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Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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21 February 2025

Dear Dame Karen,

2025 UEFA Women's European Championship: Licensing Hours

I am pleased to launch a consultation on extending licensing hours in England and Wales for the semi-finals and final of the 2025 UEFA Women's European Championship this summer, contingent on either the England or Wales women's national football teams playing in the semi-finals and if either team reach the final. The consultation is aimed at members of the public, local licensing authorities, licensed premises, and other interested parties in England and Wales where these proposals apply.

Depending on the outcome of the consultation, the Government proposes to make a licensing hours Order under section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003. This would contingently extend opening hours on the days of the semi-finals (22 and/or 23 July 2025) and the final (27 July 2025), so they would end at 01:00 (i.e. early in the morning after the matches have taken place rather than 23:00 on the day of the matches) for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises.

The extension would ensure those wishing to host a viewing of the matches and potential post-match celebrations are able to do so, which would also provide a welcome boost to pubs and other on-trade businesses.

The extension would not take effect should the England and/or Wales women's national football teams not reach those stages of the tournament.

I am seeking to use a contingent Order to extend licensing hours for the semi-finals and the final to ensure there is sufficient time to consult publicly on the proposed extension and follow the required Parliamentary procedure.

I have attached a copy of the consultation, and I will arrange for a copy of this letter and the consultation to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and published on gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP
Minister of State for Policing, Fire and Crime Prevention