



Lord Anderson  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0AA

17 January 2025

Dear David,

### **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill: Licensing Act and Schedule 2 Exclusions**

Thank you for meeting me on 17 December to discuss the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, and for your important and helpful contributions made during the Bill's second reading debate on 7 January. I am following up regarding the points you raised during that debate regarding the interaction of the Bill with licensing legislation, and regarding Schedule 2 of the Bill.

#### **Licensing legislation**

During the debate, you asked for further information on the benefits this Bill will deliver in addition to the current licensing regime. The current licensing regime in England and Wales is set out in the Licensing Act 2003.

The Bill has a greater number of premises and events within its scope than are covered by the Licensing Act, which only covers premises that sell or supply alcohol, provide regulated entertainment or late-night refreshment. In addition, the Bill will apply across the whole of the UK, whereas the Licensing Act only applies to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland which have separate licensing regimes that differ in their scope and operation.

Applying the Bill's requirements to this broader cohort will deliver a more consistent approach across premises and events throughout the UK, with the aim of ensuring that they are all better prepared for and protected against terrorist attacks.

The Government recognises that some premises and events already have measures in place to protect visitors and staff from terrorist attacks, but not all do. It is also worth noting that licensing committees established under existing licensing legislation do not routinely have the necessary expertise needed to consider counter-terrorism measures. The Government will keep the operation of these complementary regimes under review.

## **Existing public safety support for licensed premises**

During the debate, you asked if the oversight provided by Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs) will persist after the Bill has entered into force. I can assure you that the Bill does not change that support. SAGs are a critical part of the Government's layered approach to mitigate the terrorist threat.

More broadly, the Home Office will work closely with the Security Industry Authority (SIA) to build the new regulatory function, drawing on the existing expertise and knowledge in both organisations. We expect that the SIA will establish relationships with the range of public safety forums that exist across the UK, including SAGs.

## **Government buildings and the parliamentary estates**

During the debate, you asked about the Government's rationale for including premises occupied by the United Kingdom Civil Service within the Bill's scope, whilst excluding those occupied by Parliament and the Devolved Governments and legislatures.

You raise an important point and I wish to clarify that the Bill does not bind the Crown. The requirements would not apply to qualifying premises for which a UK Government Department is responsible, for example.

The exclusion of the premises listed at paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 2 reflects this position for both the parliamentary estate and the legislatures and governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

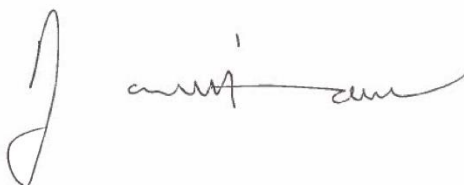
This does not mean that protective security is not an important consideration at these premises. Indeed, given their nature and importance, there are already extensive security arrangements in place at these premises that are at least in line with what the requirements in the Bill would achieve.

The Royal Household, Parliament, and the Government recognise the critical importance of this legislation and the role it will play in keeping citizens across the UK safe. As such, the Household, Parliament, and the executive (including the Devolved Governments) have agreed to voluntarily apply the Bill's provisions.

I am of course open to discussing this matter further with you at your convenience and would be happy to meet to discuss ahead of the Committee debates.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House of Lords Library. A copy also goes to the Security Minister.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hanson', written in a cursive style.

**Lord Hanson of Flint**