

BIS | Department for Business
Innovation & Skills

Sunday Trading (London
Olympic Games and Paralympic
Games) Assessment

MAY 2012

CONTENTS

Assessment	2
Sunday Trading (London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games) Bill	2
Introduction	2
What is the problem under consideration? Why is government intervention necessary?	2
What are the policy objectives and the intended effects?	3
What policy options have been considered, including any alternatives to regulation? Please justify preferred option (further details in Evidence Base).....	3
Summary: Analysis & Evidence	4
Description and scale of key monetised costs by ‘main affected groups’	4
Other key non-monetised costs by ‘main affected groups’	4
Description and scale of key monetised benefits by ‘main affected groups’	4
Other key non-monetised benefits by ‘main affected groups’	4
Key assumptions/sensitivities/risks	5
Evidence Base	5
Benefits	6
Past Olympics and wider impacts	7
Barcelona 1992	7
Atlanta 1996	7
Sydney 2000	7
Athens 2004	7
Beijing 2008	7
Football World Cup – Germany 2006	7
Centre for Retail Research	8
2006 Indepen Study	8
Costs	9
Menu costs	10
Direct costs and benefits to business calculations (following One In One out (OIOO) methodology);	10
Wider impacts	10
Summary and preferred option with description of implementation plan.....	10
Equality Impact Assessment	11
Introduction	11
Context.....	12
Equality Impact Assessment of the Proposal	13

Assessment

Sunday Trading (London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games) Bill

Introduction

This measure is being taken forward via the fast track parliamentary process. As this is a temporary and time limited measure for only eight Sundays, a full impact assessment was not required.

This document is not a formal impact assessment, but is an assessment of the available evidence. Since the Bill was introduced in the House of Lords the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has continued to update this assessment.

This assessment should not be looked at in isolation. It contains the evidence that has become available to the Department and BIS has continued to update this document as information has become available. It is designed to inform debate and should not be looked at in isolation.

What is the problem under consideration? Why is government intervention necessary?

The Sunday Trading Act 1994 limits the Sunday trading hours of certain large shops in England and Wales. Smaller shops have no restrictions on Sunday opening. There are no equivalent restrictions in Scotland but there are similar restrictions in Northern Ireland. During the Olympics a very large number of foreign tourists will visit London (Oxford economics estimates 450,000 staying and 5.5 million day visitors). These tourists and UK residents will need to shop at convenient times including on Sundays. The government also believes that facilitating more convenient shopping hours on Sundays will help to show the UK is open for business. Longer hours may reduce retail congestion and help tourists spend more. Therefore we propose to temporarily suspend the Sunday trading hours restrictions in the Sunday Trading Act during the Olympics and Paralympics.

What are the policy objectives and the intended effects?

The government believes that the Olympics are an opportunity to show that the UK is 'open for business'. The very large number of Olympics tourists will need to shop at convenient times including on Sundays. UK residents may also need to shop at convenient times including on Sundays. Longer opening will also help reduce retail congestion during the existing retail hours. Longer opening hours may provide tourists who may have little free time with more time to shop and hence spend more money in the UK.

What policy options have been considered, including any alternatives to regulation? Please justify preferred option (further details in Evidence Base)

Option 1 Do Nothing: This option was considered but given the benefits of option 2 it was rejected.

Option 2 Temporarily suspend Sunday Trading Act: Given the opportunity to show the UK is 'open for business', allow tourists and residents to shop conveniently during the games and to help reduce retail congestion during existing trading hours these benefits are considered to be so significant as to outweigh costs. Given the temporary nature the potential costs are unlikely to be significant relative to the benefits.

Option 3: Temporarily suspend Sunday Trading in London and around other Olympic venues only: Given the complexity and controversy of specifying the geographic scope of which retailers would be included outside London this was rejected. It would also preclude residents not living near Olympic venues from the benefits of convenience and reduced retail congestion. Tourists are expected to travel throughout the UK and not be confined to London. The benefits of increased tourism and the potential economic stimulus should not be confined to London. Other host cities have seen the benefits of increased visitor numbers spread around their country.

Will the policy be reviewed?

NO

Summary: Analysis & Evidence

Description and scale of key monetised costs by 'main affected groups'

N/A

Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups'

Small shops and independents could be negatively affected by competition from large retailers. However this measure is temporary hence the cost is unlikely to be significant and the benefits of convenience for consumers, reduction in retail congestion and the increase in total demand is likely to minimise the potential for this transfer.

