

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2020**

### **HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY PROPOSED ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS –**

The growing infection rate and the current deterioration of health situation has led to the Executive advising that they plan to introduce a number of additional measures for the hotel and wider hospitality sector this week:

The proposed additional measures are:

1. An early closing time for all hospitality businesses that sell alcohol (bars, restaurants and hotels). This actual closing time has not been agreed as yet and there will be no late licenses. A similar measure is in place in the Republic of Ireland
2. All live music is prohibited, and background music is to be set to a level that allows table conversation. This should be reflected in the establishments risk assessment
3. The maximum table size is 6 (not including children under 12) is now to be composed by a maximum of two households. Those planning weddings are advised where possible to seat guests in social bubbles, but weddings are exempt from the maximum table size.

These measures have been proposed based on the rise in cases over the weekend and the current upward trajectory of infection. There is an acceptance that the sector is trading responsibly but that the COVID19 infection rate is growing and that additional measures are required. A comparable set of measures are likely to be adopted in a number of devolved jurisdictions. Additional measures have not been ruled out. However, the current plan is to allow “wet bars” to open on Wednesday. Hotel bars will be allowed to serve alcohol only at this time but will have to adhere to the new opening time which the executive will advise on.