STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT UNLAWFUL PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS (JERSEY) REGULATIONS 202- (P.24/2024): AMENDMENT (P.24/2024 AMD.) – COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 5th June 2024 by the Council of Ministers

STATES GREFFE

2024 P.24 Amd. Com.

COMMENTS

The Council of Ministers are not able to accept this amendment which would create unnecessary uncertainty for event organisers and likely require a further renewal of the Unlawful Public Entertainments (Jersey) Regulations ("the current Regulations") in 2026.

Responsibility for the Regulations has historically fallen to the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs. This was moved to the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development in 2023 given the natural synergies between the future regulatory regime and the Department for Economy's ongoing work in events promotion and the hospitality sector.

Work on replacing the current Regulations is now underway and the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development wrote to both the Economic and International Affairs Panel and the Bailiff in September 2023 to provide notice of his intention to develop and lodge new legislation and to extend the current Regulations by a further three years.

The Minister for Sustainable Economic Development is also undertaking a number of "quick wins" to improve the process for event organisers under the current system whilst the legislative changes are prepared. This includes additional logistical support, coordination and more transparent funding.

The Department for the Economy recently hosted an Events Framework Workshop with internal and external stakeholders to gather feedback on both the future events licensing regime and the short-term actions that could be taken to improve the current process.

The replacement of the current Regulations via a new regulatory regime will require both primary law and secondary regulations and the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development has committed to having the former brought before the Assembly before the end of this term.

This will then allow approximately 12 months for the subsequent regulations to be completed, consulted on, and debated. As well as the establishment of, and handover period to, the new regulatory regime.

This is an ambitious timeline and contrasts with other significant pieces of legislation such as the forthcoming amendments to the Competition Law which after consideration for a number of years, began development in 2022. Similarly, the Telecommunications Law (Jersey) Amendment Regulations which will be brought before the States in September were commenced in 2020 and, if approved, will commence following a handover period of around eighteen months to allow operators time to transition to the new regime.

A shorter extension, as proposed in this Amendment, will therefore necessitate a further extension in 2026 as the expiration of the current Regulations will need to coincide with the new regime being fully operational (and backed by both new primary legislation and secondary regulations).

It must also be noted that the current Regulations simply serve to codify the Bailiff's existing powers in Customary Law and place a limit on the maximum penalty for offences. Until fully superseded by new legislation and a revised regime, these powers remain in situ.

The Council of Ministers therefore urge members to reject this Amendment and support a final three-year extension to the current Regulations.