Description and scale of key monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'

NA

Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'

The government believes that the Olympics is an opportunity to show that the UK is 'open for business'.

The very large number of Olympics tourists will need to shop at convenient times including on Sundays.

UK residents may also need to shop at convenient times including on Sundays. Longer opening will also help reduce retail congestion during the existing retail hours. Total retail sales likely to be higher as higher demand will not be restricted by trading hours.

Key assumptions/sensitivities/risks

Not significant given the temporary nature of the liberalisation

Evidence Base

- **Problem under consideration;**

The Sunday Trading Act 1994 limits the Sunday trading hours of certain large shops in England and Wales. Smaller shops have no restrictions on Sunday opening. There are no equivalent restrictions in Scotland but there are similar restrictions in Northern Ireland. During the Olympics a very large number of tourists will visit London (Oxford economics estimates 450,000 staying and 5.5 million day visitors). These tourists and UK residents will need to shop at convenient times including on Sundays.

The government also believes that facilitating more convenient shopping hours on Sundays will help to show the UK is open to business. Longer hours may reduce retail congestion and help tourists spend more. Therefore we propose to temporarily suspend the Sunday Trading Act Sunday opening hours restrictions during the Olympics and Paralympics.

- **Rationale for intervention;**

Government limits Sunday trading hours for certain large shops via the Sunday Trading Act 1994. These limits are not appropriate during the Olympics.

- **Policy objective;**

- The government believes that the Olympics are an opportunity to show that the UK is 'open for business'.
- The very large number of Olympics tourists will need to shop at convenient times including on Sundays.
- UK residents may also need to shop at convenient times including on Sundays.
- Longer opening will also help reduce retail congestion during the existing retail hours.
- Longer opening hours may provide tourists who may have little free time with more time to shop and hence spend more money in the UK.

- **Description of options considered (including do nothing);**

Option 1 Do Nothing: This option was considered but given the benefits of option 2 it was rejected.

Option 2 Temporarily suspend Sunday Trading Act: Given the opportunity to show the UK is 'open for business', allow tourists and residents to shop conveniently during the games and to help reduce retail congestion during existing trading hours these benefits are considered to be so significant as to outweigh costs. Given the temporary nature the potential costs are unlikely to be significant relative to the benefits.

Option 3: Temporarily suspend Sunday Trading in London and other Olympic venues only: Given the complexity and controversy of specifying the geographic scope of which retailers would be included outside London this was rejected. It would also preclude residents not living near Olympic venues from the benefits of convenience and reduced retail congestion. Tourists are expected to travel throughout the UK and not be confined to London. The benefits of increased tourism and the potential economic stimulus should not be confined to London. Other host cities have seen the benefits of increased visitor numbers spread around their country.

Benefits

- This is a temporary and deregulatory measure and the economic impact could be considerable.
- The Olympic and Paralympic Games are expected to attract a significant number of visitors from home and abroad and this Bill presents a chance for retailers to make the most out the opportunity that the Olympic and Paralympic Games present.
- The suspension presents an opportunity for shop workers to earn some extra money.
- The Suspension could also help create the conditions for increased temporary employment.
- Tourism will not be confined to London and not all of the Olympic and Paralympic games and events are based in London. Sports events are taking place in a number of locations in England and Wales, with football in Cardiff, Manchester, Newcastle and Coventry; sailing in Weymouth; mountain biking in Essex; rowing at Eton Dorney; Paralympic road cycling at Brands Hatch; and canoe slalom in Hertfordshire.
- Some local authorities are putting screens in towns and cities around the country to enable people to get together to watch the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Tourists and visitors to those events should also be able to take advantage of longer shop opening hours in the vicinity of those locations.
- The suspension will enable large shops to give people greater flexibility to go shopping on Sundays - whether that is shopping at the Olympic site on a Sunday evening or going to their local supermarket early on a Sunday

Past Olympics¹ and wider impacts

Barcelona 1992 - doubled the number of international visitors during the following decade and rose from 16th to the 3rd most popular short break destination in Europe

Atlanta 1996 - added US\$5.1 billion to the Georgia economy generating US\$1.5 billion spend from out-of-state visitors

Sydney 2000 - advanced 'Brand Australia' by 10 years stimulating 1.6 million 'Olympic-induced' visitors between 1997 - 2004 and generating £1.5 billion for Australia's visitor economy. The Australian Games also showed that visitors spent time travelling outside Sydney, where most of the Olympic events were held. This boost in tourism for the whole country could be even more pronounced in the UK where other towns and cities are a relatively short distance away.

Athens 2004 - received a TV audience of 3.9 billion with 35,000 hours of coverage on 300 channels in 220 countries. Visitor figures for 2005 were up 11% on the previous year.

Beijing 2008 - predicting incremental annual increase of 7-8% between now and 2008 leading to a total of 4.4m overseas visitors spending US\$4.5 billion

Football World Cup – Germany 2006²

Germany eased their opening restrictions on shops from 9 June to 9 July, the period of the 2006 Football World Cup. Retail sales rose by 1.9% in the month in real, seasonally adjusted terms, Federal Statistics Office data showed. Food and drink retailers, as well as clothing retailers, performed best in June, according to data published separately by the Bundesbank.

Visa Europe published "A golden Opportunity – London Olympic 2012 and Paralympic Expenditure and Economic Impact"³. The report considers how consumer spending will be affected by the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the impact this will have on the wider UK economy during the summer of 2012 and beyond.

- During the seven week period from the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games to the Closing Ceremony of the Paralympic Games, the UK is set to benefit from a £750 million consumer spending injection.

¹ <http://www.esadvertising.co.uk/en/1/2012tourism.html>

² <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/5231720.stm>

³ http://www.visaeurope.com/en/newsroom/news/articles/2011/visa_2012_economic_impact.aspx

- The sectors likely to benefit most from increased economic activity include the retail, leisure and travel sectors, with the report predicting a combined spending boost of £508.4m in the seven weeks of the London Games.
- It is also a unique opportunity for British businesses to capitalise on the increase in expenditure and wider economic impacts, such as increased outputs, increased productivity, job creation, and additional income and profits, which are all expected to be generated as a result of The Games.
- The report additionally predicts an economic stimulus worth a total of £5.1bn to the UK economy by 2015, as a consequence of the Games being hosted in London. This accounts for 3.5 per cent of the total growth to the national economy expected between 2013 and 2015.

Centre for Retail Research⁴

The research indicated that the impact of the relaxation of Sunday Trading laws during the Olympics will benefit retailers by a total of £189.8million

Food stores will enjoy a boost of around £61 million as consumers spend an additional £7.6 million each week of the extended opening hours, a total increase of 3% in Sunday sales.

Outside London retailers will probably be very realistic and will not open if they think there will not be much business. Multiple retailers are keen to get the Sunday Trading laws relaxed and so will try to ensure that extended opening for the 8 extra days will be a success.

2006 Indepen Study⁵

Using the 2006 Indepen study the costs and benefits of easing Sunday trading restrictions have been estimated. Different interpretations of the report have led to a range of benefits from £26 million to £176 million being estimated for 8 days of additional Sunday trading.

This range has been calculated using the data in the report for permanently extending trading hours. The 3 benefit categories in the report yield; increased profit in the range of £13 million to £88 million, convenience benefits to consumers in the order of £8 million to £55 million, benefits to consumers from reduced congestion from £5 million to £33 million.

This compares with estimated retail sales on a Sunday for large businesses in July 2011 of £739 million.

These figures are illustrative and should be treated with caution as they are adapted for a temporary change over 8 days whereas the original report considered a permanent change to the law over a 20 year period.

⁴

⁵ <http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file28193.pdf>

Costs

- Small shops or independent shops

A common argument against liberalisation is that the restricted hours provide small or independent retailers with a chance to compete against larger retailers. This argument is not assessed in the assessment other than to suggest that during a temporary liberalisation the impact may not be significant on small retailers (but see ACS estimates below).

Furthermore it is likely that total demand from both tourists and UK residents during this exception period will increase by more than capacity hence small shops may be less likely to be negatively affected.

The Association of Convenience Stores⁶ has estimated that the temporary suspension will cost small shops £480 million. BIS has discussed the estimate with the Association and the difficulty in making an accurate assessment of the overall impact on small firms has been acknowledged. BIS does not believe that all those who currently shop at their local convenience store on Sundays will switch to a large retailer during the suspension period. The unique nature of the Olympics and Paralympics makes an accurate assessment of the potential impact difficult. It is not clear how many large shops will choose to take advantage of the suspension, how shopping patterns and demand will change, and whether small shops will be affected.

It should also be noted that while small local stores offer convenience, large shops claim to offer better value for money for their customers. Low income consumers spend proportionately more of their income on retail sales, and would therefore be expected to benefit more than proportionately from the liberalisation of Sunday trading.

