



5 February 2016

Happy hours could be coming to Jersey pubs and clubs

CICRA is raising a glass at news of the plans to create a new licensing authority and update the licensing laws which date back to 1974 with a view to removing some of the existing restrictions on promotional offers.

For some time CICRA has conveyed concerns that the current licensing policy could be harming competition and artificially raising prices since it places pub licensees at risk of losing their licence when they compete too strongly on price. The same restrictions do not apply to other alcohol retailers such as supermarkets.

CICRA chief executive Michael Byrne met with the Assistant Minister who is leading the review as well as other States bodies to convey the authority's concerns with the current regime.

Mr Byrne said: "We are pleased to hear that there are plans to consider changes to the 1974 licensing laws and potentially create a new licensing authority making decisions as part of a revised alcohol policy.

"Certainly discussions aimed at removing or revising the existing way of regulating alcohol in pubs and clubs, are welcome and the authority is happy to be involved and play its part in advising how policy change might impact on competition."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

All enquiries should be directed in writing to CICRA chief executive, Michael Byrne, in Guernsey at the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority, Suite 4, 1st Floor, Plaiderie Chambers, La Plaiderie, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1WG or in Jersey at the Jersey Competition Regulatory

Authority, 2nd Floor, Salisbury House, 1 - 9 Union Street, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3RF. Alternatively email info@bicra.gg.

In line with CICRA's consultation policy, it intends to make responses to the consultation available on the CICRA website. Any material that is confidential should be put in a separate annex and clearly marked as such so that it may be kept confidential. CICRA regrets that it is not in a position to respond individually to the responses to this consultation.

About CICRA:

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities or 'CICRA' is the name given to the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) and the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (GCRA) (formerly the Office of Utility Regulation). The JCRA was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law, 2001, and the GCRA was established under The Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2012. In Jersey, the telecoms and postal sectors are regulated by the JCRA, which is also responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005. In Guernsey the telecoms, postal and electricity sectors are regulated by the GCRA, which is also responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Guernsey competition law since it came into force on 1 August 2012.

By working together and sharing resources and expertise between the islands, CICRA strives to ensure that consumers in all the Channel Islands receive best value, choice and access to high quality services.