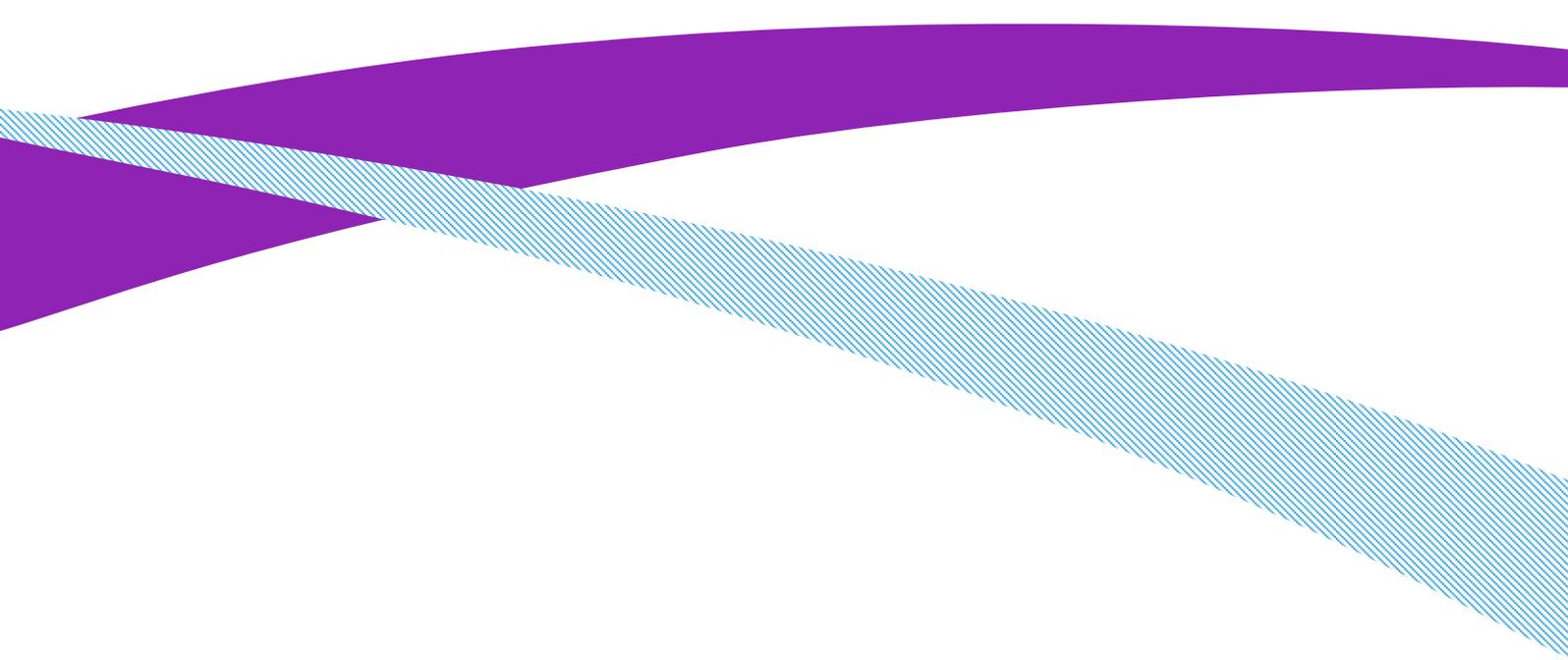




# RELAXATION OF LICENSING HOURS FOR THE ROYAL WEDDING: ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES



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## PROPOSAL

1. On 12th January 2011 the Government published the consultation document, 'Relaxation of licensing hours for the Royal Wedding'. This document included a proposal to make a licensing hours order under section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003 to mark the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton on 29th April 2011. The order would extend opening hours on the night of Friday 29th April to 1am (on Saturday 30th April) and hours on the night of Saturday 30th April to 1am (on Sunday 1st May) for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises and the provision of regulated entertainment in licensed premises in England and Wales.

2. The Home Office ran a public consultation for two weeks between 12<sup>th</sup> January and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011 inviting the general public and key interested parties to provide feedback on this proposal. The consultation covered England and Wales, where the proposal would apply.

## BACKGROUND

3. During the consultation process, people were invited to submit formal responses to the six questions outlined in the consultation document using either the online form or by submitting responses via post or email.

4. The Home Office received a total of 713 responses to the consultation – 667 responses were submitted online; 43 were submitted by email; and 3 were sent by post. Data was not collected on respondent organisations. However, responses received by post and email included responses from individual members of the public; those involved in the retail or manufacture of alcohol or their trade associations; those involved in enforcement, licensing and health; and responses from other groups including legal specialists, those involved in the entertainment industry, village halls and charities.

## 2. RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

5. The consultation document included six questions on the proposed order. These six questions had closed yes or no response options. Responses to these questions are summarised below.

6. Some respondents also provided additional comments on the proposal. Key additional comments are highlighted in the analysis below.

**Question 1: Do you agree that the order should apply to all licensed premises in England and Wales?**

7. Thirty-seven per cent of respondents (255) agreed that the order should apply to all licensed premises in England and Wales. Sixty-three per cent (429 respondents) disagreed with this proposal.

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

8. Thirty-nine per cent of respondents (266) agreed that the order should extend licensing hours until 1am with 61% (418 respondents) disagreeing with this proposal.

**Question 3: Do you agree that the order should apply on Friday 29th April?**

9. Thirty-nine per cent of respondents (264) agreed that the order should apply on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April whereas 61% (420 respondents) disagreed.

**Question 4: Do you agree that the order should apply on Saturday 30th April?**

10. Thirty-three per cent of respondents (227) agreed that the order should apply on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April and 67% (457 respondents) disagreed.

**Question 5: Do you agree that the order should apply to the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises?**

11. Forty-three per cent of respondents (291) agreed that the order should apply to the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises. Fifty-seven per cent (393

respondents) disagreed with this proposal.

12. Some additional responses noted that not extending the order to late-night refreshment venues may cause problems for restaurants or pubs that may provide food or hot drinks late at night. Under the current proposed order these premises would be able to continue to serve alcohol, but not food, to customers remaining on the premises.

**Question 6: Do you agree that the order should apply to the provision of regulated entertainment?**

13. Forty-four per cent of respondents (301) agreed that the order should apply to the provision of regulated entertainment whereas 56% (383 respondents) disagreed.

14. Several respondents requested clarification on this proposal as to whether this would include the provision of entertainment, making music and dancing. These respondents suggested that these activities should be added to the proposed order to avoid confusion.

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

15. Forty-four per cent of respondents (299) agreed with the impact assessment that was given in the consultation document. Fifty-six per cent of respondents (383) did not agree with the impact assessment. An additional two respondents gave mixed responses to this question.

**Additional responses**

15. In addition to those respondents who specifically answered the questions in the consultation document, the Home Office also received 27 other responses. Two of these generally supported the proposal; 19 responses generally opposed the proposal; and six gave mixed responses.

16. Of the small number of respondents who provided additional comments, those opposing the proposed order raised concerns around a number of issues including:

- The potential impact of the extension of licensing hours on police and emergency services and the cost of additional policing;
- The potential impact of related noise nuisance and alcohol-related anti-social behaviour on residents living near licensed premises;
- That the extension of licensing hours may be seen to encourage binge drinking.

17. A small number of respondents who supported the proposed order noted the potential for the extension of licensing hours to allow local pubs to increase their income. At the same time they acknowledged that this would reduce the burden on business and licensing authorities to process a greater number of individual Temporary Event Notices to extend opening hours for the Royal Wedding.