



RESTAURANTS
ASSOCIATION
OF IRELAND

Alan Gideon,
Clerk to the Committee
Joint Committee on Justice
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Recommendations from the Restaurants Association of Ireland to the Justice Committee Regarding the General Scheme of the Sale of Alcohol Bill 2022:

1. The Restaurants Association of Ireland (RAI) is calling on the Justice Committee and the Department of Justice to review the following list of recommendations as the scheme of the Sale of Alcohol Scheme continues to be discussed. The restaurant sector will be directly affected by this legislation, as the proposed broad 'restaurant licence' lacks clarity on a number of counts as will be listed below. Therefore, the RAI is requesting to be included in future Justice Committee consultations moving forward.
 - a. The new legislation should ensure that the 7-Day Publican Licence is equal to the new restaurant licence with the exception that the restaurant licence requires alcohol be served with a substantial meal.
 - b. The trading hours of a wine on licence and a restaurant licence is the same as a public house licence.
 - c. Establishments with a wine on licence and a restaurant certificate have a seamless transition to the proposed new restaurant licence. In the event, this is not the case the holder of a Wine Retailer's On Licence only or a Wine Retailer's On Licence and a Restaurant Certificate should be given a 3 year grace period after the introduction of this Scheme to ensure their premises is functionally in line with new legislation.
 - d. Clarity for those establishments with a current Wine Retailer's On Licence who serve food and do not contain a bar counter. The new wine on licence definition states that a premises before the commencement of the act contains a bar counter.
 - e. The removal of the extinguishment provision should be put in place after one year.
 - f. The entire renewal process needs absolute clarity as many licence holders process their renewals themselves. The date for the excise duty payment and lodgment of renewal application with Revenue is proposed to change to 28 days before the 30 September. This may cause difficulty for any licence holders that will need to certify their turnover. Currently, those who have to certify their turnover are publican's licence and hotel licence.



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