

**Norman Baker MP**

Minister of State for Crime Prevention  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

26 March 2014

MOPAC24032014-14604

Dear Norman,

**RE: The relaxation of licensing hours during the FIFA World Cup, 2014**

I am writing to you following our meeting on 18 March, regarding the consultation on relaxing licensing hours during the impending World Cup.

Like many iconic sporting events, the World Cup will act as a hugely unifying and enjoyable experience for local communities. As such, it is entirely reasonable to expect that many licensed premises may want to extend their hours to allow for the time difference in the host country and to show the matches live on their screens.

MOPAC is supportive of an overall approach that aids enjoyment of the matches whilst ensuring that residents, visitors and tourists to London can celebrate in a safe and responsible manner. MOPAC believes that a local approach to licensing hours during this period would therefore be most appropriate. Leaving licensing decisions to local determination means that any applications for extended opening hours (using the Temporary Event Notice system) can be balanced against local circumstances and any potential adverse impacts on the surrounding community. Local Councils and partners such as the Police understand the nature and operation of establishments in their areas and are best placed to grant or refuse these requests.

I trust that our views, as set out above, are useful. We look forward to the outcome of the consultation and most importantly, to supporting an enjoyable World Cup experience in London.

Yours sincerely

*[Signed by Stephen Greenhalgh on 26 March 2014]*

Stephen Greenhalgh  
**Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime**