

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
EQUALITY and LAW REFORM**

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**AN ROINN DLÍ agus CIRT,
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Mr Jim McCabe,
Chairman,
National Off Licence Association,
Nutgrove Office Park (Block D, Unit 6),
Rathfarnham,
Dublin 14

Dear Jim,

I refer to your letter of 30 June concerning implementation of section 4 of the Intoxicating Liquor Bill 2008 which will prohibit off-sales of alcohol after 10.00 p.m.

The position is that the 10.00 p.m. limit for off-sales was recommended by the Government Alcohol Advisory Group in the Report which it submitted on 31 March last. While the Advisory Group also recommended structural separation in mixed trading premises on the lines provided for in section 8 of the Bill, it did not establish any link between these two recommendations. For this reason, the Bill does not make any such link.

Moreover, the proposed 10.00 p.m. time limit in section 4 is intended to apply to all licensed premises irrespective of whether or not it is an on-licence or off-licence attached to the premises.

Yours sincerely,

(Seamus Carroll)
Civil Law Reform Division

1 July '08