

L I C E N S I N G

Hospitality and Licensing update: *Re-opening strategy*

As the light at the end of the tunnel begins to come into view for Northern Ireland businesses, all restaurant, bar and hotel owners are no doubt considering strategies for safe re-opening of their premises.

Although restrictions are still in force requiring venues such as cafes, restaurants, pubs, bars and social clubs to remain closed, a review of the regulations is expected to take place again on 13 May 2021. Until such time as the restrictions are lifted, businesses providing food and drink for takeaway, drive-through or delivery must close at 11pm and all off-sales must cease at 8pm. a significant reform of Irish liquor licensing laws.

1 MIN READ

Lifting of restrictions

Looking ahead to the lifting of restrictions, businesses should take this time to consider what changes may need to be carried out to their premises to comply with enhanced safety measures such as social distancing. Business should consider the following points:

- Are changes required to any licensed area?
- Could suitable outdoor space be utilised to maximise the area available to customers? If so, consider whether a pavement cafe licence would be an option.
- Depending on the nature and extent of such changes prior approval may be required.
- Amended licensing plans should be prepared and submitted to the relevant authority.
- Early engagement will hopefully avoid a backlog and facilitate early opening.

Please contact our [Licensing team](#) for further information.

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