We are unsure how many small shops are located in either town centres or large shopping centres and so might find that they benefit from the additional footfall attracted by the large stores opening for additional hours on Sundays during the suspension period.

- Competition may drive all shops to open even if their costs of opening on a Sunday are greater than the increase in sales

For a temporary liberalisation this is unlikely to be a significant even if it were likely. Furthermore it is likely that total demand from both tourists and UK residents will increase by more than capacity. Consumption patterns are likely to change significantly during the Olympics which makes the significance of

⁶ <http://www.acs.org.uk/>

this more difficult to assess. But for a short period of 8 days the risk of total costs increasing more than total sales seems low.

Menu costs

Individual retailers may choose to inform their customers if they change their opening hours. They will do this if the benefit exceeds the costs to them.

- Risks and assumptions;

Some argue that a restriction on Sunday trading opening hours is necessary to protect employees from pressure to work long hours on a Sunday. This is addressed by Part IV of the Employment Rights Act 1996 which gives shop workers rights to opt out from Sunday working. Furthermore this is a temporary arrangement during an exceptional period and this argument ignores the interests of those who want to work longer on a Sunday.

To address concerns, the Government will introduce an amendment to the Bill to strengthen the current right to opt out of Sunday working by reducing the notice period from the usual three months to as little as two months.

Direct costs and benefits to business calculations (following One In One out (OIOO) methodology);

Due to the anticipated increase in demand during this exceptional period we believe that this temporary liberalisation will amount to an OUT because capacity will increase and retail congestion may be reduced hence business will have the opportunity to increase total sales.

Wider impacts

- Sunday is the Christian Sabbath and some argue that trading should not be permitted. A temporary liberalisation does not significantly affect this.
- Society may prefer a quiet day even though individually we might choose to shop if we could. A temporary liberalisation does not significantly affect this.

Summary and preferred option with description of implementation plan.

- The government believes that the Olympics are an opportunity to show that the UK is 'open for business'.
- The very large number of Olympics tourists will need to shop at convenient times including on Sundays.

- UK residents may also need to shop at convenient times including on Sundays.
- Longer opening will also help reduce retail congestion during the existing retail hours.
- Longer opening hours may provide tourists who may have little free time with more time to shop and hence spend more money in the UK.

The Preferred option is to temporarily suspend the Sunday opening hours restrictions in the Sunday Trading Act for the duration of the Olympics and introduce a Bill to this effect in the House of Lords on the 28 March 2012.

Equality Impact Assessment

Introduction

The Government most recently consulted on relaxing the Sunday trading restrictions through the Red Tape Challenge in March 2011.⁷ It is important to note that this focused on a general repeal of Sunday trading restrictions and the suspension of trading restrictions on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday. The temporary suspension of the Sunday Trading Act opening hours restrictions during the Olympic period was not included, although there are likely to be some common themes with the likely impact of the current proposal. Some comments from the Red Tape Challenge have informed this Equality Impact Assessment. However, it should be noted that Red Tape Challenge data should be treated as giving valuable individual perspectives, rather than necessarily being representative of the UK population as a whole.

Other evidence which has informed this assessment has been taken from research conducted by Indepen in 2006 for the then Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), together with an informal consultation on Sunday shopping hours.⁸ Again, this did not specifically examine the likely impacts of a temporary suspension of the Sunday Trading Act during the Olympic period, but it is possible to draw some conclusions about the likely impacts of this proposal.

On 5 April 2011 the new public sector Equality Duty came into force. The Equality Duty replaces the three previous duties on race, disability and gender, bringing them together into a single duty, and extends it to cover age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment (as a whole these are called protected characteristics or

⁷ Red Tape Challenge (2011) <http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sunday-trading/comment-page-1/#comments>

⁸ Sunday Shopping: Summary of Responses to Informal Consultation on Sunday Shopping Hours Jan-April 2006 (July 2006, DTI) <http://collections.europarchive.org/tna/20091003042919/http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file31609.pdf>
Williamson, Hargreaves, Bond and Lay, May 2006 *The Economic Costs and Benefits of Easing Sunday Shopping Restrictions on Large Stores in England and Wales*, Indepen report for DTI www.bis.gov.uk/files/file28193.pdf

protected groups). Based on a proportional analysis we will outline the impacts, both positive and negative, on these protected groups.

Equality Impact Assessments are an important framework for demonstrating due regard through considering evidence and analysis to help identify the likely positive and negative impacts that policy proposals may have on certain protected groups of consumers / service users and to estimate whether such impacts disproportionately affect such groups.

Context

The available evidence suggests that the impact on vulnerable groups of the temporary suspension of the Sunday Trading Act during the Olympic period is likely to be mixed, but not significant, given the short period covered by the proposals.

The majority of respondents to the 2011 Red Tape Challenge did not favour a change in the laws governing Sunday trading.⁹ Perhaps surprisingly, the strongest theme emerging was not strictly that of objection to liberalisation for religious reasons, although there were many references to the potential erosion of Christian tradition. The vast majority of objections centred on concern over the potential damage to family life which extending shopping hours might bring. Sunday was seen as a family day, and strong concerns were raised over the impact on children if parents working in retail were forced to work longer hours on Sunday.

Indepen also found that some stakeholders were concerned that extending trading hours for large stores on Sundays would force employees of these stores to work longer hours and that this will prevent them from participating in family and community events.¹⁰

Conversely, the 2006 informal consultation carried out by DTI found that weekend shopping is often a family leisure activity.¹¹ Shopping centres and some large retailers reported that larger party sizes visit stores at the weekend, showing that this is when families can shop together, retaining the tradition of Sunday as a family day.

Responses to the Red Tape Challenge also conveyed a strong feeling among retail employees that they would be pressurised into working longer hours on Sundays.¹² Over a third of retail staff responding to an USDAW survey in 2011 commented that they were already under pressure to work Sundays when they do not wish to.¹³ Between 1997 and 2005, 176 Employment

⁹ Red Tape Challenge (2011)

¹⁰ Indepen (2006) p11

¹¹ Sunday Shopping (2006)

¹² Red Tape Challenge (2011)

¹³ USDAW response to Red Tape Challenge, 5 May 2011, <http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sunday-trading/comment-page-130/#comments>

Tribunal cases were considered in relation to being unfairly dismissed or suffering a detriment for refusing to work on a Sunday.¹⁴

However, while the Sunday Trading Act opening hours restrictions would be temporarily suspended under the proposal, employees would retain their current levels of employment protection. In addition, large retailers offer considerable flexibility in terms of how their labour requirements are met in terms of part time work and flexible hours of work. An increase in Sunday trading would therefore be expected to disproportionately attract employees from categories such as single parents, students and others who have greater opportunity to work on Sundays.¹⁵ In other words, we should consider those who want to work on Sundays as well as those who do not.

Concerns were raised in the 2006 DTI informal consultation that the loss of small shops would lead to adverse impacts on communities and/or vulnerable groups, such as older people, people with disabilities, and people on low incomes. For example, the Association of Convenience Stores said that communities would suffer from local shop closures, providing particular problems for these vulnerable groups and those without transport, who relied on the service they provided.

However, overall, Indepen found that low income consumers spend proportionately more of their income on retail sales, and would therefore be expected to benefit more than proportionately from the liberalisation of Sunday trading.¹⁶

Equality Impact Assessment of the Proposal

Race

While the majority of people working in retail are white (89%), 11% of the retail workforce are from ethnic minority backgrounds, compared with the UK all-industry average of 8%.¹⁷ The majority of Black or Black British ethnic group working in retail work in establishments employing more than 50 employees. The majority of employees in other ethnic categories work in stores employing fewer than 50 employees.¹⁸

Small shops are currently not subject to Sunday trading restrictions, and might therefore suffer detriment from increased competition from larger stores if the restrictions on large shops were temporarily suspended. Evidence from the Association of Convenience Stores, the Rural Shops Alliance and small shops represented at the small shops focus group held at DTI in 2006 indicated that Sunday was a very significant trading day for small retailers (representing about 17-20% of the week's turnover on average) and that the most important hours of the day were after the large stores had closed in the afternoon.

¹⁴ Indepen (2006) p11

¹⁵ Indepen (2006) p56

¹⁶ Indepen (2006) p55

¹⁷ The Ethnic Profile of Retail (October 2010) Skillsmart Retail Analysis www.skillsmart.com p7

¹⁸ The Ethnic Profile of Retail (October 2010) p16

Small independent shops are particularly likely to be Asian-owned, and this group could therefore be indirectly affected by the proposal. For example some studies in London suggest that as many as three-quarters of all independently-owned single retail outlets are Asian.¹⁹ However, given the temporary nature of the proposal, it is unlikely that the increased competition would be significant or sustained.

