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:**

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<th>Name:</th>
<th>Jon Morgan</th>
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<td>Organisation:</td>
<td>Federation of Scottish Theatre</td>
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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:

Federation Scottish Theatre

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?

Whilst welcoming the simplification that this rationalisation of the licensing regime would create, we would ask that all licensing authorities and licensed premises are given sufficient time and guidance in advance of the transition to make any necessary adjustments in order to comply with the change in licensing arrangements. We would also propose that licensing authorities allow licensees to transfer to the new licensing regime at the end of their current license period in order to avoid both a backlog of license renewals all at the same time and any additional expense for the licensee by effectively having to renew their licence before the old one has expired.

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

It is hard to predict if there will be additional costs for theatres as licensing authorities do not necessarily set the same charges for their PELs as for their Theatre Licenses. This would require further research. Some venues because of the nature of their operation hold both a PEL and a Theatre Licence and for these venues we anticipate a saving in both time and money.

49. How should licensing authorities integrate their current fee charging structure into their public entertainment regime?
We would certainly expect that licensing authorities do not increase their current fees for PELs as we understand that the cost is determined on a self-funding basis and we would see the simplification of the licensing regime for theatre as, at worst, cost neutral for licensing authorities and, at best, cost beneficial.