 Cup rugby event on 26 June 2021.

5. These regulations adjust physical distancing requirements within Murrayfield Stadium to 1.15 metres for the purposes of that event.

Weddings

6. These regulations also adjust the existing exemptions to face covering requirements at weddings and civil partnerships so that a person accompanying a party to a wedding or civil partnership down the aisle, or similar, is not required to wear a face covering.

Consultation

7. There has been no public consultation in relation to this instrument.

Impact Assessments

8. A Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment have been prepared for this instrument. The provisions are also subject to strict obligations on the Scottish Government to review their necessity.

Scottish Government
Directorate for Covid Coordination

24 June 2021