EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Licensing (Designation of Outdoor Stadia) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

SR No. 231

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Communities to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under The Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (the Order) and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. Under this Statutory Rule the Department has designated the Down Royal Racecourse, at Maze, Lisburn, BT27 5RW, as a stadium of importance to the whole of Northern Ireland. In doing so it allows Down Royal Racecourse to apply to the courts for a liquor licence for the above venue.

3. Background

3.1. The Order regulates the retail sale of intoxicating liquor to the public in certain categories of premises which may be granted a liquor licence.

3.2. In order for an outdoor stadium to apply to the court for a liquor licence, it must meet a number of criteria. These include being designated in regulations as a stadium which the Department considers to be of importance to the whole of Northern Ireland.

3.3. Representatives for Down Royal Racecourse have approached the Department to formally request its designation as an outdoor stadium of importance to the whole of Northern Ireland.

3.4. Currently Down Royal Racecourse rely on occasional licences to sell alcoholic drinks to members of the public. Down Royal Racecourse management state this approach to occasional licence acquisition is a barrier to current and future success.

4. Consultation

4.1. The Department considered that it is appropriate to designate the Down Royal Racecourse, at Maze, Lisburn, BT27 5RW, as a stadium for the purposes of the Order, without formal consultation.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. In accordance with its duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the Department has conducted a screening exercise before designating Down Royal at Maze, Lisburn, BT27 5RW, as a stadium for the purposes of the Order. The Department has concluded that the designation would not have significant implications for equality of opportunity and therefore considered an Equality Impact Assessment was not necessary.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. The Department considers that these Regulations do not require a regulatory impact assessment as they do not impose costs on businesses, charities or voluntary groups.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. The granting of a liquor licence will be financially beneficial to Down Royal Racecourse and is intended to assist with fully utilising the facilities, primarily when outdoor sporting events and activities are held at the premises at Maze, Lisburn, BT27 5RW.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. The Department has considered section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and is satisfied that the Statutory Rule is not incompatable with the convention rights, is not incompatable with community law, does not discriminate against a person or class of person on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion and does not modify an enactment in breach of section 7 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. These Regulations do not replicate any corresponding legislation in Great Britain, where Local Authorities are responsible for issuing alcohol licences.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.