

To: BGA Club Secretaries

8 November 2004

Licensing Act 2003

The Licensing Act 2003 will be implemented in England and Wales from February 7th, 2005. Last week, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport issued a consultative document in which she specifies the charges that are planned to be levied under the act.

It appears that sports clubs will be categorised for fees in the same way as commercial premises, leading to large increases in the cost of licensing club bars.

The CCPR has already expressed outrage at the proposed increases in fees for Licensing which, they believe, "threaten to undermine the fabric of grassroots sport in this country". According to them, the fees will make running a bar prohibitively expensive for many community sports clubs and damage the social and family-friendly atmosphere in club houses up and down the land.

You can read the consultation document on the Department for Media, Culture & Sport website at:

www.culture.gov.uk/global/consultations/2004+current+consultations/fees_licensing.htm

There are also details here of how you can respond to the consultation document. If you wish to respond, or take the issue up with your MP, you may wish to look at the CCPR web site at www.ccpr.org.uk. This gives details in a form that can be easily modified to form the basis of a letter from your club.

Yours sincerely

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