



Our Ref: PHI/1920/MK/4

18<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Ms Tracy Meharg  
Permanent Secretary  
Department for Communities  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
Belfast  
County Antrim  
BT2 7EG

Dear Tracy,

Following the recent tragic incident at the Greenvale Hotel, 57 Drum Road, Cookstown on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Mid Ulster District Council resolved at their Council meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 that correspondence be forwarded to your Department regarding same. Members expressed their concern at the delay in legislative change following the consultation process undertaken by Minister Durkan in May 2015 and have requested an urgent review of the Entertainment Licensing regime and Model Terms and Conditions that presently apply.

I would be grateful if this matter could be given early consideration by your Department and an update provided in order that Council can be advised accordingly. I have enclosed a copy of the initial consultation correspondence received for the purposes of completeness.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

**M G KELSO**  
**Director of Public Health and Infrastructure**

Enc.



Department for  
**Communities**

[www.communities-ni.gov.uk](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

**From: Tracy Meharg**  
Permanent Secretary

**Level 9**  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 7EG

**Telephone: 028 90 823301**  
**E-mail: [tracy.meharg@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.meharg@communities-ni.gov.uk)**  
**Our Ref: PSC 0510.19**  
**Date: 8 May 2019**

Mr Mark Kelso  
Director of Public Health and Infrastructure  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Burn Road  
Cookstown  
BT80 8DT

Via email: [Patricia.Bradley@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Patricia.Bradley@midulstercouncil.org)

Dear *Mark*

## **ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING REGIME AND MODEL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Thank you for your letter of 18 April on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council. I note the concerns raised by council members in respect of the Entertainment Licensing regime and Model Terms and Conditions and your request for an update in respect of this issue.

Following the consultation process, which you have referred to in your letter, a decision was made that, due to other Ministerial priorities, no further work be done at that time. In the absence of an Assembly and the appointment of a new Minister for Communities this has remained the Departmental policy. In light of the recent tragic events at the Greenvale Hotel this policy will be reconsidered.

As you are aware the incident is currently the subject of investigations by both the PSNI and yourselves; I do not believe it would be appropriate to commence any work on changes to either the licensing regime or model terms and conditions prior to the conclusion of these. I have, however, asked my officials to look at what preparatory work can be done in advance of this. The Department will also wish to discuss any issues identified by the investigations with local councils and other key stakeholders to identify the appropriate way forward.

Yours sincerely,

*Tracy Meharg*

**TRACY MEHARG**  
**PERMANENT SECRETARY**

