

Annex A

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From: [REDACTED – SECTION 38 (1)(B)]

Sent: 19 June 2020 11:35

To: First Minister

Subject: Corona Virus easing of lockdown

Madam

I cannot understand why outdoor facilities for pubs and resaurants cannot reopen along with Zoos and other outdoor venues. Many pubs and hotels have invested cash and ideas in innovative ways of getting back to work in the open air.

To class these facilities along with gyms seems to miss the point completely.

Hospitality venues need cash flow urgently and Scotland need the economic activity especially in the Highlands

Please think again.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED – SECTION 38 (1)(B)]

From: [REDACTED – SECTION 38 (1)(B)]

Sent: 22 June 2020 21:13 To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Cc: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Subject: Licensed outside areas

Dear First Minister,

At the Edinburgh Licensing Board meeting held on Thursday 18th June the Board discussed the use of outdoor licensed areas, whether as part of the existing licensed footprint of premises or by means of occasional licences. We were anticipating the reopening of outside areas as part of the First Minister's update and there was some disappointment that was not the case.

The Board is aware of the significant economic challenges faced by the on sales trade during the lockdown period. Some on sales premises within Edinburgh have made use of off sales facilities to offer drinks as a takeaway service to customers attending at their premises. The Board heard from [REDACTED – SECTION 38 (1)(B)] and [REDACTED – SECTION 38 (1)(B)] regarding some of the challenges arising where customers have congregated in the vicinity of premises to consume their drinks. It was considered by the Board that socially distanced use of licensed outdoor areas would provide a better means of controlling the consumption of alcohol in public.

During the Edinburgh International Festival the city is buzzing and the operation of outside licensed areas during the festival provides a boost to the licensed trade and city. No festival this year means a massive loss to the city. The licensed trade is not going to recover as quickly as many other businesses. Allowing outside areas to

operate within government guidelines and licensing conditions would be a boost to them and to the Edinburgh economy.

The Board welcomes the publication of Guidance for the Hospitality Sector on the safe reopening of premises and notes Boards are encouraged to adopt a pragmatic and flexible approach within the legal framework of the Act when considering applications for occasional licences for outside areas.

The Board will have regard to the updated statutory guidance when considering applications for occasional licences, and would also wish to put on record its support for the commencement of a return to business for licensed premises by use of outside areas at the earliest possible date. Of course, the Board acknowledges the safety both of those working within licensed premises and their customers remains paramount.

We hope therefore that the First Minister can look favourably at outside areas opening again soon given the importance to the economy to the city.

Regards,
[REDACTED – SECTION 38 (1)(B)]