Disability

If small shops are forced to close due to increased competition from large stores as a result of this proposal, some people with disabilities and those with mobility difficulties could be affected adversely. However, given the temporary nature of the proposal, it is unlikely that the increased competition would be significant or sustained.

Gender

In 2009, 59% of the retail workforce were women, compared with 41% men; this has been a consistent pattern over the previous 5 years.²⁰ Proposals which affect the retail sector would therefore be more likely to impact women, both positively and negatively. Temporarily suspending the Sunday Trading Act opening hours restrictions might affect women adversely if they felt under pressure to work longer hours on the specified Sundays. However, this would be outweighed by the potential benefits of the increased employment opportunities offered by the proposal.

Many respondents to USDAW's 2011 survey found it difficult to work on Sundays, citing the lack of paid childcare available for single parents.²¹ On the other hand, in their response to the 2006 DTI informal consultation, Working Families noted that although the issue was not clear cut, working parents can benefit from Sunday shopping, both as consumers and employees; indeed some parents may choose to work weekends as childcare can be covered by other family members.²² Indepen found that current restrictions on Sunday trading harmed the interests of groups of potential employees who do wish to work on Sundays, including many students and single parents.²³ The proposal would therefore provide increased employment opportunities, albeit temporary, for these groups.

Age

Traditionally, the retail sector has employed a high proportion of people aged 16-24, and this group comprises nearly a third of the retail sector.²⁴ The majority of 16-24 year olds working in retail work in sales and customer

¹⁹ For further discussion, see "The contribution of Asian-owned businesses to London's economy" GLA Economics (June 2005) p 13, at http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/economic_unit/docs/asian_businesses.pdf. Although this looks specifically at the importance of Asian-owned businesses within London, it also summarises research on the issue within the UK.

²⁰ 'The Retail Gender Agenda' (January 2010) Skillsmart Retail Analysis www.skillsmart.com p6

²¹ USDAW response to Red Tape Challenge, 5 May 2011,

²² Sunday Shopping (2006)

²³ Indepen (2006) p11

²⁴ 'The Age of Retail' (July 2010) Skillsmart Retail Analysis www.skillsmart.com p6

service roles.²⁵ Younger people, particularly students, are more likely to be affected positively by the proposal. Indepen found that large numbers of students take advantage of Sunday working over 170,000 in 2005, and would therefore benefit from the increased employment opportunities created by the temporary suspension of the Sunday Trading Act opening hours restrictions.

Older people may suffer some detriment. Responses to the Red Tape Challenge argued that the possible negative impact on families caused by removing the Sunday trading regulations would also apply to older people, as Sunday was an opportunity for families, young and old, to come together. However, given the temporary nature of this proposal, any detriment would be time limited.

Sexual orientation

The available evidence does not suggest that the proposal would have a disproportionate impact on people in this protected group.

Religion or belief

A large number of respondents to the Red Tape Challenge referred to fears of an erosion of Christian tradition. These included practicing Christians, but also references to “Christian values” and those who thought that “Britain should remain a Christian country”.²⁶ In response to the 2006 DTI informal consultation, the Church of England wanted to emphasise the significance of a day when people can attend to their spiritual life, and Sunday was important to allow time for people to attend Christian worship. They noted that the 2001 Census found that over 70% of the population identified themselves as Christians.²⁷ While the proposal has the potential to affect Christians disproportionately, given the short period covered by the Olympics, any detriment would be temporary, and trading on Sunday is already possible for small retailers and for 6 hours for large retailers.

Pregnancy and maternity

The available evidence does not suggest that the proposal would have a disproportionate impact on people in this protected group.

Gender reassignment

The available evidence does not suggest that the proposal would have a disproportionate impact on people in this protected group.

Conclusion

The available evidence suggests that different groups could be affected in different ways, both positively and negatively, by the proposal to suspend the Sunday Trading Act opening hours restrictions for the Olympic period. However, given the temporary nature of the proposal, any detriment would be time limited. Affected groups would also benefit from the wider economic benefits of the measures, as set out in the accompanying Impact Assessment.

²⁵ ‘The Age of Retail’ (July 2010) p10

²⁶ Red Tape Challenge (2011)

²⁷ Sunday Shopping (2006)

© Crown copyright 2012

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. Visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is also available on our website at www.bis.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to:

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET
Tel: 020 7215 5000

If you require this publication in an alternative format, email enquiries@bis.gsi.gov.uk, or call 020 7215 5000.

URN 12/763