

# NewsLetter



## Government in a hurry to revise licensing law

The Department for Business & Trade has launched a 4-week "Blitz" call for evidence on a range of measures which it claims will help reduce regulatory burdens on businesses and help boost growth in the hospitality industry.

This call for evidence focuses on the 'on trade' in relation to alcohol sales, for example pubs, restaurants and nightclubs, and on all entertainment licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 and builds on the Licensing Taskforce recommendations and the government's response and supports the government's commitment to reduce regulatory burdens by 25% by the end of this Parliament.

The aim of the current licensing system is to support local economies while ensuring communities are safe and protected, with businesses benefiting from a fair and proportionate regulatory framework.

However, as the Taskforce has said, over the years the balance of the system has shifted, with greater weight being given to public safety and crime prevention, under the statutory licensing objectives, and less of a focus on business resilience and growth.

## What are the main proposals for licensing reform?

The key issues identified by the Licensing Taskforce where there is potential for the greatest benefit are:

- **National Licensing Policy Framework:** to harmonise licensing practices across authorities while preserving local discretion. It would align licensing with economic growth, cultural development and public safety
- **Licensing Condition Amnesty:** Removal of some existing licensing conditions should be treated as minor variations
- **Remove Newspaper Advertising Requirement**
- **Outdoor Trading and Pavement Licenses**
- **Increase Temporary event notices (TENs) Entitlement**
- **Sunset Clause on Blanket Hours**
- **Arbitration, Evidence and Data Protocol:** a national protocol to standardise and clarify objection procedures.
- **Festivals and Event Licensing**
- **Agent of Change Principle**

The call for evidence closes at midday on 6 November 2025.

- Open call for evidence: Reforming the licensing system