



Proposed Amendments to the Licensing (Jersey) Law 1974

Consultation Response Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The Minister for Sustainable Economic Development committed to bringing forward amendments to the [Licensing \(Jersey\) Law 1974](#) (the “Law”) during this term of Government as a key action from the 2023 Visitor Economy Strategy, and as part of a wider Government commitment to remove unnecessary bureaucracy. This [public consultation](#) on the proposed amendments, held between December 2024 and January 2025, received a total of 103 responses from individuals, organisations and businesses.

The proposed amendments were in five sections, as set out in the [Green Paper](#):

Section A: licensing decision-making organisations. Respondents broadly agreed with the proposal to move licensing approval to a regulatory authority, with varied views on whether the Gambling Commission should exercise this function, and broad agreement that the parishes should continue to be involved in the process. The Licensing Assembly will be reconstituted as the Court of Appeal.

The proposed amendments will set out a simplified process with a single point of contact for all applications, to a recommendation from the Parish Connétable included in the application. As a result, the scope, governance and name of the Gambling Commission will also be revised.

Section B: licence categories. Respondents agreed with the proposal to move to three licence types, an on-licence with bespoke conditions, an off-licence and a special events alcohol licence.

Section C: licence conditions. The introduction of Licence Manager Registration Scheme was supported, along with other changes, including the term of the licence; the process of notification of licence manager absences from the Island; the ability to hold licences for multiple premises; residency requirements; and the need to keep a physical copy of the licence on the premises. As result of the supportive responses to sections B and C, the proposed changes will be pursued as set out in the [Green Paper](#).

Section D: Emergency Services and enforcement powers. There was broad agreement with the proposals to allow for the Regulatory Authority to issue directions and civil financial penalties, review and - if necessary - suspend or revoke licences where, for example, the condition of a licence has been contravened. There was also support for the introduction of the power for States of Jersey Police to issue temporary closure orders, and for the Police and Fire Service to be able to refer matters to the Regulatory Authority where significant concerns arise.

As a result of consultation, Regulatory Authority powers will be included as proposed, and it is intended that powers of closure are extended to Chefs de Police. Expected changes to Fire Precautions Legislation will also affect the proposed amendments as this separate legislation will supersede the need for certain powers to sit in the Licensing Law.

Section E: miscellaneous proposals. There was broad agreement with proposals to relax restrictions on minimum pricing and drinks promotions, with alcohol policy to be set by a Ministerial Oversight Group, and support for the establishment of a central, interoperable register. There was, however, disagreement with the removal of the requirement to display pricing. As a result, amendments will be progressed but retain the requirement for prices to be made readily available to customers.

Amendments will be brought to the States Assembly for debate in late 2025.

Key Findings

Licensing (Jersey) Law 1974 Public Consultation Response Summary

Respondents said
the current licensing
process is...



89%
Agreed
the Licensing Law
should be updated

notably laborious
daunting
rigid
long-winded
onerous
complicated
old-fashioned
red tape
burden
challenging
outdated
expensive



Licensing Decision-Making Organisations:

74% agreed the licensing process should be run by a Regulatory Authority.

Uncertain whether the Regulatory Authority should be the Gambling Commission.

Agreed that Parishes should continue to give their views as part of the licensing process, with the option to call a Parish Assembly if necessary.



Licence Categories:

68% agreed that 6 categories of on-licence should be reduced to 1.

84% agreed with the introduction of a temporary licence.



Licence Conditions:



Supportive of a Licence Manager Registration Scheme.

Agreed that licences should run indefinitely, with periodic review.

Agreed with removing the requirement to keep a physical copy of the law on licenced premises.

Supportive of holding different licences for multiple premises.

Agreed with notifying Regulatory Authority and Connétable of absences, rather than needing approval.

Mixed response on proposed relaxing of residency requirements.



Emergency Services and Enforcement:

Broad support for the Regulatory Authority to be able to issue directions and civil financial penalties.

Supportive of police having powers of closure, in exceptional cases.

Agreed with exclusion orders being reviewed during transition period to ensure they are proportional.

Miscellaneous:

Support for relaxing the restrictions on drinks promotions and minimum pricing.

48% believed promotions and prices should be decided by the licence holder or business themselves.

Agreed with establishing an interoperable, central, register.

Disagreed with removing the requirement to display pricing.

