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Dear Licensee

As many of you prepare for the re-opening of your businesses from 4th July we are aware you will be busy conducting risk assessments, taking into account the government guidance recently issued related to working safely in pubs and the hospitality sector which we recently circulated to you:

- Working safely in restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>
- Working safely in the visitor economy
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/the-visitor-economy>

We are taking many telephone calls in this regard and whilst we are of course extremely happy to talk through your proposals, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are protecting yourself, your staff and of course your customers. In this regard we have attached to this newsletter some Frequently Asked Questions that have been compiled jointly by the British Institute of Innkeeping, The British Beer & Pub Association and UK Hospitality that may answer some of the questions that bother you and reassure you when doing your risk assessments.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEW REGULATIONS ALLOWING YOU TO RE-OPEN COME INTO EFFECT AT 06:00 ON SATURDAY 4 JULY AND THAT IS THE EARLIEST YOU CAN OPEN. ANYONE OPENING BETWEEN 00:01 AND 05:59 ON 4 JULY WILL BE DOING SO ILLEGALLY

The next item that we would like to draw your attention to is the Business and Planning Bill that is currently proceeding through parliament. It is anticipated that at present it likely to receive Royal Assent and become law at the end of July.

The Bill covers many different areas but there are 3 that relate to licensing. These are:

- Temporary 'Pavement Licences' that will be issued by the Council when the Business and Planning Bill becomes law. These licences relate to tables, chairs and associated street furniture and are currently administered by Kent County Council. We will give greater detail regarding Pavement Licences in a further newsletter to you
- Car parks and terraces to be converted into seating areas
- The automatic addition of off-sales to every premises licence mirrors the same hours that the premises have for on-sales. Because the addition of this authorisation is automatic, no applications have to be made to anyone, and no fee is payable. Responsible authorities are not consulted about it, and cannot object to it. If a licensee wanted longer hours for off-sales, (longer than their on-sales), they could make an application to vary the licence, as per normal.

The provisions of the Bill are intended to last until 30 September 2021 from when they become law.

Whilst we wished to notify you as soon as possible of the proposed changes we must emphasise that as they are still being discussed in parliament they can be subject to amendments.

You must also ensure that **you operate** under **the current** terms and conditions of your premises licence granted under the Licensing Act 2003 **until the legislation changes**.

Finally, as more of you will use your outside areas and gardens, there is the possibility of more noise complaints being received by the Council. The Environmental Protection team of the Council have produced a guidance note to help you minimise noise nuisance which you can take into account when making your preparations to open and which is attached to this newsletter for your information.

Finally, we wish you well and hope that your businesses can open safely, be profitable and help the country to get back to 'normal'.

Kind regards, Licensing Team