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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Willie Taylor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organisation:</td>
<td>Dumfries &amp; Galloway Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address 1:</td>
<td>Municipal Chambers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address 2:</td>
<td>Buccleuch Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>City/Town:</td>
<td>Dumfries</td>
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<td>Postcode:</td>
<td>DG1 2AD</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Willie.taylor@dumgal.gov.uk">Willie.taylor@dumgal.gov.uk</a></td>
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<td>Phone Number:</td>
<td>01387 245913</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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
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?

The proposal to abolish mandatory licensing for theatres should be recognised as such. Only if licensing authorities are satisfied that local licensing, under PEL, is necessary should their PEL Resolution be extended to cover theatres or certain specification of theatres. This should not be perceived as merely a shift of theatre licensing to PEL.

48. Are there additional costs or resource implications on theatres or licensing authorities?
It is to be noted that the inference that theatres would likely be covered by a Public Entertainment Licence, fails to appreciate fully that theatre licensing is presently mandatory whereas it is up to each licensing authority to determine whether to license places of public entertainment and, if so, what type of entertainment to cover.

The licensing authority will require information upon which to decide whether there is a need to license theatres as places of public entertainment. The fact that mandatory licensing of theatres has been abolished will be a very strong indicator, perhaps even a starting point, that licensing of theatres under PEL is not necessary.

For authorities not licensing places of public entertainment any consultation and decision making process under the 1982 Act is likely to be substantial and detailed.

For those presently with PEL, the process may be less detailed but will still include significant press publication fees for statutory notices if the authority’s resolution is to be widened to include theatres.

Many local theatres are amateur, community based initiative who will not welcome any increase in fees— which must be extremely likely.

49. How should licensing authorities integrate their current fee charging structure into their public entertainment regime?

Local decision taking into account local circumstances.