Thank you for responding to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee’s Call for Evidence on the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill. All submissions will be examined and considered as part of the Committee’s scrutiny of the Bill.

Please be aware that questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer before you can submit the form.

Follow the Local Government and Regeneration Committee’s Twitter feed - all Committee tweets on this Bill will have the hashtag #aw&lbill.

*1. Please supply your name and contact details:

Name: Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor
Organisation: West Lothian Council
Address 1: 
Address 2: 
City/Town: 
Postcode: 
Country: 
Email address (if no email leave blank): 

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* 2. Please confirm that you have read and understood the Scottish Parliaments “Policy on the treatment of written evidence by subject and mandatory committees”:

☐ Yes

* 3. Please confirm whether you are content for your name to be published with your submission:

☐ Yes

☐ No

* 4. Which of the three categories below best describes your interest in the Bill (please tick only one)?

☐ Personal

☐ Professional

☐ Commercial

* 5. Do you wish your email to be added to the Committee’s distribution list for updates on progress of the Bill:

☐ Yes

☐ No
6. Invitations to give oral evidence to the Committee on the Bill will be based on the submissions received. If you wish your submission to be included amongst those considered for possible invitation to give oral evidence, please indicate here.

✔ Yes

☐ No

7. You may answer questions on the entire Bill, or on any part of the Bill. Please indicate which parts of the Bill you are responding to? (You may select as many options that apply).

☐ All of the Bill

☐ Equalities, climate change and other Scottish Government objectives

☐ Air Weapons

✔ General licensing issues

☐ Alcohol licensing

✔ Civic licensing – taxi/private hire car licensing

✔ Civic licensing – scrap metal dealers

✔ Civic licensing – theatre licensing

✔ Civic licensing – sexual entertainment venues
Name/Organisation: West Lothian Council

6. Civic Licensing – Theatre Licensing

You may respond to all the questions or only those you have a specific interest in. (Text boxes have no word limit, they will increase in size accordingly).

47. Will there be any impacts during the transitional period between ending the current theatre licence and starting the public entertainment licence?

There will need to be time allowed for local authorities to revise their public entertainment licensing resolutions before this part of the legislation is brought into force. As the statutory process for making changes to resolutions is lengthy it is submitted that 18-24 months’ notice of this proposed change being brought into effect is required.

48. Are there additional costs or resource implications on theatres or licensing authorities?

The work required to be carried out generally in relation to the various changes proposed by this Bill is considerable and will have a significant on all licensing teams. In particularly small teams who are required by the legislation to work to very strict statutory deadlines in relation to the processing of applications will struggle to undertake the work required to comply with the changes unless the programme for implementation is carefully managed. It is submitted that representatives of the SOLAR Licensing Forum should be consulted regarding this,

49. How should licensing authorities integrate their current fee charging structure into their public entertainment regime?
Local authorities should review their fee charging structures to take account of these changes.