



Home Office

Sarah Jones MP
Minister of State for Policing and
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Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP
Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

18 February 2026

Dear Dame Karen,

FIFA Men's Football World Cup 2026: Licensing Hours

I am writing to let you know that, later this week, I plan to announce the outcome of the Government's consultation on proposals to make a contingent Licensing Hours Order under section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the 2026 FIFA Men's Football World Cup. Given the significant challenges the hospitality sector is currently faced with and to give the industry a welcome boost, I wish to make this announcement now to give appropriate notice to premises who may choose to take advantage of these measures, so they have adequate time to prepare. This will also provide the police and other relevant stakeholders with as much notice as possible.

The majority of respondents to the consultation were in favour of licensing hours being relaxed for the semi-final and final stages of the tournament, with some calling on us to go further and extend hours for games in the earlier rounds of the tournament. Having considered the consultation responses, the Government intends to proceed with a contingent Licensing Hours Order for England and Wales to enable communities to come together at their local licensed premises to support the home nations (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) where they progress past the group stages of the tournament. This means that as well as the quarter-final, semi-final and final stages, the Order will also apply to the round of 32 and round of 16 stages.

The Order's provisions around the round of 32 and round of 16 matches will apply only where a home nation team is playing in the relevant match and when the match kicks off between 8pm and 10pm (UK time). For matches within scope that kick off up to 9pm, licensing hours will be extended until 1am the following morning, and for matches within scope that kick off after 9pm and up to 10pm licensing hours will be extended until 2am the following morning. The Order will apply only to premises in England and Wales that are already licensed until 11pm for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises.

The results of the consultation will be published on GOV.UK. The consultation results will also be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, along with a copy of this letter. The Government is grateful to everyone who responded to the consultation. The Order will be laid in Parliament in due course, and an Economic Note will be published alongside it on [legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk).

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Jones MP
Minister of State for Policing and Crime