

# RELAXATION OF LICENSING HOURS FOR THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE: ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

January 2012



Home Office



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# Relaxation of licensing hours for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee: Analysis of Consultation Responses

## PROPOSAL

1. On 12 October 2011 the government published the consultation document, 'Relaxation of Licensing Hours the Queen's Diamond Jubilee' to make a licensing hours order under section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003 to mark the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012.
2. The consultation ran for seven weeks, 12 October 2011 to 1 December 2011, and proposed that licensed hours are extended to 1am the following morning on two nights. Respondents were asked whether they preferred Friday, 1 June and Saturday, 2 June; or Sunday, 3 June and Monday, 4 June. The consultation proposed that the extended hours authorise the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises; the provision of regulated entertainment; and the provision of late night refreshment in licensed premises. The consultation applied to England and Wales.

## BACKGROUND

3. During the consultation process, people were invited to respond to the nine questions in the consultation document using either the online form or by submitting responses via post or email. The Home Office received a total of 211 responses to the consultation. Of these, 200 responses were submitted online; 11 were submitted in hardcopy.

## RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

4. Of the nine questions, only one asked for comments from the respondents. The key comments are highlighted in the analysis. The remainder of the questions either required a yes/no answer or asked respondents to choose a response. Responses to these questions are summarised below.

### Question 1: Do you agree that the order should apply to England and Wales?

5. Of those who responded to the question 85% (150 respondents) agreed that the order should apply to all licensed premises in England and Wales. 15% (27 respondents) disagreed with this proposal. 34 respondents chose not to respond to this question.

### Question 2: Do you agree that the order should extend licensing hours until 1am?

6. Of those who responded to the question 82% (143 respondents) agreed that the order should extend licensing hours until 1am. 18% (31 respondents) disagreed with this proposal. 36 respondents chose not to respond to this question.

### Question 3: The order could cover any two nights, Friday 1 or Saturday 2 or Sunday 3 or Monday 4 June 2012. Which two nights would you prefer the order to cover?

7. 155 respondents to this question either chose one day or two days. Of those who responded, 28% agreed that this proposal should apply to Friday 1; 41% agreed that it should apply to Saturday 2; 20% agreed that it should apply to Sunday 3 and 10% agreed that this proposal should apply to Monday 4 June 2012. Some respondents chose not to respond to this question or chose more than two days so are not included in these figures.

### Question 4: Do you agree that the order should apply to the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises?

8. 84% (143 respondents) agreed that the order should apply to the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises. 16% (27 respondents) disagreed with this proposal. 40 respondents chose not to respond to this question.

**Question 5: Do you agree that the order should apply to the provision of regulated entertainment?**

9. 84% (145 respondents) agreed that the order should apply to the provision of regulated entertainment whilst 15% (26 respondents) disagreed with this proposal. 39 respondents chose not to respond to this question.

**Question 6: Do you agree that the order should apply to the provision of late night refreshment so that restaurants and pubs can continue to serve food until 1am?**

10. 86% (148 respondents) agreed that the order should apply to the provision of late night refreshment so that restaurants and pubs can continue to serve food until 1am. 14% (24 respondents) disagreed with this proposal. 38 respondents chose not to respond to this question.

**Question 7: Do you agree with the impact assessment?**

11. 82% (135 respondents) agreed with the impact assessment and 18% (29 respondents) disagreed with the impact assessment. 46 respondents chose not to respond to this question.

**Question 8: Compared with the usual level of crime and anti-social behaviour in your local area, do you think the extension of licensing hours for the Royal wedding on Friday 29 April and Saturday 30 April 2011 increased, decreased, or had no effect on the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in your local area on these nights?**

12. 13% (21 respondents) reported an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area

on Friday 29 April and Saturday 30 April 2011; 7% (12 respondents) reported a decrease and 80% (131 respondents) no effect over the weekend of the Royal wedding. 47 respondents chose not to respond to this question.

13. Comments reflected concerns about people's health; anti-social behaviour; and police costs. Several commented that the Royal wedding had a great atmosphere in their local community and individuals could pace themselves.

**Question 9: Please indicate in what capacity you are responding to this consultation.**

14. 6% (10 respondents) indicated that they were responding to this consultation as a Police Officer; 16% (28 respondents) said they were responding as Licensing Officers; 9% (16 respondents) said they were from the Licensed Trade; 53% (93 respondents) were members of the public and 16% (28 respondents) recorded themselves as 'Other'. 35 respondents chose not to respond to this question.

**Question 9a: In your experience, were additional police resources required for policing your local area as a result of the relaxation of licensing hours for the Royal wedding on the nights of 29 April and 30 April 2011?**

15. Only 7 police officers responded to this question and four said additional police resources were required; one said existing resources were reprioritised and two said usual policing resources were sufficient. One of the respondents who replied in hardcopy selected all options on the grounds that the make-up of the night time economy differs between the different areas.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

In addition to the formal answers to the questions we also received a number of additional comments. These, for example:

- Welcomed the proposal and argued that we should embrace the celebrations;
- Argued that the extension should apply on all 4 days; and
- Argued that many pubs will already have existing later permissions for Friday



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The consultation and this response to the consultation can be found on the Home Office website:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/jubilee-licensing>